

**LAND OFF CURZON AVENUE, CLEETHORPES
NORTH-EAST LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHING

**NGR: TA 2968 0800
North-East Lincolnshire Council Planning Ref.: n/a
NEL Museum Accn. No. GRIM:2010.1
Site Code: CACL 09
PCA Job No. : 09/611**

Report prepared for

Stamford Homes (North)

by

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January 2010



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Summary

- Six archaeological evaluation trenches were opened by machine under supervision on land adjacent to Curzon Avenue, Cleethorpes, North-East Lincolnshire.
- The trenching demonstrated that a thin topsoil covered a thicker subsoil, with underlying weathered boulder-clay.
- No artefacts were found in any of the trenches, excluding 20th century debris associated with a pit in Trench 5, and land drainage pipes laid at regular spacings in Trench 1.
- An isolated undated post-hole in Trench 1 could conceivably pre-date other human activity at the site, but this was not confirmed.
- A north-south aligned cut boundary feature effectively delineates the eastern limit of slightly higher ground at the western end of the site. This feature was cut through the subsoil and is therefore likely to be of post-medieval or more recent date.
- It is concluded that the archaeological potential of the site is negligible.

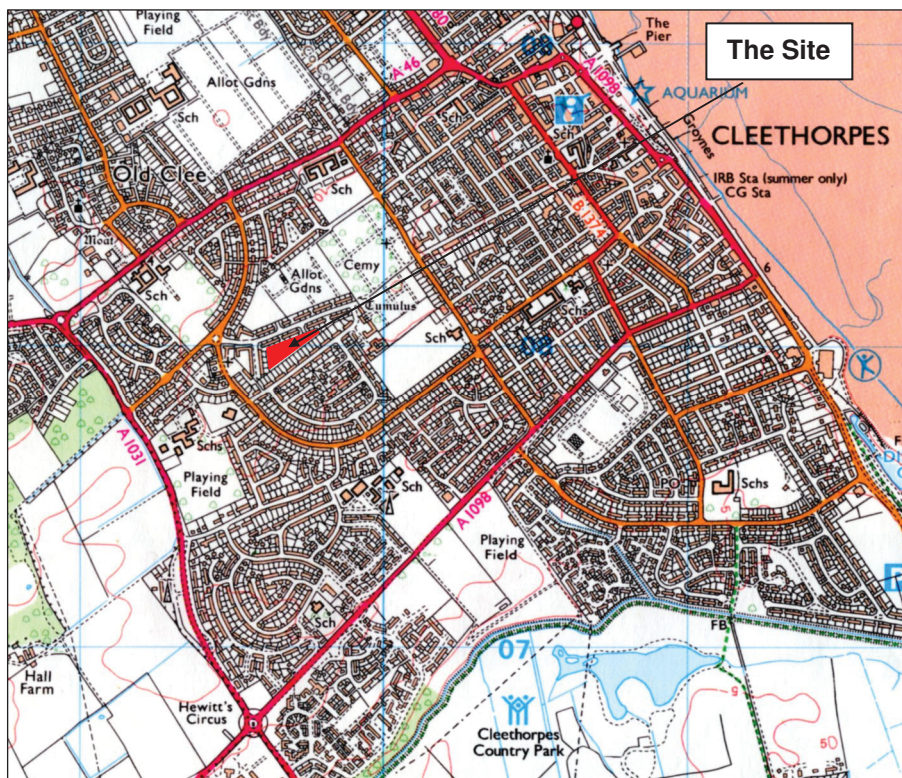


Fig. 1: Site location map (based on the 2000 Ordnance Survey 1: 25,000 Explorer map Sheet 284. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278).

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCA) were commissioned by Stamford Homes (North) in December 2009 to undertake archaeological evaluation trenching on land adjacent to Curzon Avenue, Cleethorpes. The evaluation followed current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:

- *Code of Conduct* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 as revised);
- *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2008).

1.2 The investigation took place over a four-day period between December 17th and 22nd 2009, under the direction of Will Munford and Neil Jefferson.

1.3 The results of this work will inform the planning authority and determine whether any further archaeological input is appropriate, in order to minimise damage to any significant archaeological deposits found to be present within the proposed development area, or to mitigate any potential damage by either preservation *in situ* or preservation by record.

Copies of this report will be deposited with the commissioning client and the North East Lincolnshire Planning Archaeologist. A short text will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, and this will feature as a short note in due course. Reports will also be deposited with the Libraries and Museums Service of North East Lincolnshire Council, along with an ordered project archive for long term storage and curation (NEL Museum Accn code: GRIM:2010.1).

2.0 Site location and description (Fig. 1)

2.1 The site is bounded by housing along Warwick Road, Curzon Avenue and Curzon Court. Access to the site is from Curzon Avenue, to the north.

2.2 The c. 0.92ha site of proposed development has been vacant land since the 1970s or since the earlier development of adjacent properties. It is centred on NGR: TA 2968 0800.

3.0 Geology and Soils

3.1 The drift geology of the area is recorded as glacial till, with underlying chalk bedrock (*British Geological Survey Solid and Drift Geology: Sheet 90/91 Grimsby* BGS 1990). Site elevation is approximately 11m OD.

4.0 Planning background

4.1 An application is to be submitted to NE Lincs. Council for residential development. The Council's archaeological advisor has recommended that a programme of archaeological work be undertaken prior to the determination of the application. The trial trenching was a direct result of that recommendation.

5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

5.1 The site is situated about 200m south-west of the Beacon Hill round barrow (Scheduled monument SAM 34700). The Late Neolithic or Bronze Age burial mound is located at the western end of a cemetery, on a low ridge of glacial moraine. Partial excavation of the mound in 1935 located several Bronze Age funerary urns at the centre, 1.8m below the summit. The prominent landscape feature was re-used for an

Anglo-Saxon burial, and is documented from the late 14th century AD as acting as a beacon point for shipping. Neolithic flint artefacts have been found in the immediate vicinity.

There is a possibility that the barrow was part of a prehistoric barrow cemetery, and also that further Anglo-Saxon burials may have been located near this focal point. One other barrow site is recorded from Grimsby.

6.0 Aims and Objectives

The principal aim of the evaluation was to gather information to establish presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological remains present.

7.0 Methodology

Six trenches were investigated within the proposed development area (Fig. 2). Trenches 1 and 4 were 25m long, Trenches 2, 3 and 5 were 20m long, and Trench 6 at the eastern side of the site was 10m long. Trench 3 was aligned east-west, Trench 2 was north-east/south-west, and the remainder were south-west/north-east. The trench positions were located by GPS.

Trenches were opened by machine down to the first significant archaeological/natural horizon under close supervision. Archaeological features, or suspected archaeological features, were then hand excavated and recorded. A long trench section was also recorded, as were sections of archaeological features. A photographic record, both colour and monochrome, was maintained throughout the project, and a selection of photographs are presented with this report (Appendix 1). Context numbers were assigned for recording purposes (Appendix 2).

8.0 Results (Figs. 3-5)

8.1 Overview

The sequence of deposits comprised a thin topsoil overlying a thicker sandy clay subsoil, with orange weathered boulder-clay natural beneath.

A pit, one ditch-like feature, and a post-hole were identified in Trench 1; Trench 5 contained a recently excavated rubbish pit. No other features were present.

8.2 The Trenches

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pls. 2-5)

Trench 1, situated at the north-west angle of the proposed development area, was the only trench where archaeological features were encountered. The 2m x 25m broadly east-west aligned trench extended from slightly higher ground at the western end down a slope, from 12.49m to 11.54m OD.

Ditch-like feature [106] crossed the trench at the crest of the slope, on a north-south alignment. This was 2.5m wide and 0.6m deep, with a flat base and sloping sides, slightly steeper to the west. Its fill (105), a grey/brown sandy clay, contained no finds but the feature has been assigned a post-medieval date as it was truncated by the base of the modern ploughsoil (100) and was cut through the subsoil (101). A parallel land drain had been set 0.25m below the base of the ditch, possibly indicating that the drain was deliberately positioned within ditch-like feature. Two other parallel drains crossed the trench at 5.5m intervals.

Part of a pit [104] was recorded only in the south section face of the trench. The 0.5m deep feature was 0.8m wide and was also directly overlain by ploughsoil.

A 0.3m thick layer of grey/brown sandy clay (102) below the subsoil contained no finds. This layer was initially interpreted as a levelling deposit, sealing an isolated 0.3m diameter post-hole [108] at the base of the centre of the trench. No stratigraphic information was recovered for this isolated feature and it may actually have been cut from a higher level - its very dark fill (107) would support such an interpretation. Layer (102) may represent weathered boulder-clay, with the underlying chalky orange clay (109) being a less weathered variant.

Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 6 (Figs. 3-5; Pls. 1, 6-8, 10)

No archaeological features were identified in any of these trenches. The topsoil depth ranged from 0.14m – 0.2m, and in all trenches overlay a 0.3m thick sandy clay subsoil. Below this was orange or orange/brown clay mixed with chalk inclusions; interpreted as a weathered form of the glacially deposited boulder-clay/till.

Trench 5 (Fig. 5; Pl. 9)

The western edge of a large pit [504] coincided with the eastern end of this trench. Its fill (503) contained 20th century domestic rubbish. No other features were present.

9.0 Discussion

No significant archaeological remains were found within the six evaluation trenches, and there was no evidence that substantial disturbance of the site had occurred during the construction of the adjacent housing developments.

The relatively thin topsoil, above a thicker subsoil, may indicate that a sustained phase of soil formation – perhaps cultivation - had been followed by much less ground disturbance, perhaps indicating the use of the site as pasture. There were no indications of ridge and furrow at the site, where the subsoil may have formed as a result of other processes.

Any ephemeral prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon activity associated with the Beacon Hill burial mound had not extended onto this site.

10.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The evaluation was able to ascertain the depth of natural deposits below the modern ground surface, and to demonstrate negligible archaeological significance for the overlying deposits.

11.0 Conclusion

A backfilled north-south aligned shallow ditch-like feature crosses the proposed development site, marking the edge of slightly higher ground to the west. This is likely to be a land boundary that did not pre-date the post-medieval period. A small post-hole in the same evaluation trench could potentially indicate earlier activity, but the stratigraphic status of this feature was not satisfactorily established; furthermore, its very dark fill was taken to be a subjective indication of a possibly modern origin.

It is variously concluded that there are no indications that this plot of land contains any significant archaeological remains.

12.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are expressed to Stamford Homes (North) for commissioning this project.

13.0 Archive

The object and documentary archive for this scheme is currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. This will be deposited at the North-East Lincolnshire museum store, with Accn. Code GRIM. 2010.1.

14.0 Bibliography

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Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 *Soils of Eastern England Sheet 4*. 1:250 000 scale.

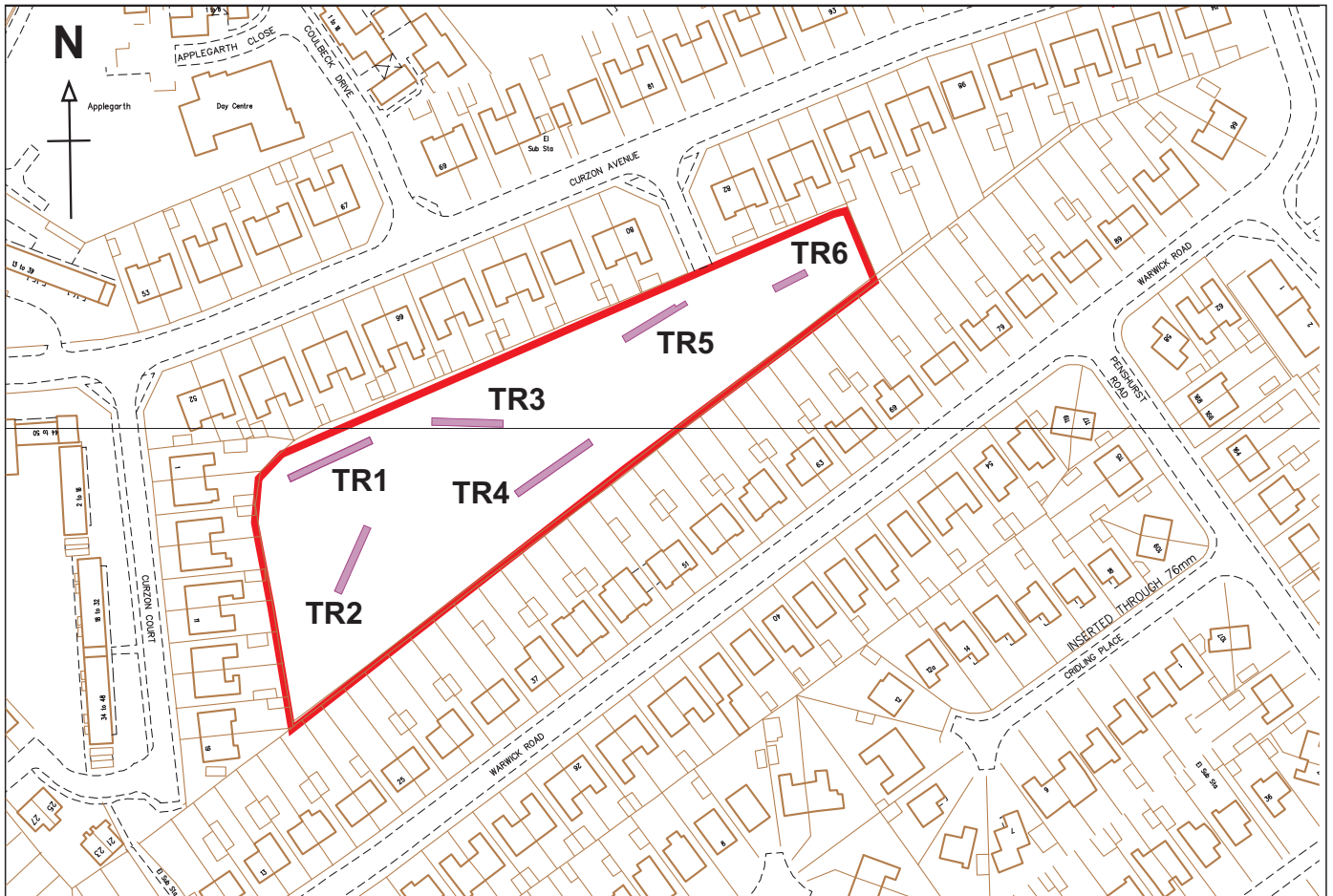
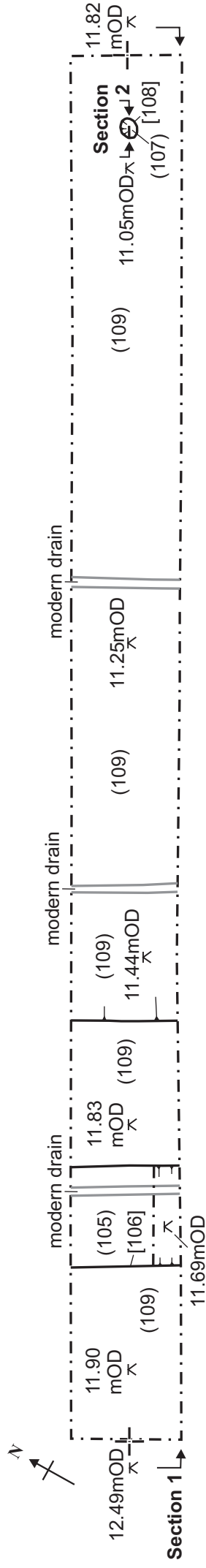
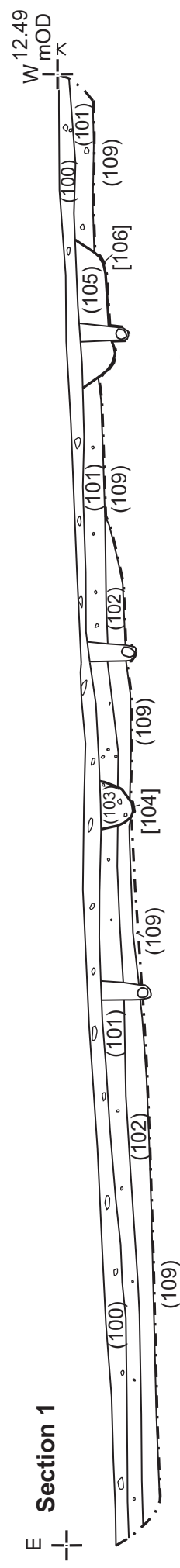


Fig. 2: Locations of the Evaluation Trenches. (Map supplied by client, reproduced at 1:2000 scale. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCA Licence No. 100049278.

Trench 1



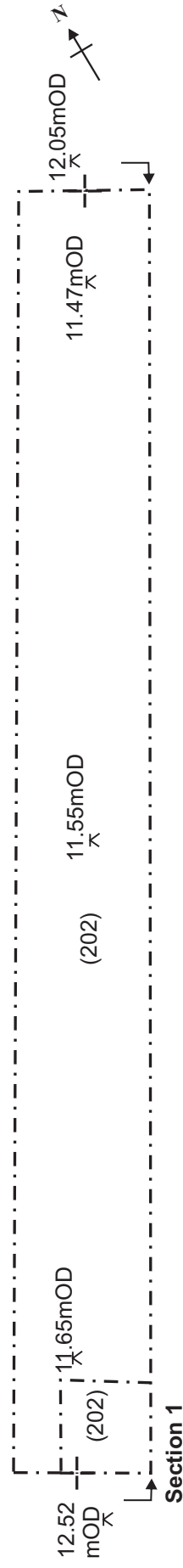
Section 1



Section 2 - 1:20



Trench 2



Section 1

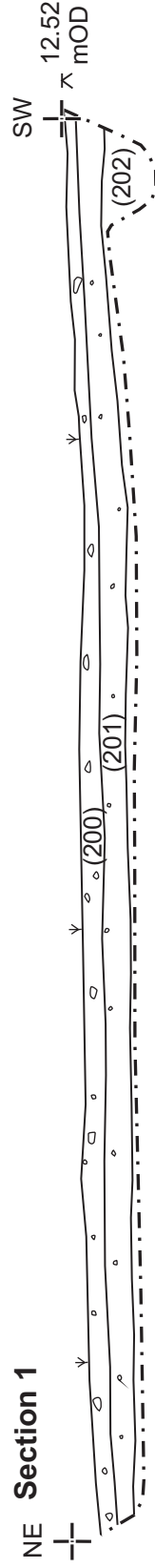
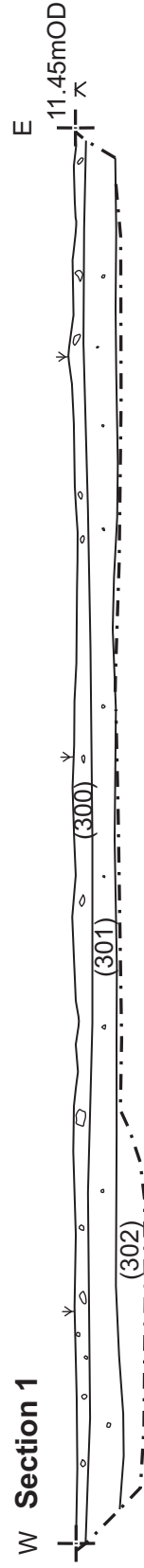
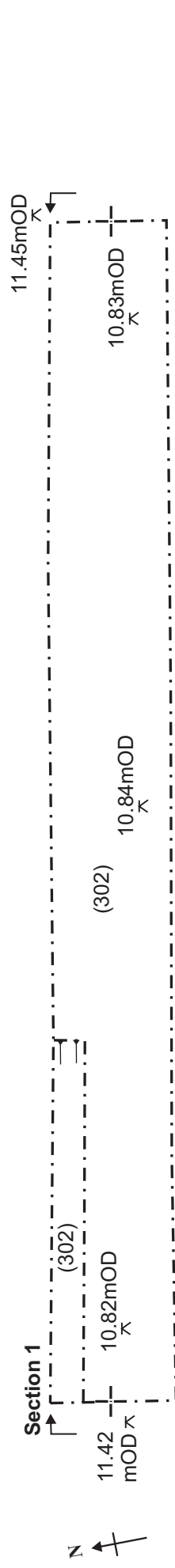


Fig. 3:
Trenches 1 and 2
Plans and Sections
Scale 1:100
or as stated

Trench 3



Trench 4

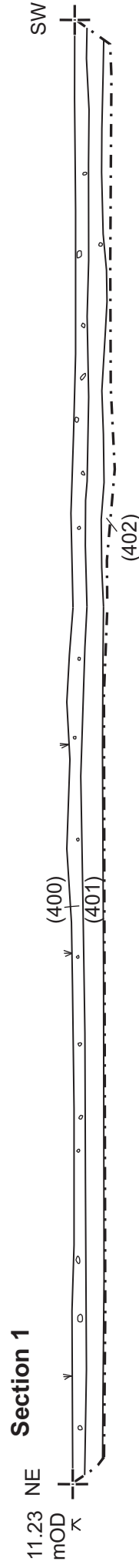
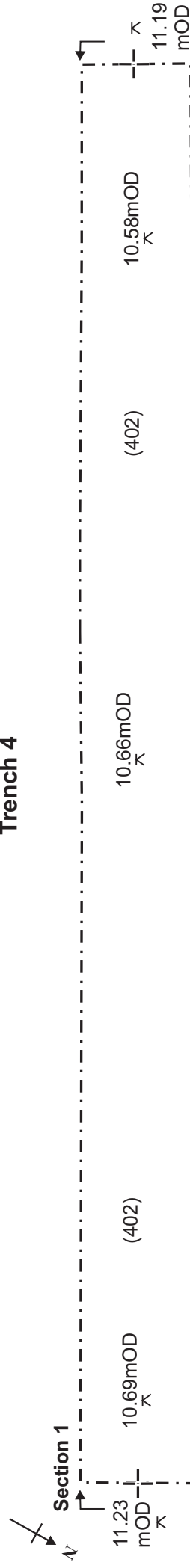


Fig. 4:
Trenches 3 and 4
Plans and Sections
Scale 1:100

Trench 5



Trench 6



Fig. 5:
Trenches 5 and 6
Plans and Sections
Scale 1:100



Pl. 1 The evaluated area (looking south-west from Trench 6 at the eastern end).



Pl. 2 Trench 1 (looking south-east, with a slot excavated across ditch-like feature [108] (right). Scales 1m.).



Pl. 3 Section across feature [108], Trench 1 (looking south, scale 1m).



Pl. 4 Section through pit [104], Trench 1 (looking south-east, scale 1m).



Pl. 5 Isolated undated post-hole [108], Trench 1. Looking south, scale 1m).



Pl. 6 View along Trench 2 (looking north-east, scales 1m. A slot has been machined, foreground, to confirm the base of disturbed deposits).



Pl. 7 Trench 3 contained no archaeological features (looking west, scales 1m).



Pl. 8 Trench 4, also with no features (looking west, scales 1m).



Pl. 9 View of Trench 5 (looking north-east, scale 1m). This trench contained a modern pit at the northern end.



Pl. 10 Trench 6 (looking south-west, scales 1m).

Appendix 2: Context descriptions [CACL 09; GRIM:2010.1]

Context No.	Area	Type	Relationships	Description	Finds
100	Tr 1	Layer	Above 103, 105	Dark grey/brown sandy clay, 0.2m thick; topsoil	
101	Tr 1	Layer	Above 102, below 100; cut by 104, 106	Brown/grey sandy clay, 0.3m thick; subsoil	
102	Tr 1	Layer	Above 107, below 101	Grey/brown sandy clay, 0.3m thick; ?levelling layer	
103	Tr 1	Fill	Fill of 104, below 100	Grey/black sandy clay, 0.5m thick	
104	Tr 1	Cut	Cuts 101, filled by 103	Steep sided 0.8m wide pit, 0.5m deep, pointed base.	
105	Tr 1	Fill	Fill of 106, below 100	Grey/brown sandy clay, 0.6m thick.	
106	Tr 1	Cut	Cuts 101, filled by 105	2.5m wide, 0.6m deep ditch, aligned north-south. ?Boundary ditch.	
107	Tr 1	Fill	Fill of 108, below 102	Grey/brown sandy clay, 0.41m thick.	
108	Tr 1	Cut	Cuts 109, filled by 107	0.3m diam, 0.41m deep post-hole or pit.	
109	Tr 1	Natural Layer	Cut by 108; below 102	Orange/brown clay natural	
200	Tr 2	Layer	Above 201	Dark grey/brown sandy clay, 0.18m thick; topsoil	
201	Tr 2	Layer	Below 200, above 202	Brown/grey sandy clay, 0.29m thick; subsoil	
202	Tr 2	Natural Layer	Below 201, above 202	Brown/orange clay natural	
300	Tr 3	Layer	Above 301	Dark grey/brown sandy clay, 0.2m thick; topsoil	
301	Tr 3	Layer	Below 300, above 302	Brown/grey sandy clay, 0.3m thick; subsoil	
302	Tr 3	Natural Layer	Below 301, above 302	Brown/orange clay natural	
400	Tr 4	Layer	Above 401	Dark grey/brown sandy clay, 0.17m thick; topsoil	

401	Tr 4	Layer	Below 401, above 402	Brown/grey sandy clay, 0.3m thick; subsoil	
402	Tr 4	Natural Layer	Below 401, above 402	Brown/orange clay natural	
500	Tr 5	Layer	Above 503	Dark grey/brown sandy clay, 0.2m thick; topsoil	
501	Tr 5	Layer	Cut by 504, above 502	Brown/grey sandy clay, 0.3m thick	
502	Tr 5	Natural Layer	Below 501	Brown/orange clay	
503	Tr 5	Fill	Fill of 504, below 500	Dark brown/black sandy clay, 0.25m+ thick	modern domestic refuse
504	Tr 5	Cut	Filled by 503, cuts 501	3.2m+ diam, sloping sides.	
600	Tr 6	Layer	Above 601	Dark grey/brown sandy clay, 0.14m thick; topsoil	
601	Tr 6	Layer	Below 601, above 602	Brown/grey sandy clay, 0.3m thick; subsoil	
602	Tr 6	Natural Layer	Below 601, above 602	Brown/orange clay natural	

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OASIS ID: preconst3-70153

Project details

Project name	LAND OFF CURZON AVENUE, CLEETHORPES
Short description of the project	Six archaeological evaluation trenches were opened by machine under supervision on land adjacent to Curzon Avenue, Cleethorpes, North-East Lincolnshire. The trenching demonstrated that a thin topsoil covered a thicker subsoil, with underlying weathered boulder-clay. No artefacts were found in any of the trenches, excluding 20th century debris associated with a pit in Trench 5, and land drainage pipes laid at regular spacings in Trench 1. An isolated undated post-hole in Trench 1 could conceivably pre-date other human activity at the site, but this was not confirmed. A north-south aligned cut boundary feature effectively delineates the eastern limit of slightly higher ground at the western end of the site. This feature was cut through the subsoil and is therefore likely to be of post-medieval or more recent date. It is concluded that the archaeological potential of the site is negligible.
Project dates	Start: 17-12-2009 End: 07-01-2010
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PCA Job No, 09/611 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	GRIM:2010.1 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	CACL 09 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	POST-HOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country England
Site location NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE
CLEETHORPES LAND OFF CURZON AVENUE, CLEETHORPES
Postcode DN35 9HD
Study area 0.92 Hectares
Site coordinates TA 2968 0800 53.5523261722 -0.042288005399 53 33 08 N 000 02 32 W Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 11.50m Max: 11.65m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project brief originator Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Project director/manager Will Munford
Project supervisor Neil Jefferson
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body Stamford Homes (North)

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Physical Archive recipient n/a
Digital Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient n/a
Digital Contents 'none'
Paper Archive recipient North East Lincolnshire Museum
Paper Archive ID GRIM:2010.1
Paper Contents 'none'
Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section'

**Project
bibliography 1**

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