

**Land at Farthorpe Farm, Far Thorpe, West Ashby, Horncastle,
East Lindsey, Lincolnshire, LN9 5QB**

Evaluation Report

Approx. central NGR: TF 26302 73952
Planning Authority: East Lindsey District Council
Planning app.: Pre-Application
OASIS ref: preconst3-218370
Acc. No. LCNCC 2015.136
PCAS Site code: FFFE15
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Prepared for

Ryland Design

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Non-Technical Summary

This document reports on the results of a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching on land at Farthorpe Farm, Farthorpe, north of West Ashby.

The site lies within the roughly defined area of the Deserted Medieval Village of Farthorpe, which is characterised by the cropmarks of banks and minor crofts. These village remains have never been investigated, therefore there is limited information relating to the origins or character of the settlement, or the reasons for its desertion. The earthworks of a moated site lie less than 200m south of the site, within the boundaries of the deserted village.

The site has not been subject to geophysical survey, and trenches were positioned across the area gave largely negative results. No earthworks were identified during the evaluation; those present are situated to the south.

In summary, no significant archaeological remains were encountered.



Fig. 1: Site location map at scale 1:25,000. Site location shown in red. OS Explorer map sheet 273. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).

1 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was requested by Ryland Design to undertake a scheme of archaeological trial trenching on land at Farthorpe Farm, near West Ashby, Lincolnshire.

A planning application for a small solar array to the southwest of buildings at Farthorpe Farm is under preparation; for submission to East Lindsey District Council. In context, the Historic Environment Officer recommended a scheme pre-application archaeological investigation to support the planning application and inform the decision making process. This document presents the results of the archaeological evaluation. It follows current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- The Lincolnshire Archaeology Handbook (2012)
- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
- IFA Code of Conduct (1994 as revised);
- IFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (2008);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)

2 Location and Description (Figs. 1-2; Plate 1)

Farthorpe Farm lies on the west side of the A153, approximately 4km to the north of Horncastle. The closest town is West Ashby, which lies 1.5km to the south. The farm lies on the south side of an unnamed minor road connecting the villages of Fulletby and Hemingby, some 3km east and west respectively.

The site lies about 200m to the southwest of the principal farm buildings, on the south side of a small copse of trees forming a field boundary. It comprises approximately 3,487m² of what is currently arable land. The red line boundary of the site is given as "L" shaped, and lies at the inverted corner of a large field. Access is via a gateway in the hedge boundary off the road to the west of Farthorpe Farm, along what is currently a track for the farm machinery.

The central NGR of the site is TF 26302 73952.

3 Geology and Topography

The bedrock geology of the development site is recorded as Kimmeridge Clay Formation Mudstone, formed in a shallow sea environment in the Jurassic Period. This overlain by Till, Mid Pleistocene - Diamicton. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. To the east around the course of the West Ashby Beck there are no recorded superficial deposits (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The site lies just below the 70m contour, with ground level sloping to the south. The closest recorded benchmark lies approx. 400m east; a rivet on the southeast corner of the junction of the unnamed minor road running east-west and the track leading to The Grange. It is recorded at 65.203m OD (<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/benchmarks/>).

4 Planning Background

A planning application for the installation of 150kw ground mounted solar panels was submitted to East Lindsey District Council, application ref: S/201/00805/15, but the

application was withdrawn while further information was collated to inform the planning decision making process.

The Historic Environment Officer for East Lindsey advised that the archaeological potential of the site, and the impact of the proposals on the historic environment, was unknown, and that an archaeological evaluation and Heritage Impact Assessment was required to meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 128, which reads:

Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

The Heritage Impact Assessment was prepared in advance of the evaluation. Both the results of the evaluation and the Heritage Impact Assessment will be submitted along with the forthcoming planning application.

5 Archaeological and Historical Background

There are few known archaeological monuments within 1km of the proposed solar farm.

The earliest indicator of archaeological activity is a single Mesolithic flint artefact, found some 1km to the southwest of the site (LHER ref: 40822). This find was not associated with any other finds, and is probably indicative of a typically transient population.

Approximately 1km northeast of the site is the Scheduled site of two long barrows (communal funerary monuments dating from the early-mid Neolithic) (List entry ID: 1013915). It is uncommon for two such monuments to lie in close proximity to each other, therefore this site is thought to have greater significance or to evidence prolonged occupation of the area.

Two further areas of cropmarks have been identified on aerial photographs. To the east of the site, on the opposite side of Louth Road, a long linear feature running almost parallel to the road is a potential prehistoric trackway (LHER ref: 45240). It can be seen on recent aerial photographs extending to the north of the LHER mapping, connecting with a second trackway branching off to the northwest and running along the north side of the Scheduled Neolithic barrows (LHER ref: 45221). To the east of the track is the cropmark of a possible prehistoric or Roman enclosure (LHER ref: 45238).

There are no known Roman monuments within 1km of the site, however just outside this range at Fulletby, around six Roman cremation burials were encountered in the mid 19th century, probably during excavations associated with the brick and tile yard (LHER ref: 40883). In urban contexts Roman burials are traditionally outside the town limits, however in rural contexts burials can be found in the vicinity of or within farmsteads and small settlements. Three concentrations of Roman artefacts have been recovered from the area east of the site, on the east and west banks of the River Waring northeast of West Ashby, and at Field Farm. These potential occupation sites have not been further investigated.

The proposed development site lies within the area defined on the Lincolnshire HER as being part of the Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) of Farthorpe. Evidence for the village is limited to a documentary record of extensive field banks and minor crofts, however these features have not been accurately mapped. The place name Farthorpe would indicate a Scandinavian origin, *thorpe* deriving from the Old Danish *thorp*, meaning a *secondary settlement, a dependant outlying farmstead or hamlet* (Cameron, 1998). The village does not appear in the Domesday Book or the Lindsey Survey, and the DMV has not previously been investigated, therefore there is very little known about the activity indicated by the cropmarks

(LHER ref: 40825). The earthworks include a moated site in the southwest corner of the DMV, approx. 200m from the boundary of the site (LHER ref: 42858).

The sole Listed Building in the vicinity is Grange Farmhouse, about 300m to the southeast of the site. Grange Farmhouse was first built around 1700, with alterations in the 18th and 19th centuries.

There has been a farm at Farthorpe Farm since at least the late 19th century. OS mapping records Ellis's Farm at Farthorpe on the 1st edition OS, replaced by Farthorpe Farm in the mid 20th century (<https://www.old-maps.co.uk/>).

6 Methodology

The scheme of trial trenching consisted of four 20m x 2m trenches within the area of the proposed solar panels, positioned to investigate the potential for buried remains to survive and be encountered during the groundworks for panel installation. The trenches had been located randomly to cover the whole area as no geophysical survey was undertaken on the site. A JCB fitted with a 1.7m toothless blade was used, and the topsoil was stripped down to the natural substrate, which was light greyish limestone-based soil interspersed with frequent areas of orange coloured sandy material.

Each trench was planned at a scale of 1:100, and any features discovered were drawn in section at a scale of 1:20. The section drawings were located on the base plans. Cuts and deposits, including the geological layers, were recorded on standard PCAS record sheets. An excavation site diary was kept along with a digital photographic record, which was supplemented by colour slide photography; extracts from this are reproduced in Appendix 1.

An online record of the project data has been initiated with the Archaeological Data Service (OASIS database), ID **preconst3-218370**. This online record will be completed at the end of the project, and will include an uploaded digital copy of the final report.

The fieldwork was carried out by Richard Mandeville and took place on the 12th and 13th August 2015. Weather conditions were generally bright and sunny.

7 Results (Figs. 3-6; Plates 2-8)

Most of the area contained a layer of mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil, between 0.26m and 0.33m thick, which was noted to contain fragments of chert. Beneath this was the light greyish limestone based natural substrate with frequent orange sand patches. The north-western corner was slightly different; in the western part of Trench 1 there were two deposits of subsoil or buried soil differentiated only by texture and not by colour. The subsoil was present only in the western end of the site.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Plates 2-3)

Trench 1 was aligned east to west, and was located in the northern part of the site.

The trench was excavated to natural (104), which consisted of a light greyish limestone and orange coloured sand; the latter was not present in the western end, which was 1.0m deep. The greater depth was due to the presence of a natural basin or depression in the bedrock. Two sandy silt deposits were present in the depression, both approximately 0.25m deep with 5-10% limestone and chert inclusions. The upper layer (102) was very loose and differentiated only by texture as the colours were very similar. There was no evidence of either a ditch cut or a bank despite the depth and clear slope upwards to the east. No archaeological features were discovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4; Plates 4-5)

Trench 2 was the westernmost of three trenches, situated south of Trench 1 and aligned north to south.

The exposed natural was the same as Trench 1, although there was a shallow layer of sandy silt (203) 0.06m thick with 15-20% pebbles present in the northern quarter of the trench. Above this, and present throughout the trench, was a layer of sandy silt subsoil (202) typically 0.29m thick. Only one feature was revealed in the northern end of the trench; a small pit [204] measuring 0.6m by 0.09m deep, containing a dark greyish brown sandy silt fill (206) with a high density of angled flint. The fine particles probably represented wind-borne filling of what may have been a man-made pit or a small natural depression. No dating evidence was retrieved.

Trench 3 (Fig. 5; Plates 6-7)

Towards the southern edge of the site, Trench 3 was situated to the east of Trench 2, and aligned north-west to south-east.

The exposed natural was the same as that in Trench 1, and was sealed by the topsoil (301). No subsoil was present. In the middle of the trench was a post hole [303] which measured 0.32m diameter and 0.12m deep. The main fill was a dark brown sandy silt deposit (305) which clearly indicated where the post had been placed. No finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Fig. 6; Plate 8)

Trench 4 was situated towards the south-eastern corner of the site, to the east of Trench 3, and aligned north-west to south-east.

The exposed natural was the same as that elsewhere but with less sand content, and as in Trench 3 was sealed by the topsoil (401) with no subsoil being present. Two features [403] and [405] were revealed in the middle of the south-west edge; these were approximately 1.0m apart, but not related. The irregular edges and bases and mixed fills suggested they were tree throws and therefore not of archaeological significance.

8 Discussion and Conclusions

It was known that there were a number of earthworks relating to the deserted medieval village to the south of the site, but their full extent was not clear. A Heritage Impact Assessment indicated the likely presence of a bank and basin depression on the southern edge of the site, and a topographic survey showed the contours of the basin, although the bank was not prominent. The south-eastern end of Trench 3 touched the area but did not reveal anything other than the contours of the topsoil and natural substrate.

Despite the depth and degree of slope, the depression in Trench 1 was a naturally formed basin, perhaps similar to that still visible noted above, but one which had been filled in. There was certainly no evidence of a cut, and there was nothing on the surface to suggest the presence of any earthworks in the north-west of the site in the vicinity of Trenches 1 and 2.

Post hole [303] in Trench 3 showed the size of the post, but in isolation it is impossible to ascertain the presence or otherwise of anything significant. It is possible that it had something to do with animal control - perhaps part of a small shelter or tethering pole.

9 Effectiveness of Methodology

The archaeological evaluation was effective in demonstrating that the earthworks that are present to the south of the site area do not/did not extend into the proposed development zone. The body of data produced will thus be sufficient to inform the planning and development process.

10 Project Archive

The project archive, consisting of the site recording will be deposited with printed copies of this report at The Collection, Lincoln, in or before August 2016; following deposition, the archive will be available for consultation under the accession number LCNCC 2015.136. A copy of the full report will also be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS) database, where it will be publicly accessible online.

11 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank British Solar Renewables Ltd. for this commission.

12 References

<http://domesdaymap.co.uk/>

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/>

<http://list.historicengland.org.uk/mapsearch.aspx>

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

<https://www.old-maps.co.uk>

<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/benchmarks/>

OS Explorer Map, 2013, Sheet 273: Lincolnshire Wolds South. Ordnance Survey, Southampton. (OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278).



Figure 2: Trench location plan at scale 1:500, with inset site location plan scale 1:5000 @ A4. Original supplied by Ryland Design.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Looking south across the site from the gates of the adjoining field. The deserted medieval village is to the left of and beyond the trees in the centre of the photograph.

Plate 2: Section through the west end of Trench 1. This is within a natural depression



Plate 3: Looking north across the depression in Trench 1. The limestone based natural is clear, and there was no sign of any ditch cut.

Plate 4: North-east facing section of shallow pit [205]. The irregular shape suggests the feature may be natural.



Plate 5: The nature of the natural substrate is clearly shown in the view of Trench 2, looking south.



Plate 6: Post hole [303], looking east. The post plug is to the right of the feature, defined by the darker fill.



Plate 7: Section through Trench 3, looking north-east. The interface between the topsoil and natural is clearly defined, but not always as straight as this.

Plate 8: Shallow pit [403], looking south-east. The highly irregular sides and base strongly suggest this is a tree throw and not man made.



Appendix 2: Context Summary

Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Finds/dating
101	Layer	Topsoil. Mid/dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional angular flint/chert stone. Thickness 0.26m.	Modern
102	Layer	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular flint/chert stone. Loose. Thickness 0.26m.	Modern
103	Deposit	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular flint/chert stone. Fairly compact. Depth 0.25m	Modern
104	Layer	Natural. Light greyish limestone based substrate with orange coloured sand patches. Common flint/chert inclusions.	Natural

Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
201	Layer	Topsoil. Mid/dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional angular flint/chert stone. Thickness 0.27m.	Modern
202	Layer	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown sandy silt with infrequentl sub-angular flint/chert stone. Loose. Thickness 0.26m.	Modern
203	Layer	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with common pebbles, irregular interface. Thickness 0.06m.	
204	Layer	Natural. Light greyish limestone based substrate with orange coloured sand patches. Common flint/chert inclusions.	Natural
205	Cut	Shallow circular pit with irregular sides and base. Width 0.6m, depth 0.09m.	
206	Fill	Fill of [205]. Dark greyish brown sandy silt with common flint.	

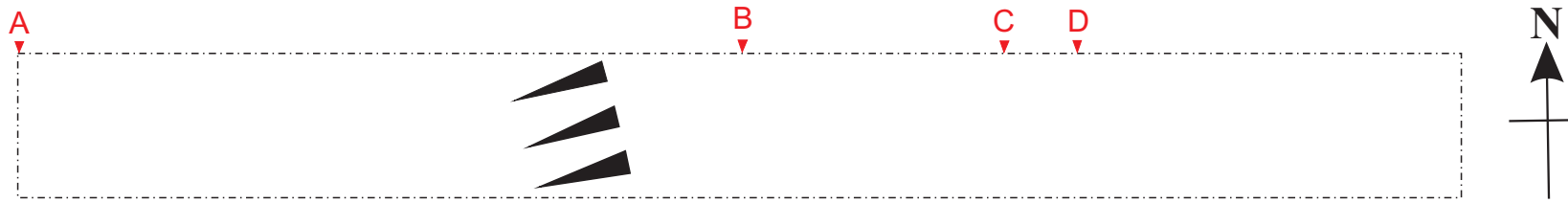
Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
301	Layer	Topsoil. Mid/dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional angular flint/chert stone. Thickness 0.33m.	Modern
302	Layer	Natural. Light greyish limestone based substrate with orange coloured sand patches. Common flint/chert inclusions.	Natural
303	Cut	Cut of post hole. S side steep and straight, N side concave and shallower. Width 0.32m, depth 0.12m.	
304	Fill	Bottom fill of post hole [303]. Mid orange greyish brown sandy silt with occasional flint/chert. Width 0.12m, depth 0.09.	
305	Fill	Upper fill of post hole [305]. Dark brownish grey sandy silt with occasional flint/chert. Post plug. Width 0.2m, depth 0.12m.	

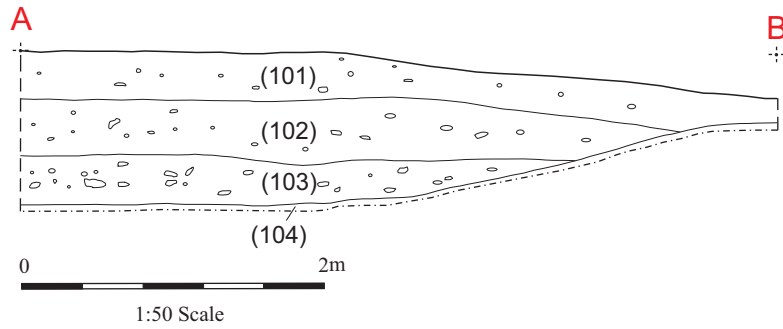
Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Finds/Dating
401	Layer	Topsoil. Mid/dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional angular flint/chert stone. Thickness 0.33m.	Modern
402	Layer	Natural. Predominantly light greyish limestone based substrate with occasional orange coloured sand patches. Common flint/chert inclusions.	Natural
403	Cut	Roughly circular, irregular sides and base. Probable tree throw. Width >0.6m, depth 0.18m.	
404	Fill	Fill of [403]. Mixed mid greyish brown/grey sandy silt, some grey sand. Loose, with common flint.	
405	Cut	Roughly circular, irregular sides and base. Tree throw. Width >0.6m, depth 0.10m.	
406	Fill	Fill of [405]. Mixed mid greyish brown/brownish grey sandy silt. Loose, with common flint.	

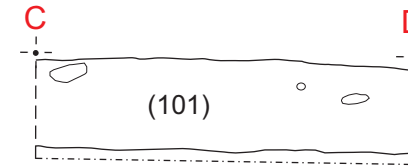
Fig.3: Plan and sections of Trench 1



a) Plan of Trench 1

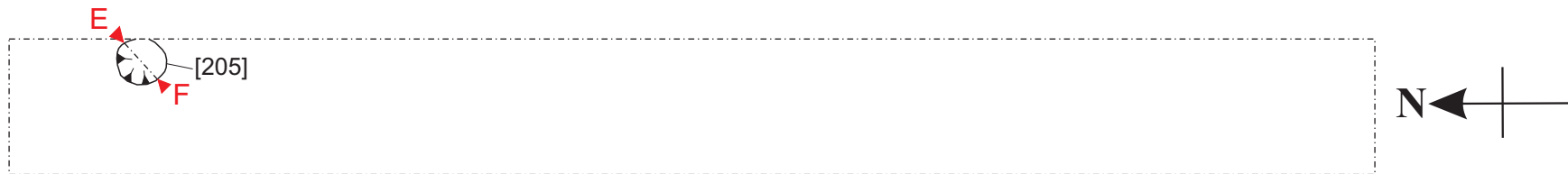


b) Section through western side of Trench 1

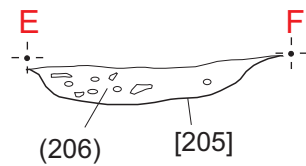


c) Representative section of Trench 1

Fig.4: Plan and sections of Trench 2



a) Plan of Trench 2



b) NW facing section of pit [205]

Plans are at 1:100



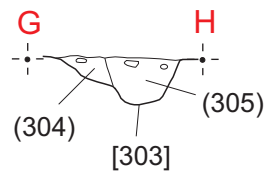
Sections are at 1:20



Fig.5: Plan and section of Trench 3

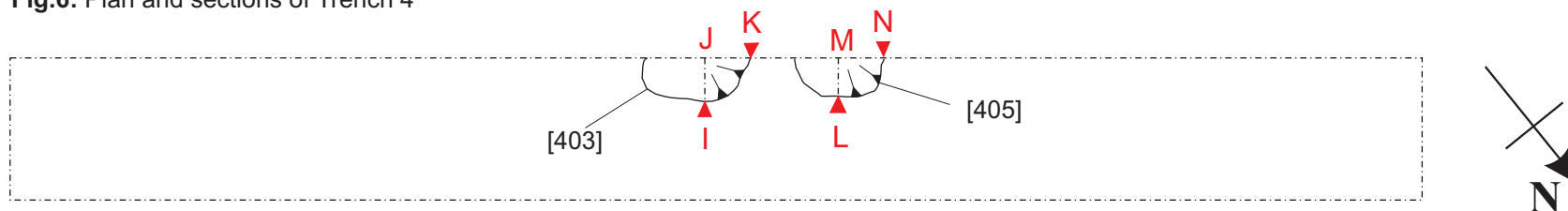


a) Plan of Trench 3

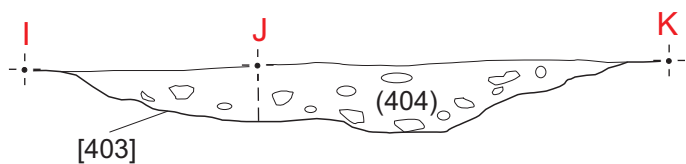


b) W facing section of post hole [303]

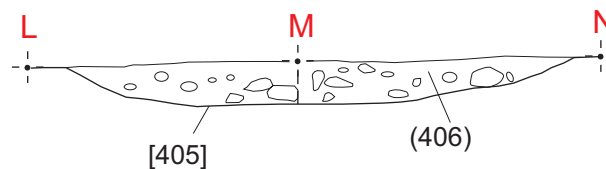
Fig.6: Plan and sections of Trench 4



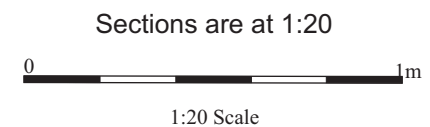
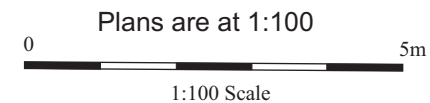
a) Plan of Trench 4



b) SW/NE facing sections of pit [403]



c) SW/NE facing sections of pit [405]



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OASIS ID - preconst3-218370

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View 2	2	Richard Mandeville	richard@pre-construct.co.uk	4 September 2015

Completed sections in current version

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Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
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Grey literature report submitted?	No	Grey literature report filename/s	preconst3-218370_1.pdf [2,244.24kb]
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