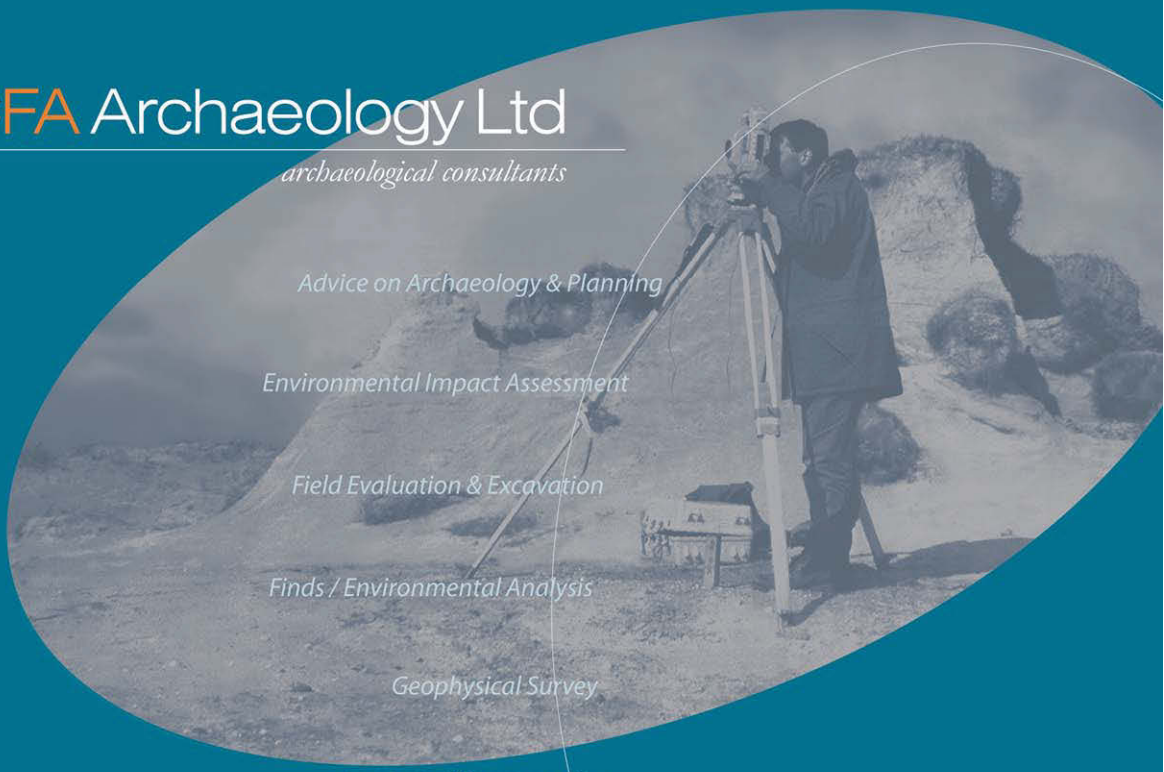
CFA Archaeology Ltd

archaeological consultants



Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

Field Evaluation & Excavation

Finds / Environmental Analysis

Geophysical Survey

Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Interpretation, Design & Display

Towthorpe Wold Wind Turbines, East Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief and Strip and Record

Report No. Y039/11

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Towthorpe Wold Wind Turbines, East Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief and Strip and Record

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Summary

Archaeological works were undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd during groundbreaking associated with the construction of a two wind turbines on arable land at Towthrope Wold, East Yorkshire.

An archaeological strip-map and record was conducted during the invasive groundworks associated with the excavation of two turbine bases. A watching brief then monitored the excavation of the associated cable trenches. The depth of topsoil varied between 0.30 to 0.45m deep. This in turn overlay sterile subsoil 0.25 to 0.4m thick. The underlying natural substrate was flint and chalk. No archaeological deposits or features were recorded and no finds were recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of the archaeological works undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on 27 October and 21 November 2011 during the excavation of cable trenches and turbine bases for two wind turbines on agricultural land at Towthrope Wold, East Yorkshire (Fig. 1, NGR SE 90333 64006 centred). The work was commissioned by Mr Robert Leeson. The CFA project code and number is TOWT/2038. The location of the turbine bases and the cable trenches are shown on Figure 1, photographs taken during the work appear as figures 2-7.

All work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CFA and approved by Mr D Evans of the Humber Archaeology Partnership. The archaeological works include a monitored topsoil strip-map and record at the location of two proposed turbine bases and a watching brief to be conducted during the excavation of two sections of cable trenching. The strip and record took place on 27 October 2011 and the watching brief on the cable trenches on 21 November 2011.

1.2 Site Location and Description

The site is 2.5km to the west of the village of Sledmere in the East Riding of Yorkshire (Fig. 1; NGR SE 90333 64006). No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on the site.

The turbine bases are located in arable land on a gentle south facing slope. The bases of both trenches were situated across an existing field boundary orientated east to west (Fig. 1). The field boundary is visible on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (dated 1854) and is present on all subsequent depictions. The bank was 1.5m wide and 0.3m in high (Fig. 4). It was planted with immature hedge cover with the occasional mature hawthorn tree. A series of removed and rotten wooden posts and strainers probably attest to a fence line on the same orientation as the field bank.

There were two lengths of cable trench which required monitoring. The first length was 140m long and ran roughly east to west between turbine bases 1 and 2. The second cable trench was cut from Turbine 2 to the existing farm to the northeast

1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background

The Historic Environment Record indicates the high archaeological potential for encountering buried archaeological features and artefacts in this area. The landscape is particularly rich in prehistoric mortuary monuments of Neolithic and Early Bronze Age date. One such monument 3.7km to the northwest is Duggleby Howe (SMR NY379) a well preserved round barrow with associated enclosures and ditches. The monument is one of many prehistoric mortuary monuments in the area known as barrows. There are also a many medieval sites in the vicinity. Wharram Percy (SMR 13302) is a deserted medieval village of possible 10th-century origin. At Towthorpe itself, there are the earthwork remains of the deserted medieval village of Towthorpe which consist of a hollow way with medieval crofts and later 16th century farmsteads (NMR SE86 SE29).

1.4 Objectives

The objectives of the project were to:

- determine the form and function of any archaeological features encountered;
- determine the spatial arrangement of any archaeological features encountered;
- as far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and;
- establish the sequence of any archaeological remains present on the site

2. WORKING METHODS

The removal of soil deposits in the Trenches 1 and 2 was carried out using a mechanical excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket under direct archaeological supervision. The removal of soil deposits during the excavation of cable trenches was carried out by mechanical excavator under constant archaeological monitoring. All further excavation required to fulfil the terms of the brief was carried out by hand.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

2.1 Standards and Guidance

CFA Archaeology is a registered organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All work was conducted in accordance with relevant IfA Standards and Guidance documents (IfA 1994, 2001), English Heritage guidance (EH, 2005, 2006, 2008a, 2008b 2008c and 2011), and CFA's standard methodology.

2.2 Monitoring

The project was monitored by the Humber Archaeology Partnership who were informed in advance of the works taking place.

2.3 Archiving

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, finds, plans and reports, will be deposited with East Riding of Yorkshire Museums Service according to an agreed timescale, and will be ordered according to current guidelines and to nationally recognised standards (UKIC 1990; 2001; MGC 1994; SMA 1995; Ferguson and Murray 1997; Brown 2007).

3. RESULTS

3.1 Turbine Bases 1 and 2

Turbine bases 1 and 2 were both 5.8 by 5.8m square (Figs 2 and 3). The visibility of the soil horizons was generally good. There were no archaeological remains or features recorded at either turbine base.

The topsoil and vegetation at both turbine bases comprised soft, sterile, mid-greyish brown, silty-clay 0.30 to 0.45m thick (001). This overlay a subsoil 0.05-0.35m thick comprising soft, mid brown, silty clay (002). Topsoil and subsoil contained moderate inclusions of small to medium sized chalk fragments. The subsoil in both trenches overlay a natural substrate (000) which comprised angular to sub-rounded chalk cobbles and fragments, small to medium-large in size.

3.2 Cable Trench 1

Cable Trench 1 was cut east to west and connected turbine bases 1 and 2 (Fig. 5). The soils recorded were the same as above. The depth of excavation was 1m and the width of the trench was 0.4m. The topsoil (001) and subsoil (002) were 0.4m and 0.3m deep respectively, having the same characteristics as that recorded at turbine bases 1 and 2. The substrate was chalk and flint.

3.3 Cable Trench 2

Cable Trench 2 was orientated northeast to southwest. As this area was lacking ground cover at the time of the excavation, the route of the trench was field walked prior to groundbreaking in order to maximise the possible chance of recovering artefactual material. However, no surface finds were recovered. The depth of the trench was 1m and it was 0.4m in width (Figs 6 and 7). The soft deposits, comprising topsoil and subsoil (001and 002), were as described in above. The natural substrate was flint nodules and chalk, which was very tabular in places.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Although there are significant archaeological remains in the wider landscape, none were recorded within the area of groundbreaking works during the strip and record on the site of the turbine bases or during the watching brief on the cable trenches, and no finds were recovered.

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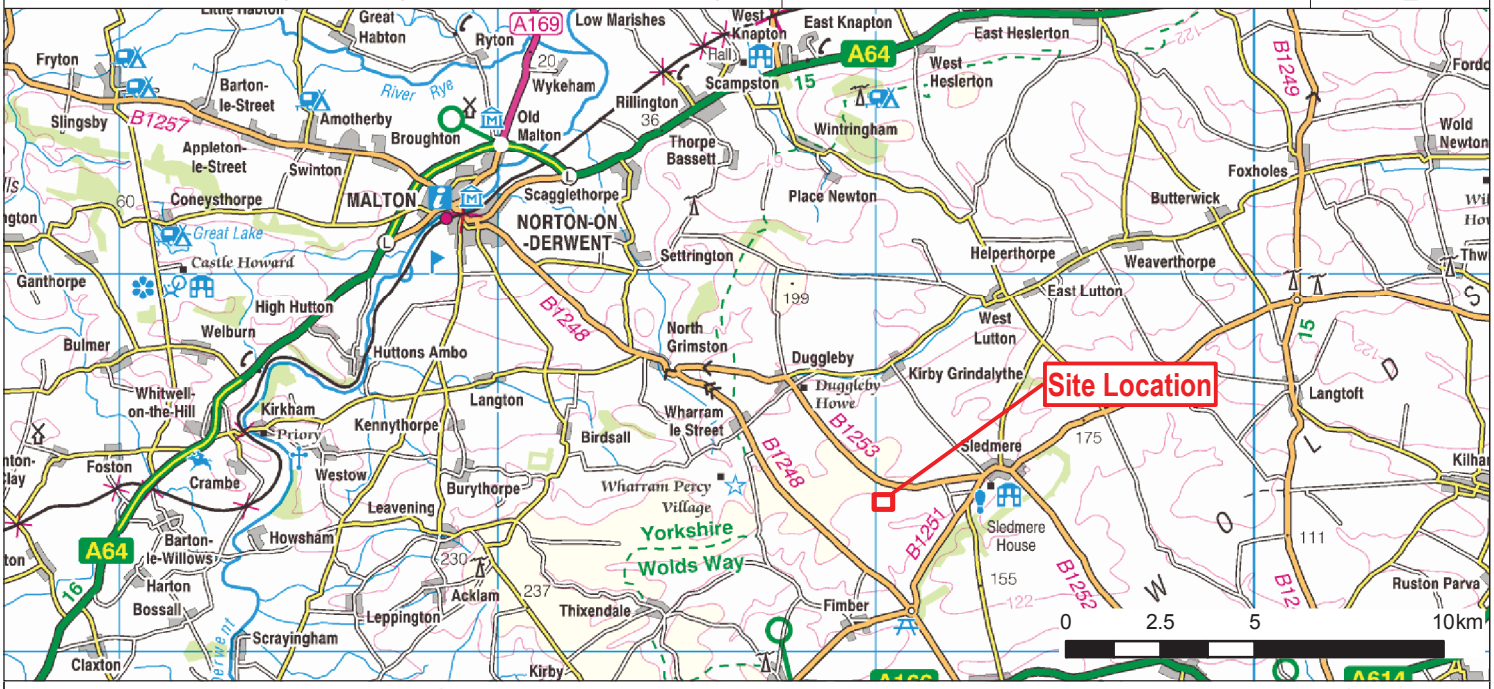
APPENDIX 1: Context Register

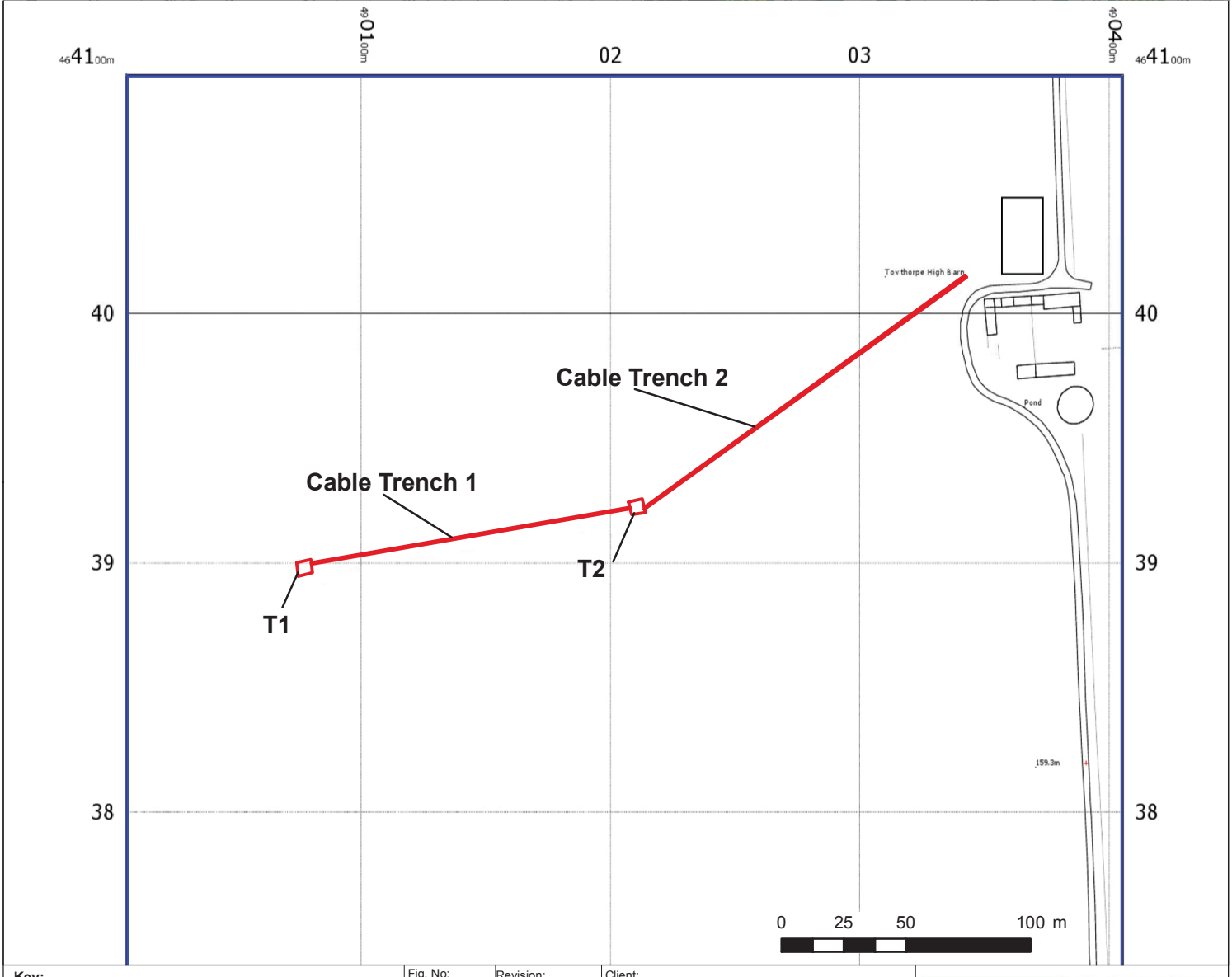
Context no.	Description
000	Natural; limestone substrate.
001	Topsoil; soft, light-brown, sandy-clay throughout all groundbreaking.
002	Subsoil; soft, orangey, sandy-clay subsoil with occasional inclusions of fragmentary limestone.

APPENDIX 2: Digital Photographic Register

Shot No.	Description	Facing	Conditions
1	General shot of Turbine 2 location prior to groundbreaking	Southwest	Mist
2	Working shot of topsoil removal at Trench 2	Southeast	Mist
3	General shot of Trench 1 location	West	Mist
4	General shot of immature hedge at T1 location	West	Mist
5	Working shot of topsoil and subsoil removal at T1	South	Overcast
6-7	Working shot of topsoil and subsoil removal at T1	Southwest	Overcast
8	Shot of T1 after topsoil and subsoil removal	Northeast	Overcast
9	Shot of section of field-bank at T1	East	Overcast
10	Shot of T2 after topsoil and subsoil removal	Northwest	Overcast
11	Shot of section of field-bank at T1	West	Overcast
12	General shot of T1 base and field-bank	Northwest	Overcast
13	East-facing section of field-bank at T1	West	Overcast
14	Shot of Cable Trench 1 excavations with T1 in background	West	Overcast
15	Shot of Cable Trench 1 excavation	East	Overcast
16	General shot of Cable Trench 1	East	Overcast
17-18	Working shot of Cable Trench 2 excavation	Northeast	Mist
19	Shot of completed excavation of Cable Trench 2 looking towards T2	Southwest	Mist

Figures 1 – 7





Key:

Monitored Areas

Fig. No: 1

Revision:

Client: Mr. R Leeson

Title: Site Location and Areas Monitored By Archaeological Works

Scale at A3: 1:2,500

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Fig. 2: Shot of T1 after Topsoil and Subsoil Removal

Fig. 3: Shot of T2 after Topsoil and Subsoil Removal

Fig. 4: Shot of Section of Field-bank at T1

Key:

Fig. No: 2-4

Revision: A

Client: Mr. R Leeson

Title:

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Scale at A4:

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Fig. 5: Shot of Cable Trench 1 Excavation

Fig. 6: Working Shot of Cable Trench 2 Excavation

Fig. 7: Shot of Completed Excavation of Cable Trench 2 Looking Towards T2

Key:	Fig. No: 5-7	Revision: A	Client: Mr. R Leeson	CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD Unit 22 Moorland's Business Centre Balme Road, Cleckheaton West Yorkshire, BD19 4EZ T: 01274 864245 F: 01274 878494 yorkshire@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
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	Project: Towthorpe Wold Wind Turbines: Archaeological Watching Brief / Strip and Record			
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