

**DIGESTATE LAGOON NO. 2, LAND AT HIGHFIELD CLIFF FARM, SHADOWS
LANE, GLENTHAM, WEST LINDSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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Prepared for

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by

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation consisting of one 30m x 2m trench was undertaken on land to the north of Highfield Cliff Farm, near the village of Glenthams in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire, in order to inform an ongoing planning application for the construction of a new lagoon for the storage of AD digestate.

Evidence of prehistoric and Roman settlement, in the form of cropmark enclosures and occasional surface finds, has been recorded in the vicinity of Highfield Cliff Farm: both prehistoric and Roman artefacts, as well as an Anglo-Saxon brooch, have been retrieved from a field to the south of the farm.

No archaeological deposits or features were encountered during the evaluation, nor were any artefacts of archaeological significance retrieved. The archaeological potential of the proposed development site is assessed as being low.

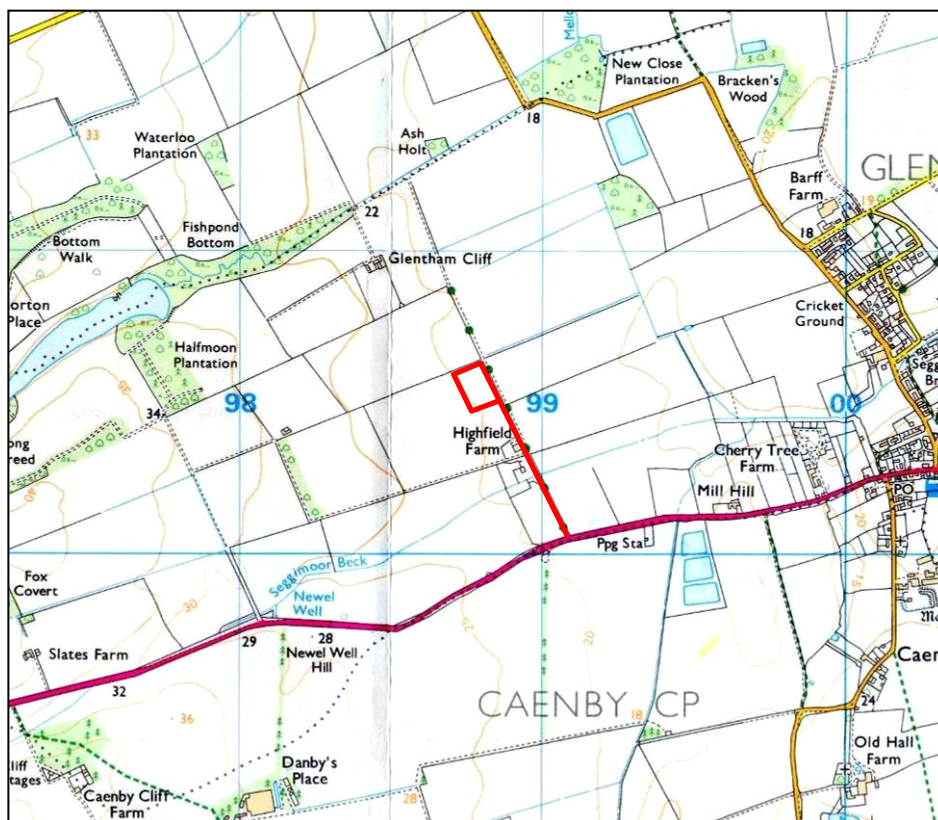


Figure 1: Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000. The position of the proposed development site is marked in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by G. J. Perry Planning Consultant to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at Highfield Cliff Farm, near the village of Glentham in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The evaluation took place in order to inform an ongoing planning application for the construction of a new lagoon for the storage of AD digestate. It was carried out according to current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework, 2012;
- CIFA Code of Conduct (2014 as revised);
- CIFA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (2014);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE v1.1, English Heritage 2009)
- Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council, 2010).

2.0 Location and Description (figs. 1 and 2)

The village of Glentham is situated within the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire, some 10km west-north-west of Market Rasen and 3.5km to the east of the junction of the A15 (Roman Ermine Street) and the A631 at Caenby Corner. The village lies on the north side of the A631, whose course forms the parish boundary in the vicinity of the site. Highfield Cliff Farm is situated approximately 1km to the west of the village and is accessed by a track off the A631; it is surrounded by arable fields.

The proposed development site lies within the north-east corner of a field directly to the north of the farmstead: it occupies 0.72 ha of the field (Lane, 2016). The field in which the site lies is bounded to the east by the farm access track, which continues northwards past the farmstead, with further arable land on the other side of the track. Further arable fields also lie to the west and north. To the south of the field are the buildings of Highfield Cliff Farm, separated from the field by a deep shelter belt of deciduous trees. The field was under a crop of barley at the time of the evaluation (plate 1).



Plate 1: General location shot of the field in which the proposed lagoon is to be sited, looking NW from the access track adjacent to the SE corner of the field.

3.0 Topography and Geology

Glentham village is situated at the foot of the east-facing slope of the Lincoln Edge limestone ridge, at the point where it levels out into the valley floor of the River Ancholme. The land around the village and the site is gently undulating, with a general shallow slope downwards to the east and north-east, towards the river; the lagoon site lies on fairly level ground at around 20mOD.

The bedrock geology of Highfield Cliff Farm and the lagoon site is recorded as Blisworth Limestone, described as pale grey to off-white or yellowish limestones with thin marls and mudstones, deposited in a shallow marine environment. There are no recorded drift deposits on the site, although deposits of alluvium are recorded to the south of the site along the

course of the Seggimoor Beck, and in the area of artificially drained land directly to the east of the site (bgs.ac.uk).

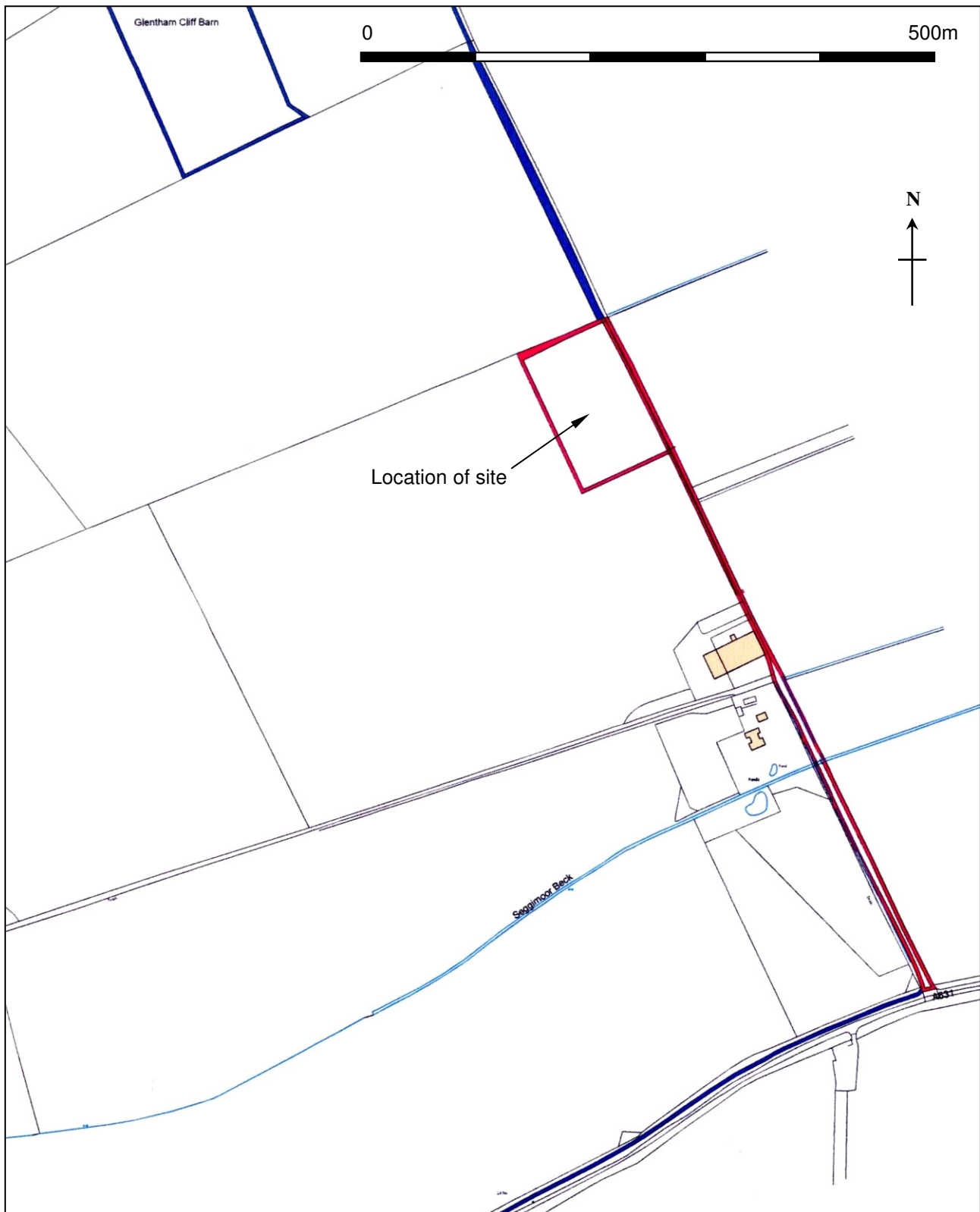


Figure 2: Location plan of the proposed digestate lagoon site at scale 1:5000. The lagoon site and the access off the Glentham Road (A631) are marked in red. Plan supplied by client.

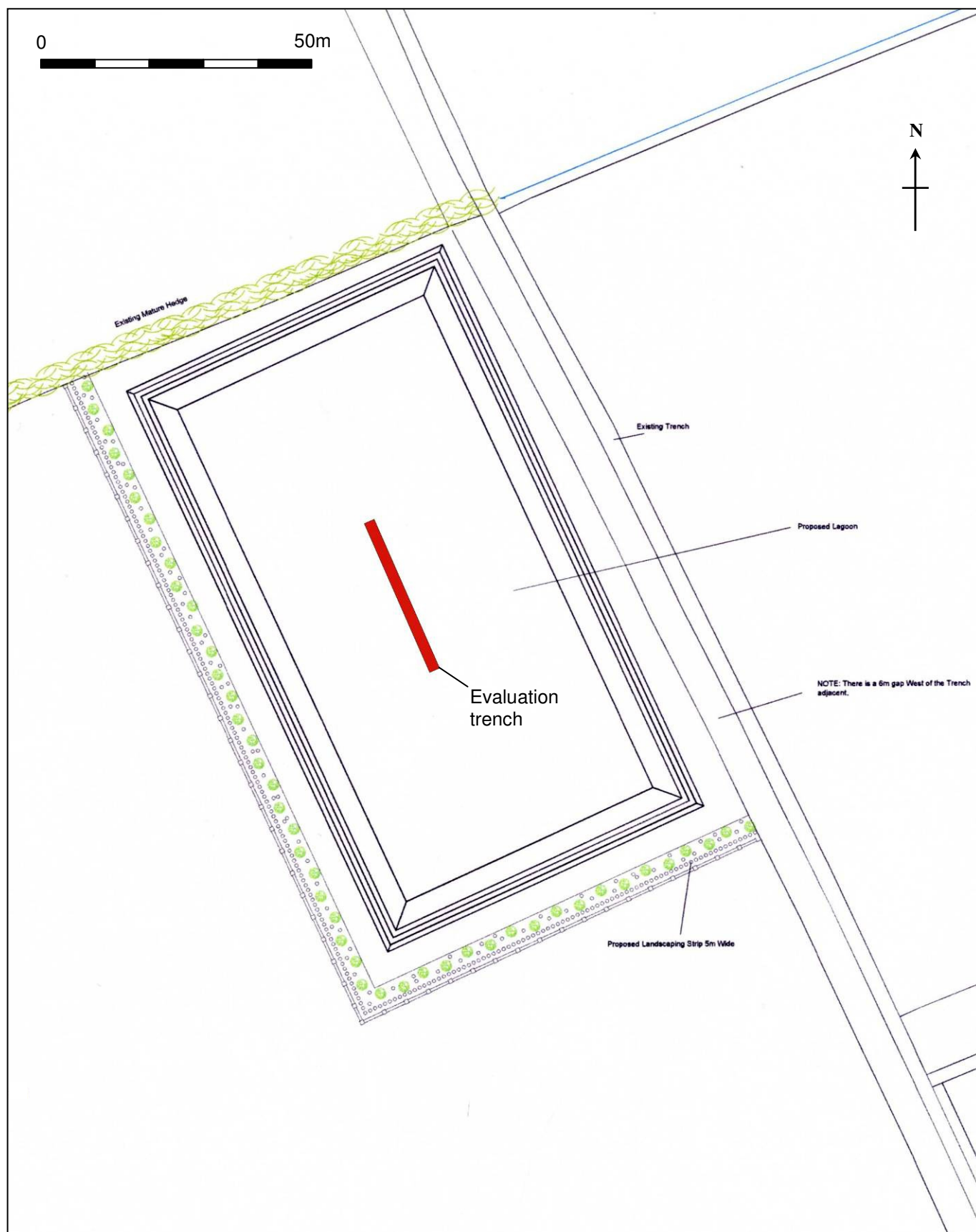


Figure 3: Plan showing the position of the evaluation trench within the footprint of the proposed digestate lagoon, at scale 1:1000. The evaluation trench is marked in red. Plan supplied by client.

4.0 Planning Background

A planning application for the construction of a new lagoon for the storage of AD digestate at Highfield Cliff Farm (ref. no. 134287) was submitted to West Lindsey District Council in March 2016. The WLDC Historic Environment Officer advised that many prehistoric and Roman artefacts had been recovered in the immediate vicinity to the proposed lagoon, but the archaeological potential of the site was unknown, and recommended archaeological evaluation to investigate the site's potential for buried archaeological remains that would be impacted by the groundworks for the proposed development. The results of the evaluation will be used to assess the archaeological potential of the site, and, if necessary, to create a programme of archaeological mitigation to be applied during the construction of the proposed lagoon, which will be presented in support of the planning application.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The only evidence of prehistoric activity recorded in the vicinity of the site is a fragment of a Neolithic stone axehead recovered from the field between Highfield Farm and the Glenthams Road (A631) to the south of the proposed lagoon site (LHER ref: 51025); however, aerial photography has identified a number of cropmark enclosures and complexes in the areas, many of which are thought to be of prehistoric origin. The closest to the site, lying immediately to the east, is a complex of features indicating a possible settlement with a double-ditched enclosure at the centre. The irregular pattern is considered typical of prehistoric settlement; however, fieldwalking in this area has recovered 3rd to 4th-century Roman pottery and potential building material, suggesting later occupation (LHER ref: 53930). Further cropmarks of potential prehistoric enclosures lie c.700m to the north-west (LHER ref: 50855, 53931), while to the north-east are cropmarks of rectilinear enclosures (LHER ref: 50435) and a D-shaped enclosure scheduled as a Neolithic barrow (List entry ID 1017333), a little over 1km from the site. To the south are further enclosures and possible boundary ditches, again recorded from aerial photography as cropmarks (LHER ref: 53933, 53960).

The evidence for Roman occupation in the vicinity of the lagoon is also present, but relatively sparse. To the north-east, 3rd to 4th century Roman pottery has been recovered in association with building materials and cropmarks (LHER ref: 50712, 50839), c.700m from the site. Roman pottery has also been retrieved from the field between Highfield Farm and the Glenthams Road (LHER ref: 51026), while Roman Ermine Street, one of the most important highways of Imperial Britain, connecting London to York, lies just 2.5km to the west of the site, below the course of the modern A15.

Settlement at Glenthams was well established by the late Saxon period. The place name is thought to derive from the Old English *glente* and *ham*, for *a kite* and *a homestead, village or estate*, and by the time of the Domesday Book Glenthams was a substantial settlement of 64 households, one of several flanking Ermine Street, which continued to be known and probably used. Earthworks of the medieval settlement have been recorded around the modern village, with the ridge-and-furrow earthworks of its open fields further out: an area of ridge-and-furrow has been recorded to the north of the site, directly to the south of Glenthams Cliff Farm (LHER ref. 54144). An Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch has been found in the field between Highfield Farm and the Glenthams Road (LHER ref. 51024).

Highfield Cliff Farm is of relatively recent date, and does not appear on 6" OS mapping from either the late 19th century or the first half of the 20th century. Historic mapping suggests that the site was probably part of the farmland of Glenthams Cliff Farm, to the north of the site during this period (fig. 4) the survival of medieval ridge-and-furrow in the vicinity of Glenthams Cliff Farm, as well as the rectilinear field pattern, suggests that the site formed part of Glenthams's open fields and was enclosed during the Parliamentary Enclosures.

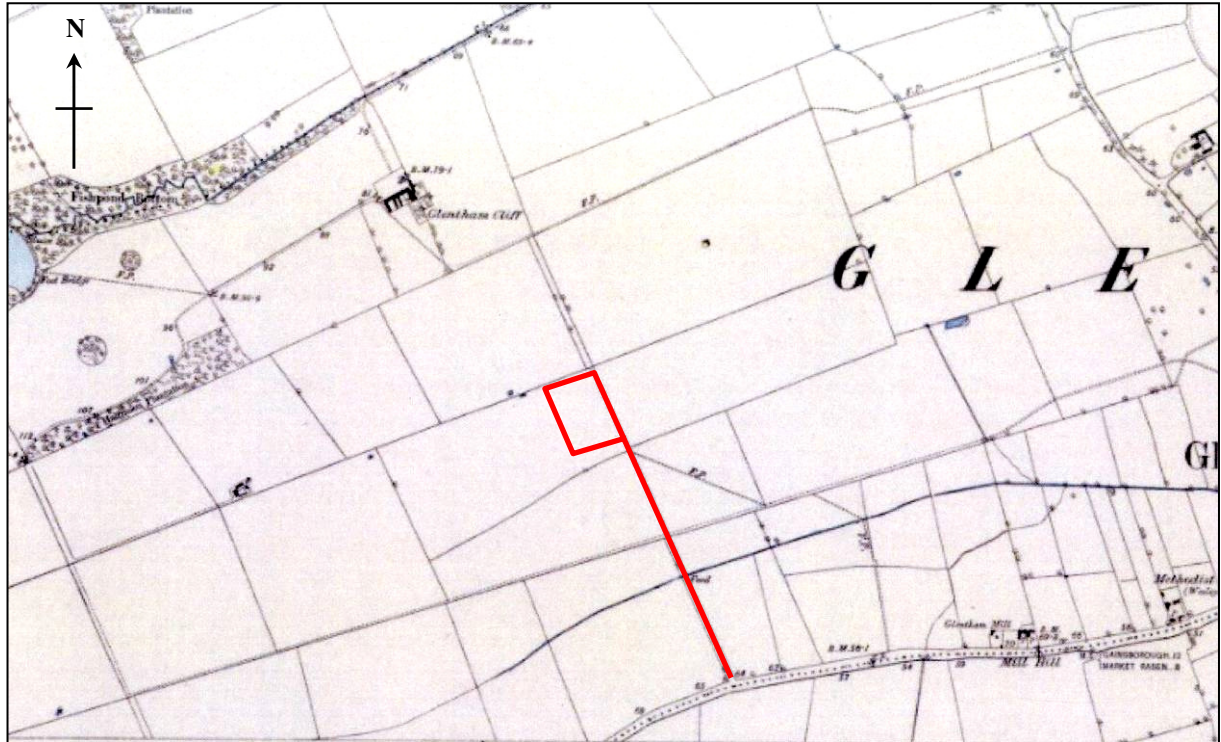


Figure 4: Extract from the 1st edition 6" to the mile Ordnance Survey map of 1885-86 (not to scale). The site is marked in red; Highfield Cliff Farm has not yet been built, but Glenthams Cliff Farm lies to the north. The rectilinear field pattern suggests recently enclosed land.

6.0 Methodology

The evaluation consisted of one 30m x 2m trench situated within the footprint of the proposed lagoon. As there was no previous information on which it could be targeted, the trench was positioned within the centre of the proposed development area (plate 2).

The trench was located within the field by triangulation from the field boundaries and the contractor's markers for



Plate 2: The area where the proposed new lagoon is to be sited, at the start of the evaluation trenching, looking SW from the track at the NE corner of the field.



Plate 3: Working shot at the beginning of evaluation trenching, looking N.

the positioning of the lagoon. After the trench position had been checked for live services using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT scanner) it was machine excavated under archaeological supervision, using a 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (plate 3). In order to cause the minimum damage to the standing crop, the trench footprint was approached only along existing wheelings, and spoil was side-cast to one side only.

The evaluation trench was excavated to the surface of the natural geology, which lay directly under the cultivated topsoil. The base of the trench was cleaned by hand and examined for potential archaeological features: potential features were investigated by sample excavation with hand tools. The excavated spoil was checked for stray finds that might have been ploughed out of underlying features. As no archaeological features were identified, a sample section of the deposits encountered was drawn at scale 1:20, and located on a 1:200 sketch plan of the trench. Deposits were recorded on standard PCAS record sheets, and an excavation site diary was also kept; a digital photographic record, supplemented by colour slide photography, was made, and extracts from this are reproduced in the report.

The fieldwork was carried out by R. D. and S. A. Savage, and took place on 14th June 2016. Weather conditions were overcast and showery, providing generally favourable light; ground conditions were extremely dry at excavation depth in spite of recent heavy rain.

7.0 Results



Plate 4: The completed evaluation trench, looking S; Highfield Cliff Farm is situated within the trees to the rear of the picture.

The trench was excavated to the surface of the natural geology 101, which chiefly consisted of yellowish-brown sandy clay with abundant limestone gravel (plate 4). Veins and lenses of mid-brown clayey sand were observed, which occurred within areas where the limestone gravel was particularly dense. These deposits had the superficial appearance of potential archaeological features such as gullies and small pits or post-holes, but all proved on sample excavation to be of natural origin, being irregular in form and with homogeneous, clean-looking fills containing no inclusions (plate 5).



Plate 5: The drawn sample section, looking SW, showing a natural deposit of brown sand in the trench base, excavated at its 'terminal' in order to ascertain that it was of natural geological origin.

The natural geology was overlain by 0.40m depth of modern topsoil 100 (fig. 5). Post-medieval and modern refuse was notably absent in the excavated topsoil, in which only a few fragments of ceramic building material (brick or tile) were observed: this probably reflects the distance of the field from the farmstead to which it belonged before the relatively recent construction of Highfield Cliff Farm.

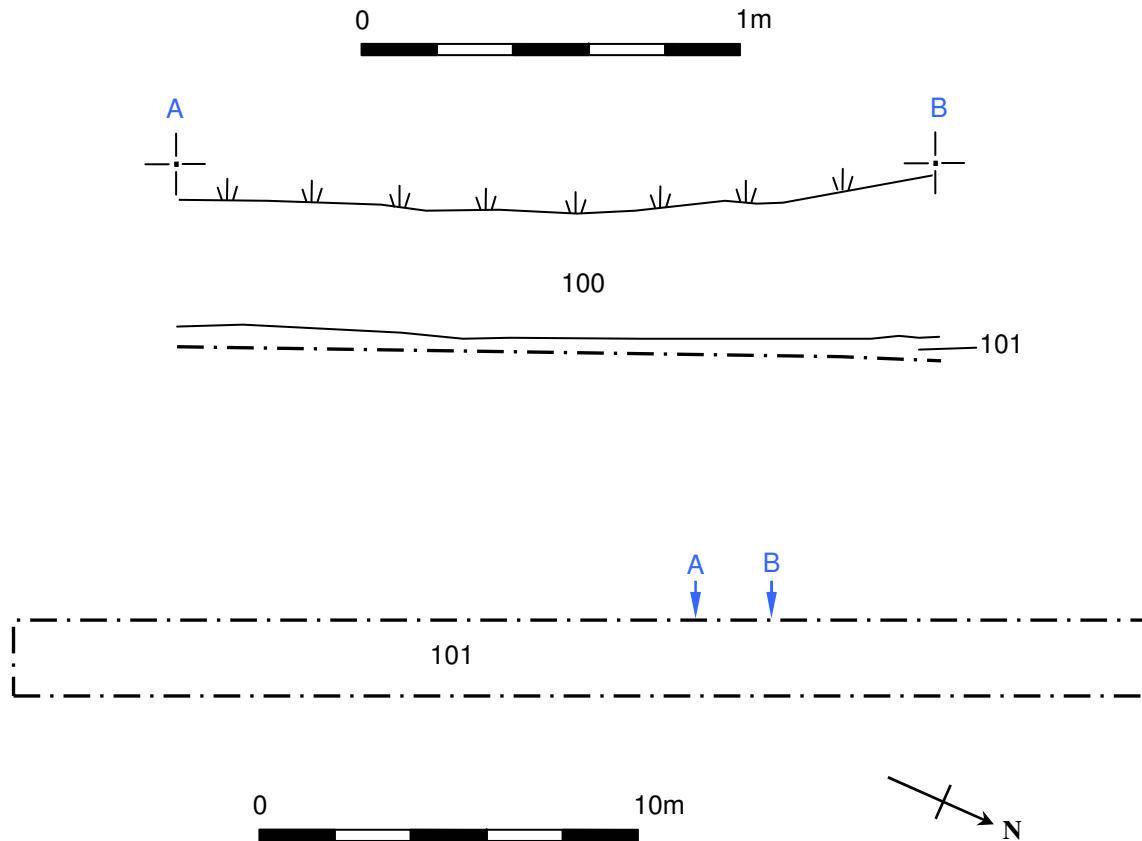


Figure 5: Sample section of the evaluation trench at scale 1:20, with location sketch plan at scale 1:200.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

No archaeological deposits or features were encountered during the evaluation, nor were any artefacts of archaeological significance retrieved.

The archaeological potential of the proposed development site is assessed as being low.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

Archaeological evaluation was effective in demonstrating the low archaeological potential of the site: the body of data thus produced will be sufficient to inform the planning and development process.

10.0 Project Archive

The project archive, consisting of the site recording, will be deposited with printed copies of this report and the forthcoming full report at The Collection, Lincoln, in or before October 2016; following deposition, the archive will be available for consultation under the LCNCC accession number 2016.70. 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.

11.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank G. J. Perry Planning Consultant for this commission.

12.0 References

British Geological Survey (bgs.ac.uk) consulted online at
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Lane, A., 2016, *Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Evaluation: Digestate Lagoon No. 2, Land at Highfield Cliff Farm, Shadows Lane, Glentham, West Lindsey LN8 2AQN*. Unpublished client document for Pre-Construct Archaeological Services.

Ordnance Survey, 2012, *Ancholme Valley, Barton-upon-Humber, Brigg, Scunthorpe & Kirton in Lindsey: 1:25 000 scale Explorer Series Sheet 281*. The Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

Ordnance Survey, 1885-6, 1st edition 6" to the mile map sheet XLIV.NE

Appendix 1: Context Summary

Context no.	Type	Description	Finds/dating
Trench 1			
100	Layer	Mid-greyish-brown plastic fine-sandy clay topsoil, with occasional limestone flecks becoming more frequent towards base; post-medieval and modern refuse notably absent apart from occasional fragments of CBM.	Modern. Post-medieval CBM observed but not retrieved. Natural geology.
101	Layer	Light yellowish-brown compact plastic fine-sandy clay with abundant limestone gravel and occasional lenses of limestone fragments. Also contains lenses and veins of mid-brown friable clayey medium sand, which occur within areas of particularly dense limestone gravel.	

Appendix 2: OASIS summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Highfield Cliff Farm, Glentham - Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd

OASIS ID - preconst3-256900

Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
View 1	1	Mrs. R. D. Savage	rachel@pre-construct.co.uk	7 July 2016
View 2	2	Mrs. R. D. Savage	rachel@pre-construct.co.uk	7 July 2016

Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

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Boundary file submitted?	No	Boundary filename
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Grey literature	Upload images	Upload boundary file	Request record re-opened	Printable version
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