

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
Northumbrian Water

Low Lane
Maltby
Stockton-on-Tees

archaeological monitoring

report 3986
February 2016

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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief conducted during a development at Low Lane, Maltby, Stockton-on-Tees. The works comprised the archaeological monitoring of the excavation of a trench for the installation of a new sewer and a topsoil strip for the site compound.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Northumbrian Water and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

Results

- 1.3 A small pit containing 19th-century pottery was identified beneath Low Lane; no other archaeological deposits or features were identified.
- 1.4 A single sherd of probable medieval pottery, a small assemblage of modern and post-medieval pottery and one modern animal bone were recovered during the works.

Recommendation

- 1.5 No further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located at Low Lane, Maltby, Stockton-on-Tees (NGR centre: NZ 46364 13676). It covers an area of approximately 340m². To the north and west of the site is Teesside Industrial Estate, to the east is the A19 and to the south are agricultural fields.

Development

- 2.2 A new sewer is being installed by Northumbrian Water.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the monitoring programme was to identify and record any archaeological features or artefacts uncovered during groundworks.
- 2.4 The regional research framework (Petts & Gerrard 2006) contains an agenda for archaeological research in the region, which is incorporated into regional planning policy implementation with respect to archaeology. The specific research objectives which this project was designed to address are iii: Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Settlement, Rii Roads and Communication and Riv Native and Civilian Life.

Specification

- 2.5 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a brief provided by Tees Archaeology and a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by Archaeological Services Durham University (reference DS15.354) and approved by Tees Archaeology.

Dates

- 2.6 Fieldwork was undertaken between 19th October 2015 and 13th January 2016. This report was prepared for February 2016.

Personnel

- 2.7 Fieldwork was conducted by Andy Platell, Alan Rae, Mark Randerson, Jennifer Richards, Tudor Skinner and Rebekah Watson. This report was prepared by Rebekah Watson, with graphics by David Graham. Specialist reporting was conducted by Dr Carrie Armstrong (animal bone) and J. The Project Manager was Daniel Still.

Archive/OASIS

- 2.8 The site code is **MLL15**, for **Maltby Low Lane 2015**. The archive is currently held by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to the Tees Archaeology archive in due course. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online AccesS** to the **Index of archaeological investigationS** project (**OASIS**). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-238296**.

Acknowledgements

- 2.9 Archaeological Services Durham University is grateful for the assistance of Seymour Civil Engineering Contractors in facilitating this scheme of works.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

- 3.1 At the time of the monitoring, the northern part of the site was located within an access road and a school playing field. South of this, the monitoring took place across the B1380 (Low Lane) and through two agricultural fields. The site compound was located within an area of landscaped grass in Teesside Industrial Estate.
- 3.2 The area was predominantly level with a mean elevation of approximately 30m OD. The Maltby Beck lies 340m to the east of the site, and the Bassleton Beck lies approximately 1.1km to the west of the site.
- 3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises sandstone of the Sherwood Sandstone Group of the Triassic and Permian Periods, overlain by Diamicton till of the Quarternary period (www.bgs.ac.uk). The soil is characterised as 'Soilscape 18: slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils' (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes>).

4. Archaeological and historical background

Previous archaeological works

- 4.1 A detailed desk-based assessment (Archaeological Services 2012a) was conducted for land at Little Maltby Farm, which lies c.1.1km to the west of the site. The results of that assessment are summarised below.
- 4.2 Archaeological Services have also completed geophysical surveys (Archaeological Services 2012b), evaluation trenching (Archaeological Services 1997 and 2014) and excavation (Archaeological Services forthcoming) within the vicinity of Little Maltby Farm.

The prehistoric period (up to AD 70)

- 4.3 There is direct evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. Mesolithic activity is indicated by finds and flint scatters from several sites in the lower Tees Valley, including a flint assemblage from Little Maltby Farm. Archaeological features and artefacts dating from the early Neolithic and Early Bronze Age were also identified near Little Maltby Farm, suggesting both settlement and funerary activity. These included a curving ditch (possibly incorporating a palisade), a clay oven, a cremation urn and a round barrow. Extensive evidence of Iron Age settlement has also been recorded in the surrounding area.

The Roman period (AD 70 to 5th century)

- 4.4 There is no recorded Roman activity within the immediate vicinity of the site, though it is possible that prehistoric settlement patterns may have continued into this period.

The medieval period (5th century to 1540)

- 4.5 There is no recorded early medieval activity within the immediate vicinity of the site. However, there is increasing evidence for early medieval activity within the lower Tees Valley, although most of this appears to be funerary remains. Excavations at Low Lane, Ingleby Barwick recorded an Anglo-Saxon cemetery containing fifteen cremations and seventeen inhumations.

The post-medieval period (1541 to 1899)

- 4.6 The area continued to retain its rural character into the post-medieval period and there are several sites and buildings dating to the 18th and 19th centuries in the vicinity.

The modern period (1900 to present)

- 4.7 Thornaby Airfield was located c.2km to the north of the site in the mid-20th century. Teesside Industrial Estate was built over the northern part of the site in the 1980s and 90s.

5. The archaeological monitoring

- 5.1 The works to be monitored comprised a topsoil strip for a site compound measuring approximately 20m by 20m and the excavation of a 340m x 1m trench to a maximum depth of 5m below ground level (Figure 2) for a sewer pipe. Excavations were undertaken using a 360° backhoe excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

The site compound (Figure 3)

- 5.2 A topsoil strip was monitored over this area. Natural subsoil, a red-brown sandy clay [7], was identified between 0.2m and 0.3m below the ground surface. Overlying this was modern topsoil and turf [6: 0.2m to 0.3m thick], containing brick and plastic. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts recovered.

The sewer pipe trench (Figures 4-5)

- 5.3 Natural subsoil [4], a mixed red-brown sandy clay, was identified between 2.7m and 3m below the ground surface. Immediately above the natural subsoil was an orange-brown clay made-ground deposit [3: 2.2m thick]. Overlying the made-ground was a redeposited clay [5: 0.3m thick] containing modern bricks. Overlying context [5] and covering all the landscaped areas to the north of Low Lane was modern topsoil and turf [6: 0.3m to 0.5m thick]. Where the pipe trench crossed Fleck Way and the tarmac entrance and car park for Ingleby Manor School, the made-ground [3] was overlain by hardcore [2: 0.30m thick] and tarmac [1: 0.2m thick].
- 5.4 The pipe trench crossed the B1380 Low Lane road and the grass verge either side of the road. In this area, the natural subsoil [4] was identified at approximately 0.6m below the ground surface. Cutting the natural subsoil was the trench for a modern service pipe [F10: 1m wide, 1.5m deep]; animal bone was recovered from the fill of this trench [11].
- 5.5 Cutting the natural subsoil beneath the road was an amorphous pit. The pit [F8: 0.4m long by 0.2m wide, 0.1m deep] was located on the north side of the carriageway and was filled with a grey-brown clay [9] containing 19th-century pottery. Overlying the pit and the natural subsoil was a concrete road deck [13: 0.28m thick], with tarmac above it [12: 0.3m thick].
- 5.6 To the south of the B1380 Low Lane the pipe trench crossed two agricultural fields. Here the natural subsoil [4] was overlain by a humic grey-brown agricultural topsoil [14: 0.25m thick].

6. The artefacts

Pottery assessment

Results

- 6.1 Six sherds of pottery (35g wt) were found. Five were unstratified, four being of 19th century date and including pieces of yellow-glazed coarseware and plain and transfer printed whiteware. The fifth is a highly abraded body sherd in a gritty, oxidised fabric, with traces of green/brown glaze, which could be medieval/late medieval.
- 6.2 The remaining piece, from context [9], is a 19th-century body sherd of clear-glazed coarse earthenware.

Recommendation

- 6.3 No further work is recommended.

Animal bone assessment

Results

- 6.4 Context [11] produced a complete, left side dog humerus in good condition. Possibly part of a pet burial.

Recommendation

- 6.5 No further work is recommended.

Glass assessment

Results

- 6.6 A body sherd from a piece of ornamental glass in opaque turquoise was found unstratified. The piece has traces of white decoration on the surface. 19th/20th century.

Recommendation

- 6.7 No further work is recommended.

7. The palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 7.1 No material suitable for palaeoenvironmental assessment was identified during the works.

8. The archaeological resource

- 8.1 A small pit containing 19th-century pottery was identified beneath Low Lane. No other archaeological deposits or features were identified.
- 8.2 A single sherd of probable medieval pottery, a small assemblage of modern and post-medieval pottery and one modern animal bone were recovered during the works.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 No further scheme of archaeological works is recommended in relation to this development.

10. Sources

- Archaeological Services 1997 *An Archaeological Evaluation at Little Maltby Farm, Ingleby Barwick, Teesside*. Unpublished report **434**, Archaeological Services Durham University
- Archaeological Services 2012a *Little Maltby Farm, Ingleby Barwick: archaeological desk-based assessment*. Unpublished report **2985**, Archaeological Services Durham University
- Archaeological Services 2012b *Little Maltby Farm, Ingleby Barwick: geophysical survey*. Unpublished report **3042**, Archaeological Services Durham University
- Archaeological Services 2014 *Low Lane, Ingleby Barwick, Teesside: archaeological evaluation*. Unpublished report **3613**, Archaeological Services Durham University
- Archaeological Services forthcoming, *Ingleby Manor Free School, Ingleby Barwick, Teesside: archaeological excavation*. Archaeological Services Durham University
- Petts, D, & Gerrard, C, 2006 *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham

Appendix 1: Data table

Table 1: Context data

The • symbols in the columns at the right indicate the presence of artefacts of the following types: P pottery, B bone

No	Description	P	B
1	Asphalt road surface		
2	Dolomite hardcore		
3	Made ground		
4	Natural subsoil		
5	Clay deposit		
6	Made ground		
7	Natural subsoil (same as context [4])		
F8	Cut for modern pit		
9	Fill of [F8]	•	
F10	Cut for service pipe		
11	Fill of [F10]		•
12	Tarmac		
13	Road deck		
14	Agricultural topsoil		

Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrix

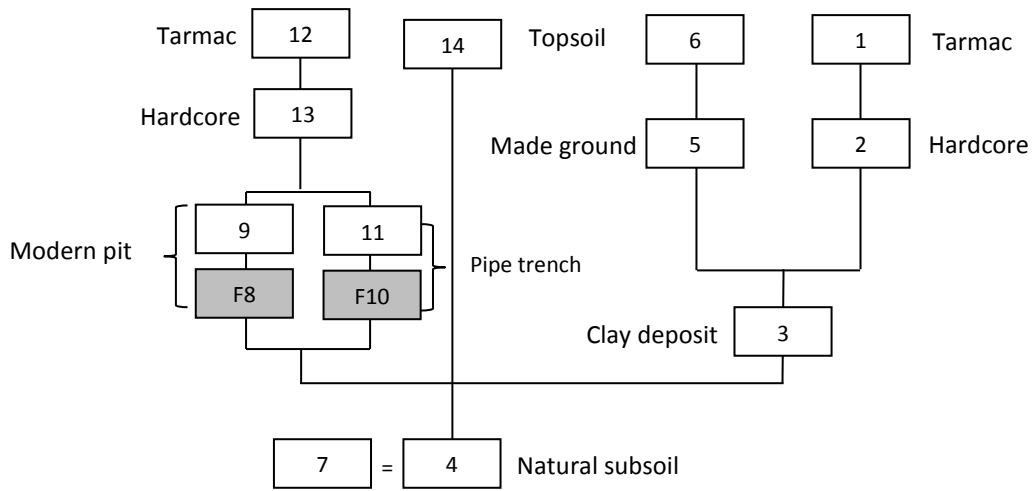
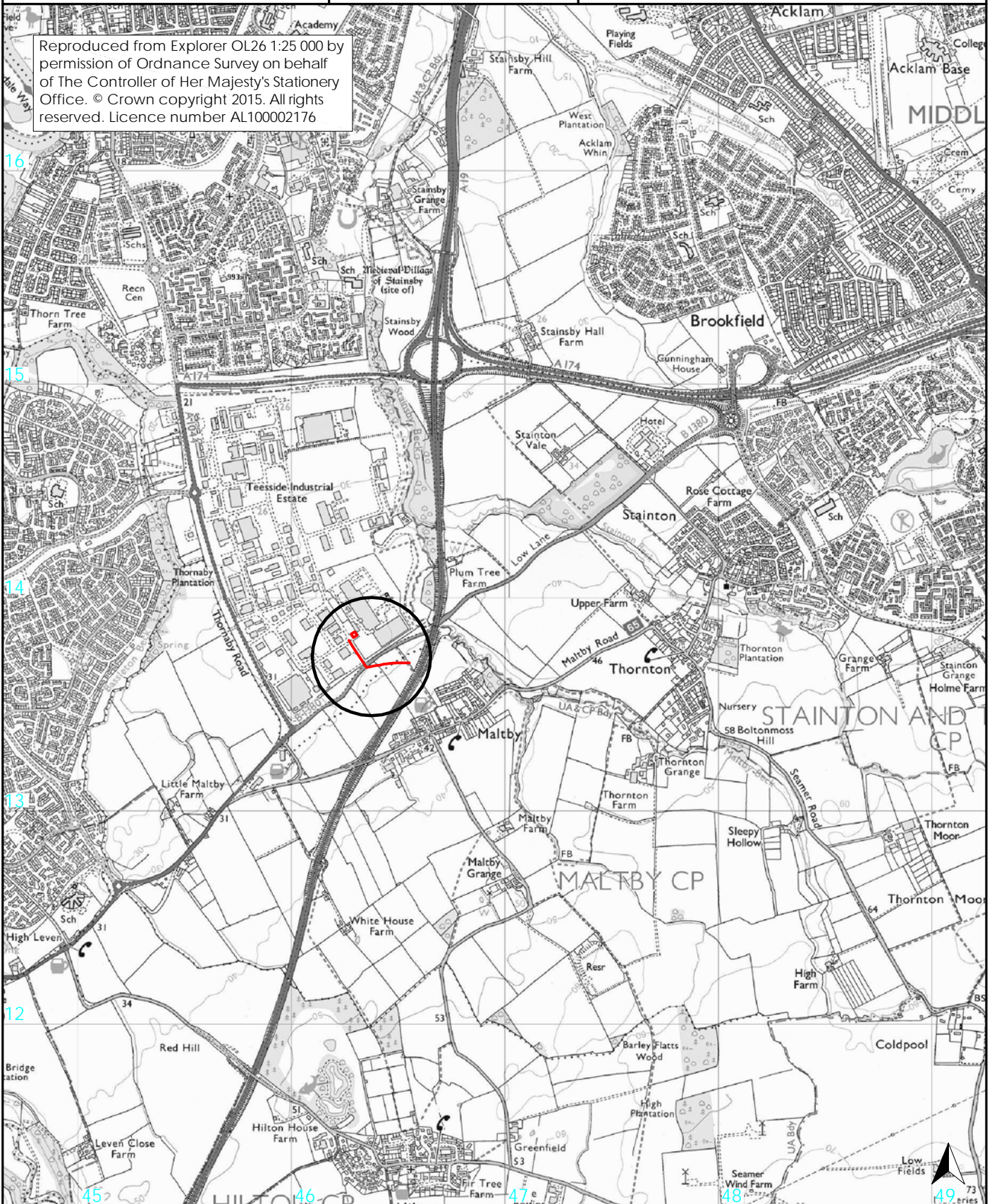


Figure 1: Site location

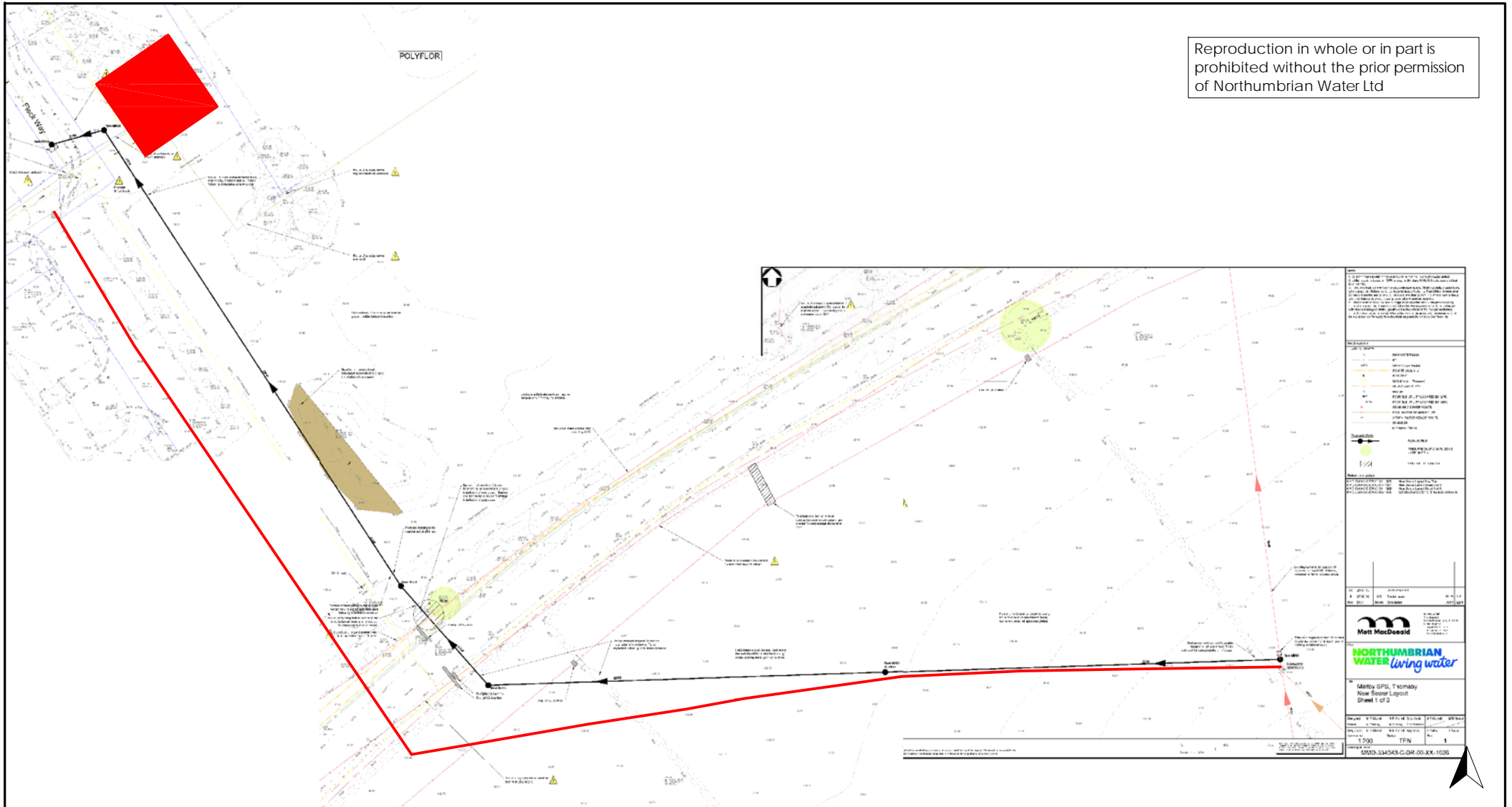
Reproduced from Explorer OL26 1:25 000 by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright 2015. All rights reserved. Licence number AL100002176



 site location

0 1km
scale 1:25 000 for A4 plot

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Figure 2: Monitored areas

 location of monitoring

0 50m
scale 1:1250 for A4 plot



Figure 3: Topsoil strip for site compound, looking north-west



Figure 4: Section through pipe trench across Low Lane, looking west



Figure 5: Trench section, in field south of Low Lane, looking north