

Withern Eight House Row



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



January 2014

Client: Anglian Water

OA East Report No: 1574

OASIS No:oxfordar3-168989

NGR: TF 4379 8054

Withern Eight House Row

Watching Brief

Site Code: WEHR14

Accession No. LCNCC: 2014.6

Date of Works: 15/01/14 & 31/01/14

Report No: 1574

Excavator: Pat Moan & Kat Nicholls

Client: Anglian Water

Report Date: January 2014

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Summary

On the 15/01/2014 and 31/01/2014, OA East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Withern, Lincolnshire (TF 4379 8054). The monitoring was carried out during the installation of a replacement water main. The excavation of two reception pits was monitored, and nothing of archaeological interest was seen.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The pipeline is situated on Welton Chalk Formation with superficial deposits of Devensian diamicton. The pipeline begins at c. 8mOD in Withern, and rises gradually to 18mOD at the end of the pipeline in Woodthorpe, to the south. The pipeline traverses six arable fields and one field laid to pasture.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The site crosses through an area of archaeological potential as defined by the County Historic Environment Record. An archaeological background was recently written for the specification for Archaeological Monitoring, as is replicated in parts below (Green 2013).

Prehistoric

- 2.1.2 Early prehistoric activity is present across the landscape, and predominantly seen as finds spots within the Lincolnshire HER. Late Mesolithic and early Neolithic flints were recovered during fieldwalking 1.84km north-east of Withern (HER 44461). Other finds spots include a Neolithic or early Bronze Age flint scraper or knife was recovered during field walking 3km to the north-east of the proposed pipe route (HER 44719) and a prehistoric worked flints from Stain Hill east of Withern (HER 41134).

Roman

- 2.1.3 The only Roman activity nearby comes from Stain Hill, 3km to the east of the pipe route, where 53 Roman counts were found (HER 41133).

Medieval & Post-Medieval

- 2.1.4 Withern is recorded in the Domesday Book as having a population of at least 44 with a church and mill. The Church of St Margaret was built in the 15th century and rebuilt in 1811 – 1812. The nave and chancel were restored in 1875 and are constructed of brick. The Church was made redundant in 1980 (Her 42667).
- 2.1.5 The scheduled site of Castle Hill is located 500m north-west of the pipe route. This site is believed to have been the location of a house belonging to the Fitzwilliam family, whom held large estates in Withern and Mablethorpe during the 17th century. The site was then utilised during the Civil War, with earthworks dating to this period surviving (HER 43555).
- 2.1.6 Approximately 1.3km south-west of the pipe route, substantial earthworks and buried remains of the motte and bailey castle known as Toot Hill is located. This dates to the 11th or 12th century, and is either the site of a fortification dating to the post-conquest period or to the civil war during the reign of King Stephen. During the post-medieval period, a house known as Tothill Manor was built within the bailey, which is grade II listed.
- 2.1.7 Surviving earthworks for a ditch and bank are located 1.9km to the east of the pipe route, at Grange Farm. 18th century pottery was recovered from the feature when a cable trench was cut through it (HER 43937).

- 2.1.8 Earthworks are also seen directly to the north of the pipe route, bounded by Chalk lane. The earthworks appear to be the remains of a number of medieval crofts, more of which can be seen further to the north, along the south-east of the A157.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 3.1.2 The Brief required that any reception pits that were to be opened would be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. Furthermore, a topographic survey will be undertaken of any earthworks that may be affected by the project. The monitoring of an open cut of 900m was not required, due to the pipe being installed by a trenching machine, meaning no observations would be possible by an archaeologist.
- 3.1.3 The area of investigation was located through arable fields, and one field lain to pasture. The route also drilled under a number of roads and housing located on Chalk Lane.
- 3.1.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 3.1.5 Ground conditions were very wet, with standing water in large areas. Weather was dry and sunny.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Site Visit & Topographic Survey

- 4.1.1 On 15/01/14 the site was visited to review the pipe route and see if any of the earthworks at the northern end of the route would be affected by the laying of the pipe. A topographic survey was carried out within the southern area of the field, to see if any would be damaged by machinery. No earthworks were noted on the earthwork survey undertaken in the area of work. The location of the valve within the field was also found. It was within 5 metres of the gate used for access, and not located near any earthworks. It was agreed a fence would be erected to provide a physical barrier for the contractors so that they would know the safe working area. See fig. 2 for the topographic plan and access/valve locations.
- 4.1.2 The rest of the pipe route was walked, to ensure no other earthworks were located within the area, and to see the locations of any reception pits required by the contractor. Reception pits were required near the northern terminus of the pipe route, with two being located within the field between Chalk Lane and the B1373. It was agreed these would be monitored by an archaeologist when they were to be opened.

4.2 Monitoring of Reception Pits

- 4.2.1 On 31/01/14, two reception pits were excavated approximately 3m by 2.2m in size. The first reception pit was located within the first field toward the northern end of the pipeline just south of Withern. The second was located towards the southern end of this same field just before the pipe line crossed the B1373 (see Fig 1).
- 4.2.2 Reception pit 1 had a depth of 0.6m before encountering natural geology. The geology was overlain by 0.35m of mid yellowish brown subsoil which was in turn overlain by a dark greyish brown topsoil with a depth of 0.25m
- 4.2.3 Reception pit 2 had a depth of 0.5m before encountering natural geology. The geology was overlain by 0.25m of mid yellowish brown subsoil which was in turn overlain by a dark greyish brown topsoil with a depth of 0.25m.
- 4.2.4 Modern field drains were present in both reception pits and no archaeology was observed. The pits were then backfilled to be re-excavated when needed by the contractor.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Medieval Earthworks adjacent to Chalk lane

- 5.1.1 The topographic survey of earthworks by Chalk lane indicated that there were no earthworks located within the area the contractors would need access to, with only a natural gradient from east to west. The survey undertaken directly to the north of the first area shows what appears to be a poorly preserved building platform to the west, and no other earthworks. This possible building is most likely part of a croft, more of which are known to survive to the north of the pipe route along the A157.
- 5.1.2 No open trenching was to take place by the valve, with access to it needed only to connect the new pipe to the well. Because of this, no further monitoring was required within the field.

5.2 Reception Pits

- 5.2.1 Nothing of archaeological interest was found within the reception pits directly south of Withern. This is likely due to the area monitored falling outside of the medieval core of the village. Similarly, the lack of archaeological evidence suggests little significant human habitation within the area. However, due to the limited excavations within the field, it is very possible that any surviving archaeology in the area was not located.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer.
- 6.1.2 The brief for archaeological works was written by Louise Jennings, who monitored the watching brief.

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-168989		
Project Name	Withern Eight House Row		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	15-01-2014	Finish	31-01-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	WEHR14	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	LCNCC: 2014.6	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Earthworks	Medieval 1066 to 1540		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Lincolnshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	East Lindsey	Chalk Lane, Withern LN13 0LQ
Parish	Withern with Stain	
HER	Lincolnshire HER	
Study Area	900m	National Grid Reference TF 4379 8054

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Louise Jennings
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Pat Moan

Project Archives

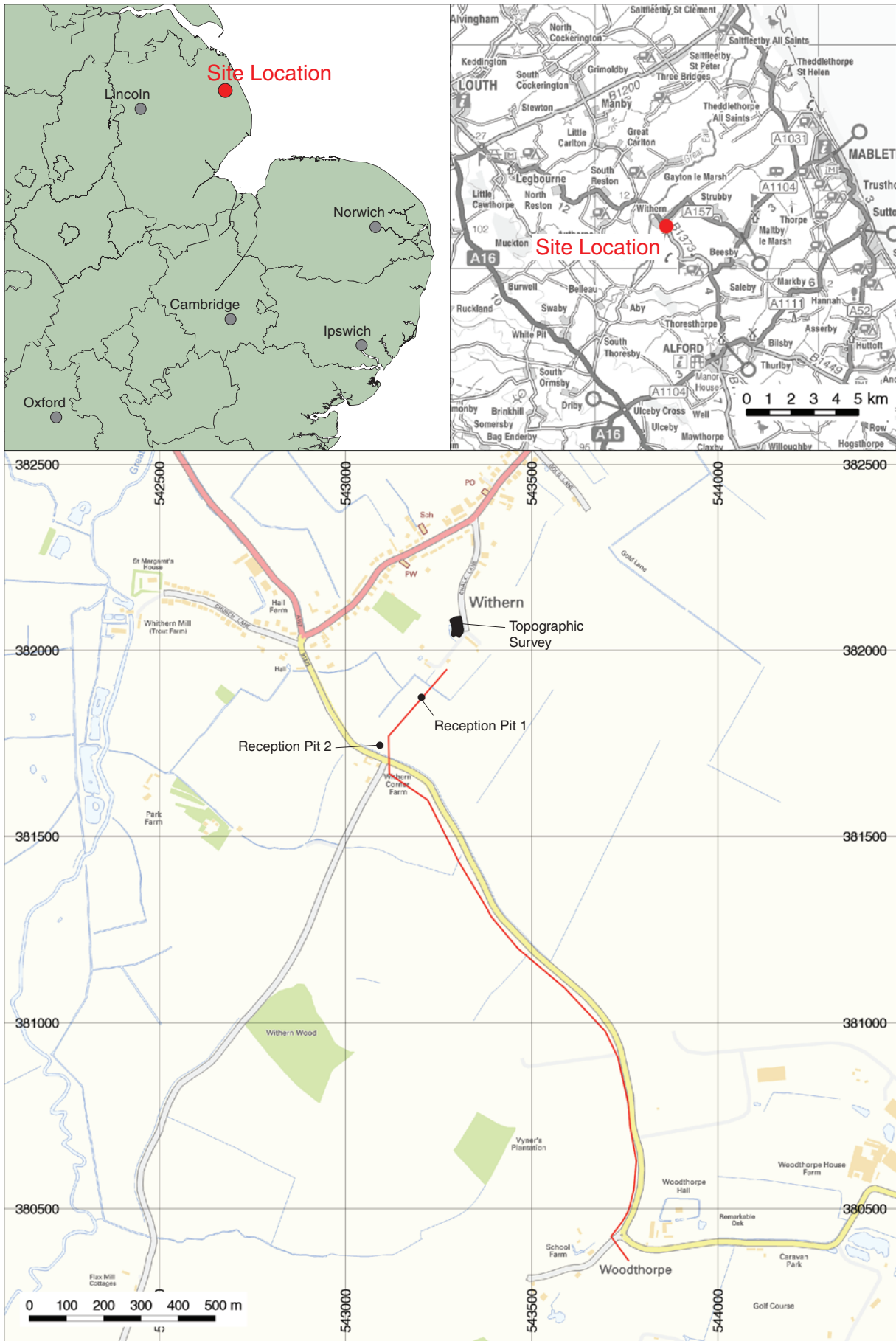
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
N/A	OA East	Lincolnshire County Store
N/A	XLIWIT13	WEHR14

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing reception pits and area of topographic survey (black) and route of pipeline (red)

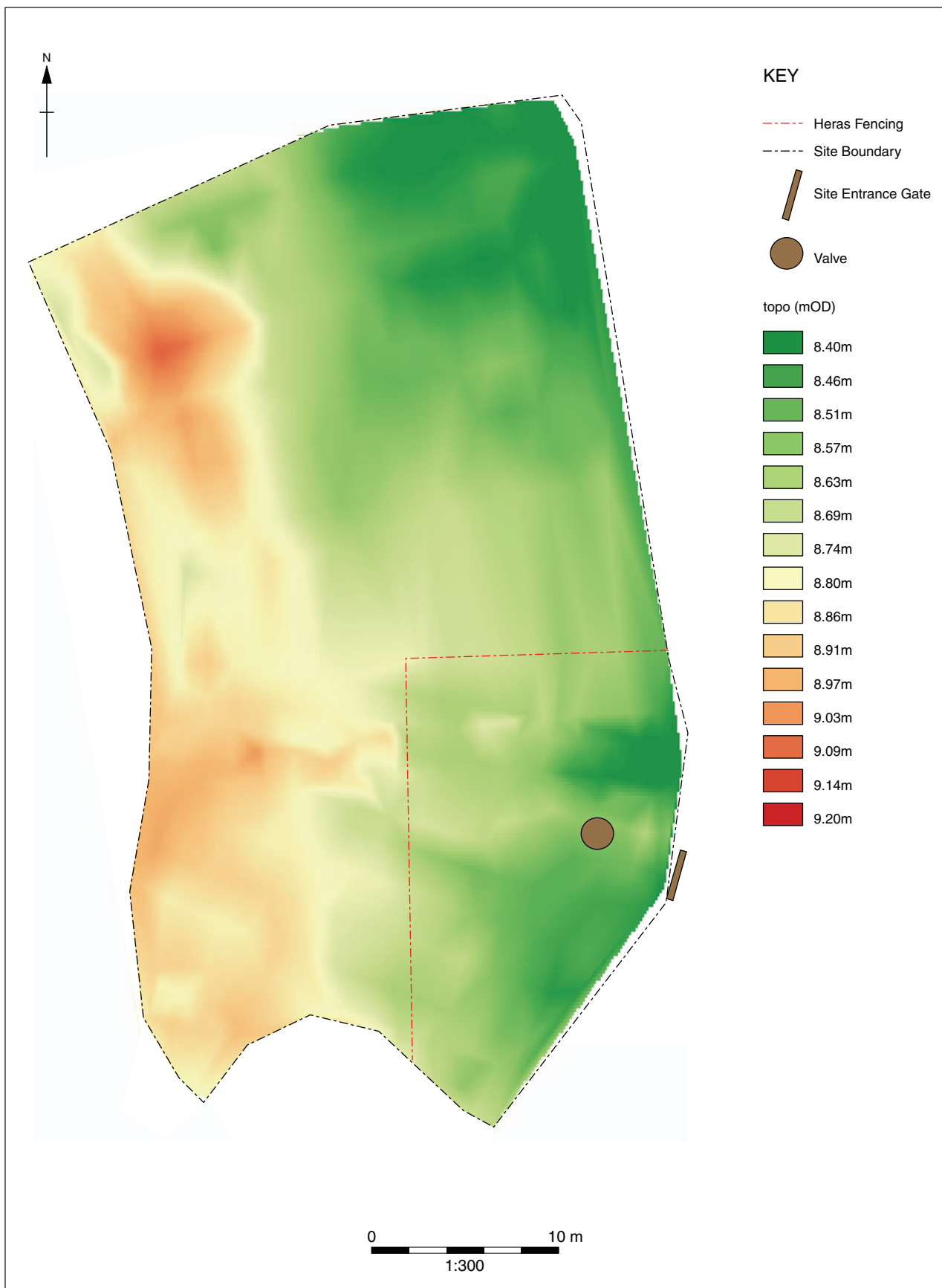


Figure 2: Topographic Plan of area of earthworks off Chalk Lane



Plate 1: Reception Pit 1



Plate 2: Reception Pit 2



Plate 3: Field with earthworks, showing location of valve



Plate 4: Work under way in Earthwork Field.



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