

LAND AT HOOP LANE FARM, LANGTON BY WRAGBY, EAST LINDSEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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Prepared for

Ocean Walker

by

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Summary

To inform a forthcoming planning application, an archaeological evaluation consisting of six 30m x 2m trenches was undertaken on c.6ha of land on Hoop Lane Farm, Langton by Wragby in Lincolnshire.

The evaluation demonstrated that of the the six trenches that were investigated, four were archaeologically sterile, with two containing only medieval ridge and furrow.

It is concluded the site has limited potential for further archaeological study.



Figure 1: Location plan with development highlighted in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

PCAS Archaeology Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by Ocean Walker UK to undertake a programme of archaeological trenching, to inform a planning application for the development of land at Hoop Lane Farm, Langton by Wragby (Fig.1).

2.0 Location and Description (figs. 1 and 2)

The c.6ha site lies approximately 1km to the south of Langton by Wragby, to the immediate north of Hoop Lane at Hoop Lane Farm (centred at NGR c.514500 375300). It encompasses three fields that lie on land to the north, north-east and south-west of Hoop Lane Farm (Fig. 1); bounded to the north, north-west and south-west by open land and to the north-east by woodland (Goslings Corner). Open land lies to the south of Hoop Lane.



Plate 1: General view of Field 1, looking west. Location for TR 5-6

3.0 Topography and Geology

The solid geology of the area is mudstone (Amphill Clay Formation) - sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 156 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic period (BGS, 2016). This is overlain by Till (Diamicton) - formed up to 2 million years ago during the Quaternary Period in ice conditions (these are detrital, created by the action of ice and meltwater during glacial and inter-glacial periods).

The site is generally level at an elevation of c.15-20m AOD.



Plate 2: General view of Field 1, looking north. Location for TR 1-4

4.0 Planning Background

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came into force in March 2012 (revised 2018). This places the responsibility for dealing with heritage assets affected by development proposals with the developer. Paragraph 189 of NPPF states that ... *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.*

A planning application has been prepared for the change of use, conversion of and alterations to existing outbuildings to form showers, changing rooms, a guest reception/waiting area and guest bedroom and gymnasium, meeting room, music room and stores. Erection of a building to be used as an indoor swimming pool with plant room and W.Cs. Excavation of land to provide a swimming lake.

A geophysical survey has already been undertaken at the site; following which the Historic Environment Officer for East Lindsey District Council requested a scheme of archaeological trial trenching. Geophysical survey results for this site showed the lines of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing; potentially masking earlier archaeological activity.

To inform and advise the application, the archaeological evaluation was undertaken to investigate the potential for and survival of any archaeological remains within the site that would be impacted by the development proposals - construction of the swimming lake.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Lincolnshire HER does not list any online resources within the proposed development area, and sixteen are recorded within 1km of the site.

In 2001, excavations by Network Archaeology Ltd. in advance of the construction of the Hatton to Silk Willoughby Gas Pipeline located a Mesolithic – Neolithic flint blade (HER 46744), a Neolithic polished axe head (HER 46743), early Bronze Age flint implements (HER 46742) and a small site of probable Late Iron Age or early Roman date (HER 46736) on land approximately 300m to the south of the site. Similar Roman settlement remains were also excavated along the pipeline route on land at Langton Hill which lies approximately 1.7km to the east (HER No. 46735).

The only asset of medieval date recorded within 1km of the proposed development area was a number of carved limestone blocks (HER 40353) found to the south of Pinnings Farm, three of which now lie in a garden in Kingthorpe.

Six Post-medieval farmsteads were also recorded within 1km of the site during the Historic England Farmstead Project in 2015. All of these lay either along Hoop Lane or at the end of tracks off Hoop Lane to the southeast and northwest of the lane: Hoop Lane Farm (HER 411391/57977), Langton Hill Farm (HER 411389), Kingthorpe Grange (HER 411393), The Firs (HER 411390), Pinning Farm (HER 58021), and an unnamed farmstead (HER 411392).

In addition to these sites three areas of Ancient Woodland are recorded within 1km of the site: Goslings Corner (HER 42990), immediately to the east of the site, Hallbush Wood (HER 42989) to the northwest of the site, and Little Scrub Wood (HER 42992), to the southeast of the site.

The remaining heritage asset recorded within 1km of the site is an undated cropmark (HER 46737) recorded to the south of Langton Hill Farm during an archaeological desk-based assessment for the Hatton to Silk Willoughby Gas Pipeline

6.0 Methodology

The evaluation consisted of six 30m x 2m trenches within the footprint of the proposed swimming lake. The trenches were within Fields 1 and 3 (Fig. 2). A single curvilinear anomaly identified by geophysical survey was targeted at the northern end of the site, but the rest of the trenching was placed to gather information across the site, both in areas of ridge and furrow ploughing and seemingly black areas at the southern end of the site.

The trenches were machine excavated under archaeological supervision, using a 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces were then cleaned by hand, and the features encountered were sample excavated.

The evaluation trenches were drawn in plan at a scale of 1:200; excavated features were drawn in section at scales of 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate, and sample sections of the trench baulks were also drawn. Deposits were recorded on standard PCAS record sheets, and an excavation site diary was also kept, as was a digital photographic record.

The fieldwork was carried out by Julian Sleep, and took place between the 2nd and 3th of April 2019. Weather conditions were variable, but generally favourable with some rain.

7.0 Results

Trenches 5 and 6 were archaeologically sterile.

7.1 Trench 1 (fig. 3)



Trench 1 was positioned near the north-west side of the site, in Field 1; oriented north to south.

The trench was excavated to a natural layer 101 and a natural drift deposit 102. The natural layer 101 comprised mixed yellow blue brown silty clay. The natural drift 102 was a mid orangey brown clayey silt, with a friable compaction and coarse and gritty in composition, recorded above the natural layer 101. Topsoil 100 sealed both deposits; a dark grey brown clayey silt c.0.3m deep. No dating evidence was retrieved from this trench.

Plate 3: Trench 1 looking north



7.2 Trench 2 (fig. 4)

Trench 2 was oriented east to west and positioned near the western boundary of Field 1 (fig. 2).

At the base of the trench were a natural layer 202 and a natural drift deposit 201. Both were similar in colour and composition as observed in Trench 1, and were covered by topsoil layer 200. Two furrows oriented east to west, were exposed, situated next to modern land drains. There were no indications of a single curvilinear anomaly seen on geophysical survey results within the western trenched area.

Plate 4: Trench 2 looking west



7.3 Trench 3 (fig. 5)

Trench 3 was positioned in the centre of Field 1, with a north to south orientation (fig. 2).

Again, a natural layer 302 and a natural drift deposit 301 was revealed at the base of the trench; the same as seen in Trenches 1 to 4, and covered by topsoil. An east-west furrow **303** was sample excavated to investigate the dimensions and profile of the feature. Typically, this was an irregular U shape in profile, width of 0.66m and a depth of 0.29m. Its fill 304 was similar to topsoil layer 300, yet merging with natural layer 302 below, making it slightly lighter in colour. No finds were retrieved from this feature.

Plate 5: Trench 3 looking south



Plate 6: Furrow **303** looking west

7.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was oriented east west and positioned close to the bottom of Field 1 (fig 2).

This trench was devoid of archaeology, but exposed the same natural layer and drift deposits at its base, overlain by topsoil. There were two modern land drains. No artefactual remains were recovered.

Trenches 5 and 6 were archaeologically negative.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Within the six trenches excavated at Hoop Lane Farm, four (T's 1, 4, 5, 6) proved to be archaeologically sterile. Two trenches (T's 2 & 3) exposed medieval east to west oriented ridge and furrow; features that had been detected previously by geophysical survey. The investigated furrows were relatively narrow and the depth of sample furrow **303** was a shallow 0.29m.

The otherwise absence of archaeological activity would suggest the site was never used for settlement purposes and has most likely been utilised for agricultural and/or pastoral purposes; most certainly from the medieval period onwards.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

Intrusive evaluation was an appropriate method for gathering information about the sites archaeological potential, indicating that a fairly low level of archaeological features, namely shallow furrows, were present within the development area. 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 August 2019; following deposition, the archive will be available for consultation under the LCNCC accession number 2019.35. A copy of the full report will also be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigation) database, where it will be publicly accessible online.

11.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank Ocean Walker for this commission.

12.0 References

Lincolnshire HER, accessed via Heritage Gateway.org.uk

Other websites:

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

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/>

Figure 3: Plan of Trench 1 at 1:200 + Section at 1:20

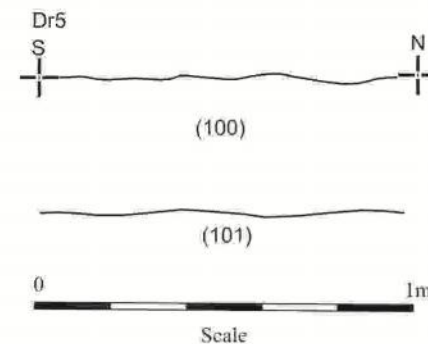
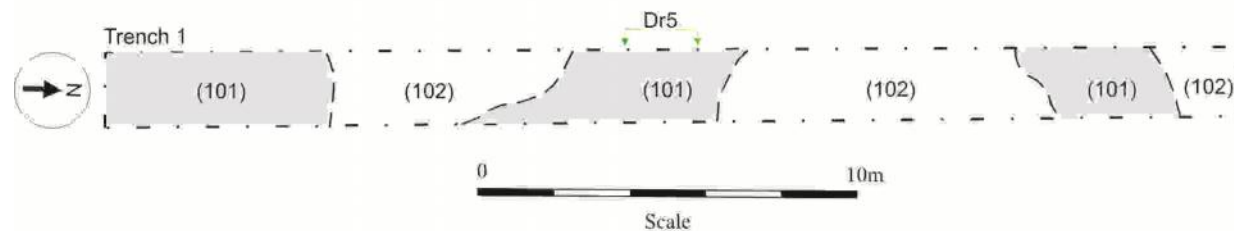


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 2 at 1:200 + Section at 1:20

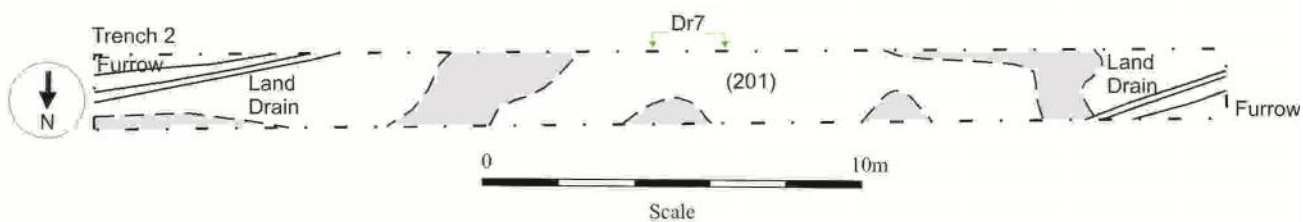
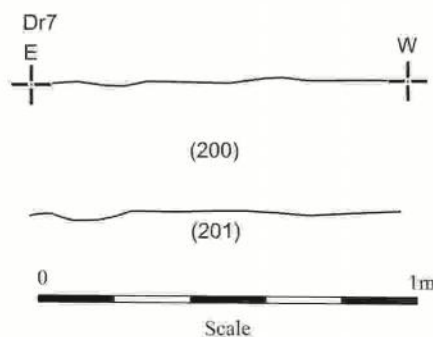


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 3 at 1:200 + Section at 1:20

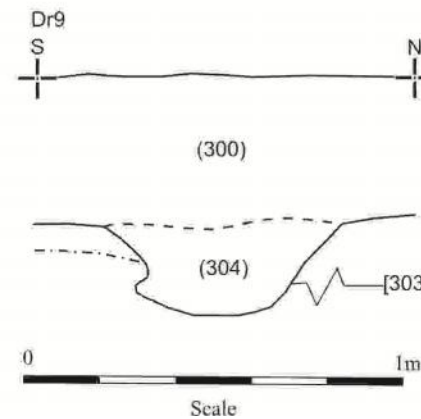
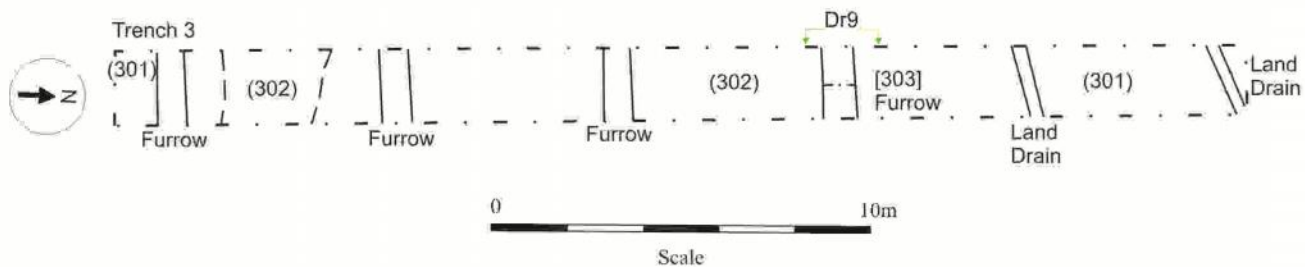


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 4 at 1:200 and Section at 1:20

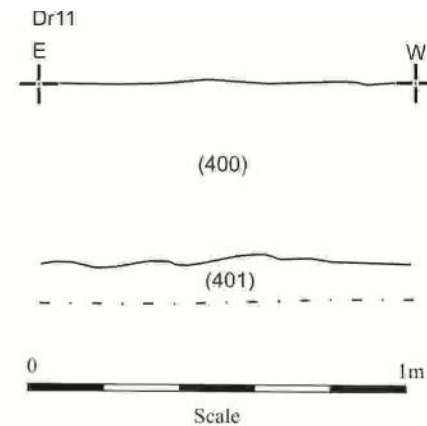
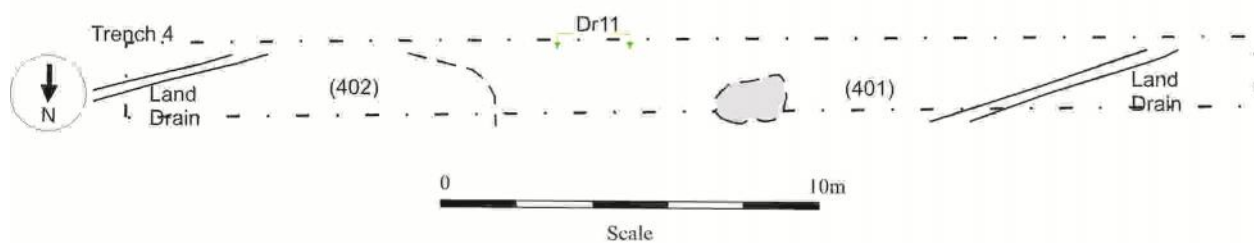


Figure 7: Plan of Trench 5 at 1:200 and Section at 1:20

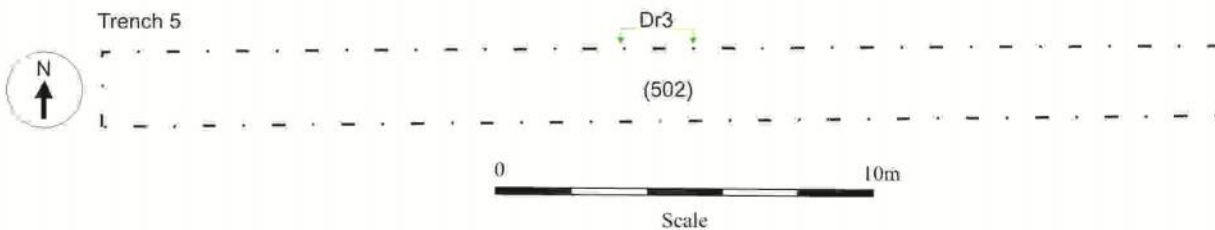
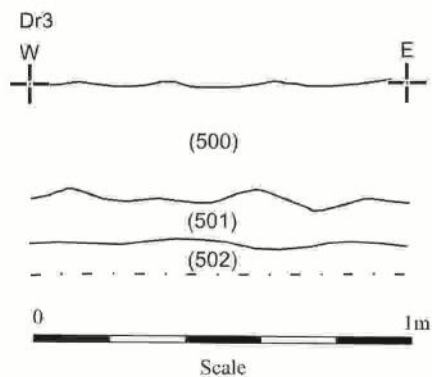
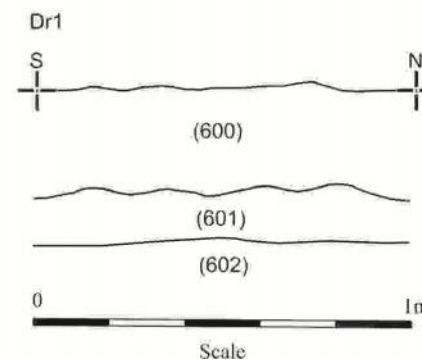
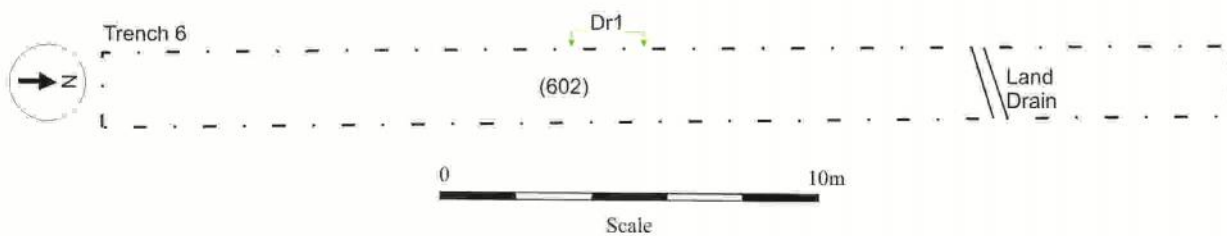


Figure 8: Plan of Trench 6 at 1:200 and Section at 1:20



Appendix One: Context Summary

Trench Number	Context Number	Context Type	Same As	Description
1	100	Layer	200, 300, 400, 500, 600	Topsoil layer. 0.33m D
	101	Layer	202, 302, 402, 502, 602	Natural silty clay. Same as 602
	102	Layer	201, 301, 401, 501, 601	Natural drift of mid orange/brown clayey silt, friable, coarse + gritty. Above 101
2	200	Layer	100, 300, 400, 500, 600	Topsoil layer. 0.34m D
	201	Layer	102, 301, 401, 501, 601	Natural drift of mid orange/brown clayey silt, friable, coarse + gritty. Above 202. 0.10m D
	202	Layer	101, 302, 402, 502, 602	Natural silty clay.
3	300	Layer	100, 200, 400, 500, 600	Topsoil. 0.30m D
	301	Layer	102, 201, 401, 501, 601	Natural drift of mid orange/brown clayey silt, friable, coarse + gritty. Above 302. 0.10m D
	302	Layer	101, 202, 402, 502, 602	Natural silty clay.
	303	Cut		E-W ridge and furrow sample. Irregular U shaped. Filled by 304. 0.66m W 0.29m D
4	400	Layer	100, 200, 300, 500, 600	Fill of furrow 303. Similar to Topsoil 300, but slightly lighter in colour mixed with natural below. 0.29m D
	401	Layer	102, 201, 301, 501, 601	Topsoil. 0.46m D
	402	Layer	101, 202, 302, 502, 602	Natural drift of mid orange/brown clayey silt, friable, coarse + gritty. Above 402. 0.10m D
5	500	Layer	101, 202, 302, 502, 602	Natural silty clay
	501	Layer	100, 200, 300, 400, 600	Topsoil. 0.26m D
	502	Layer	102, 201, 301, 401, 601	Natural drift. 0.10m D
6	600	Layer	101, 202, 303, 404, 602	Natural silty clay. 0.09m D
	601	Layer	100, 200, 300, 400, 500	Topsoil. Turf layer. Dark grey/brown clayey silt. 0.29m D
	602	Layer	102, 201, 301, 401, 501	Natural drift. Mid orange/brown clayey silt, friable, coarse + gritty. 0.14m D
			101, 202, 302, 402, 502	Natural silty clay. Mixed yellow blue brown silty clay.

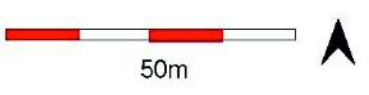


Fig. 3: Interpretation