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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF ELECTRIC CABLE TRENCHES AT
HAUGHAM SLATES FARM,
HAUGHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SFH 99)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF ELECTRIC CABLE TRENCHES AT
HAUGHAM SLATES FARM,
HAUGHAM,
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(SFH 99)**

Work Undertaken For
Yorkshire Electricity Group PLC

November 1999

Report Compiled by
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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a cable trench, north of Haugham Slates Farm, Haugham, Lincolnshire.

The electric cable trench is located east of the village. To the west are two probable Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) barrows and prehistoric enclosures are reported in the vicinity. No medieval (AD 1066-1500) remains are known from the vicinity, although pottery has been recovered from south of the 19th century All Saints' church.

Two ditches were encountered during the watching brief, although there were no associated finds and both remain undated. It is possible that they may relate to the prehistoric enclosures. Pottery of late 18th - 19th century date and two prehistoric flints were retrieved during this investigation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is 'defined as a formal program of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Between the 15th and 18th April 1999 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a trench for a new electricity cable on land north of Haugham Slates Farm, Haugham, Lincolnshire.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Yorkshire Electricity Group PLC to undertake the investigation.

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Haugham is located 6km south of Louth and 15km northeast of Horncastle in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig.1).

Haugham Slates Farm is located 1.4km east of the village as defined by the parish church of All Saints (Fig. 2) and is located at National Grid Reference TF 349 815. The electricity cable trench runs north from the farm buildings towards a radio mast.

Local soils are of the Tathwell Association, typically argillic brown earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 321). These soils are developed upon a solid geology of Cretaceous chalk (BGS 1980).

2.4 Archaeological Background

Haugham is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. Located north of the village is the site of two round barrows, since levelled, and probably dating from the Bronze Age although no finds were recovered during their excavation. A probable prehistoric enclosure is reported in the vicinity.

Romano-British pottery has been recovered from fields to the south of the village church. No indication of the quantity of material is given, so it is not known if this represents a possible settlement or simply a manuring scatter.

Haugham is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Hecham* the name is derived from the Old English '*Hēah-hām*' meaning 'high settlement' (Ekwall 1974,

225). The Domesday Survey records that the land was owned by Hugh, earl of Chester, and contained 46 acres of meadow and wood for pannage 1 league in length by 3 furlongs wide (Foster and Longley 1976).

The Survey also states that the monks of St. Sever had 3 teams working in the area and this is a reference to an alien priory in Haugham belonging to the Benedictine abbot and convent of St. Severus at Coutance, France. Like all alien priories it was suppressed during the war with France during the 14th century whereupon it was granted to the priory of St. Anne of Coventry (Page 1988, 240).

Medieval pottery, including Stamford ware, has been found in fields south of the church. There are no extant remains of the medieval period, although some stonework in the 19th century church may have come from an earlier structure (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 372).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to record and interpret archaeological features exposed during the ground disturbance. The objectives were to determine the form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence of any archaeological remains.

4. METHODS

A single trench was excavated by machine for a length of *c.* 425m. The trench was 0.3m wide and 0.9m deep. Following excavation, selected portions of the trench were rendered vertical. Archaeological deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured

from the ground surface. Each deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was also compiled. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practise.

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 1.

5. RESULTS

Three phases were recognised:

- Phase 1: Natural deposits
- Phase 2: Undated deposits
- Phase 3: Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1: Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during the investigation was firm light yellowish white chalk (007). This deposit was found at the base of the cable trench.

Phase 2: Undated deposits

Cut into the chalk 39m north of the farm buildings was a possible east-west aligned linear feature (009). This was 1.25m wide and 0.4m deep and contained a single fill of mid brown clayey silt (008) from which burnt stone was retrieved.

A second possible linear feature (010) was

identified at the northern end of the trench, also cut into the natural chalk. This measured 1.9m wide and had a visible depth of 0.45m, although the full depth was ascertained.

Filling the possible ditch (010) and evident as a 0.24m thick subsoil across the remainder of the field was a deposit of mid reddish brown clayey silt (006). A layer of subsoil was also recorded in the vicinity of the farm buildings (004) and comprised a red-brown clayey silt.

Phase 3: Modern deposits

Sealing all archaeological deposits was a topsoil of dark brown silt (003) and mid brown clayey silt (005) measuring *c.* 0.3m thick. Prehistoric flints and late 18th - 19th century pottery was recovered from the topsoil.

In the farmyard, the topsoil had been sealed by a 0.16m thick layer of rubble levelling (002) above which a 0.14m thick turf layer had developed (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprised chalk (Phase 1) characteristic of the underlying solid geology.

Undated activity (Phase 2) is represented by two possibly linear ditches. It is uncertain how these relate to the prehistoric enclosures as the cropmarks do not appear on available plots of the area. If the features are related, the paucity of finds suggests that the enclosures were possibly for agricultural activities rather than actual settlement.

Modern deposits relate exclusively to the topsoil and recent activity associated with Haugham Slates Farm.

Pottery of late 18th - 19th century date was recovered from the topsoil and represents nothing more than discarded refuse. Two prehistoric flints of probable Early Bronze Age date were also retrieved and are perhaps related to other prehistoric activity, the barrows and enclosure, in the area.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations at Haugham Slates Farm, Haugham were undertaken because the site lay within an area of known archaeological remains, notably the proximity of prehistoric enclosures identified from aerial photographs.

Two ditches were identified during this investigation and may relate to the prehistoric enclosures. However, no artefactual material was recovered from the fills of either feature and the two ditches must remain undated.

Three sherds of 18th - 19th century pottery were recovered and two flint tools of the prehistoric period were retrieved. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells *etc.*) would survive, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr S. Gray of Yorkshire Electricity Group PLC who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Denise Drury and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Access to the Sites and Monuments Record was kindly supplied by Sarah Grundy of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Other background information was obtained from the library maintained by Heritage

Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Phil Mills
Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

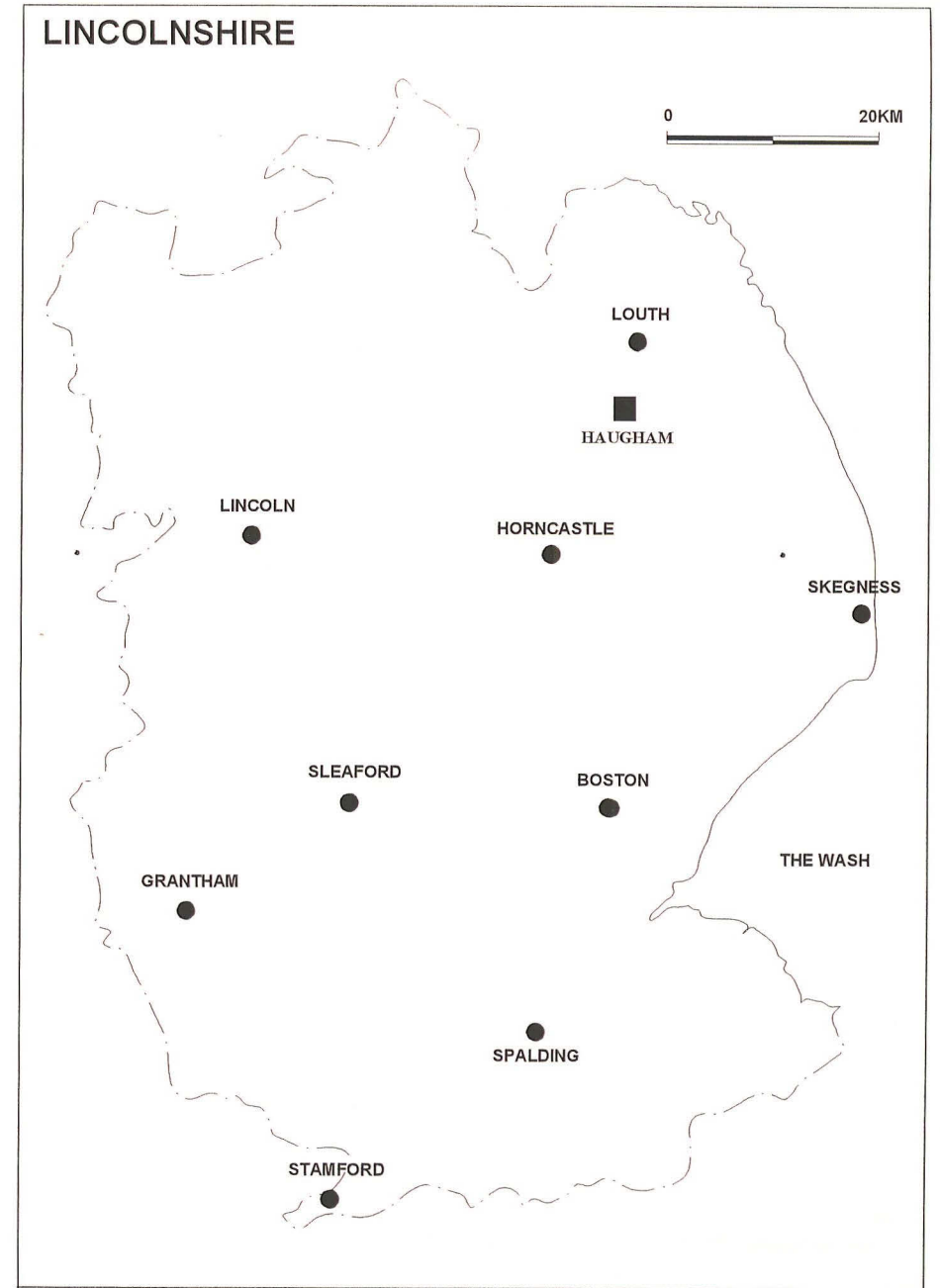
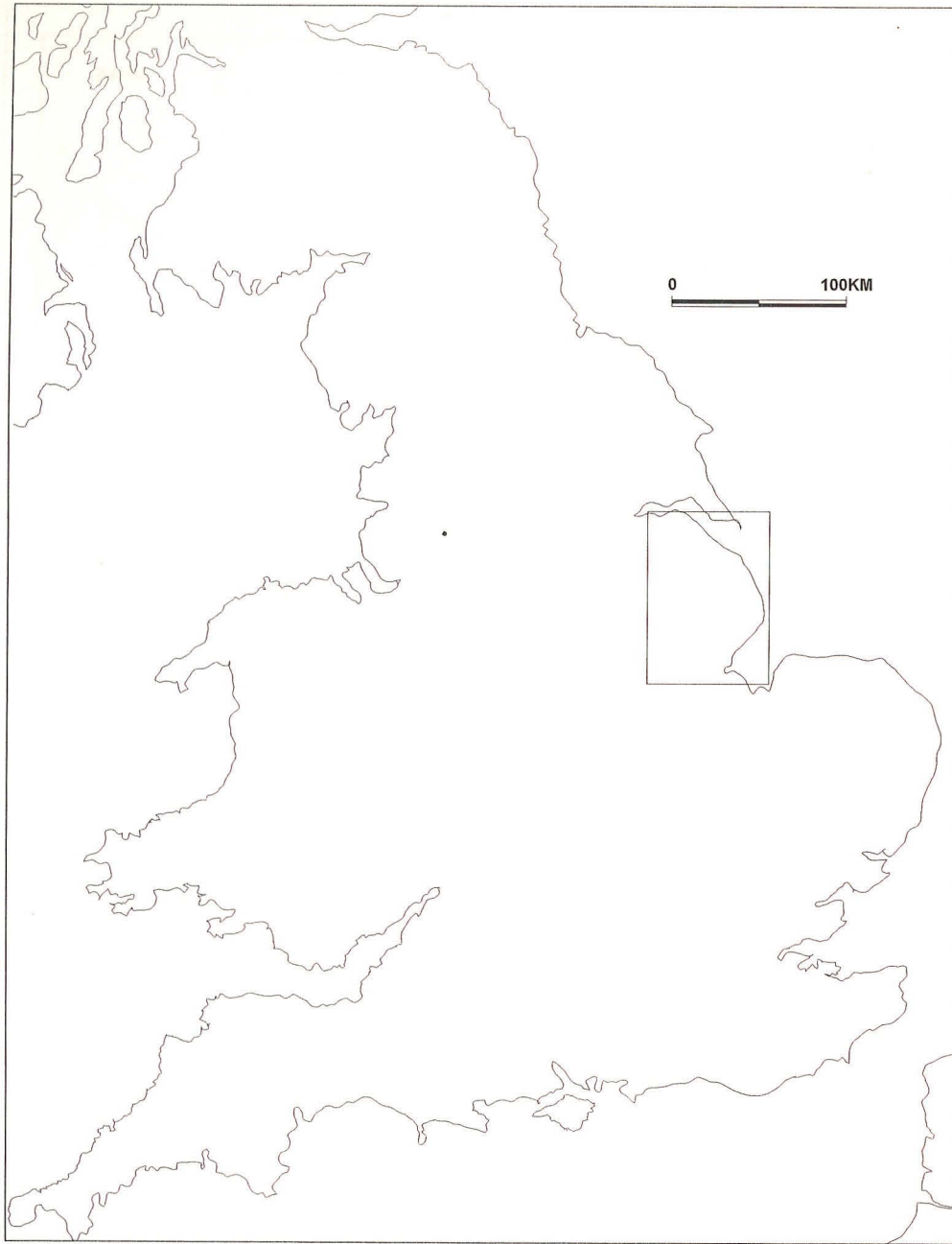


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

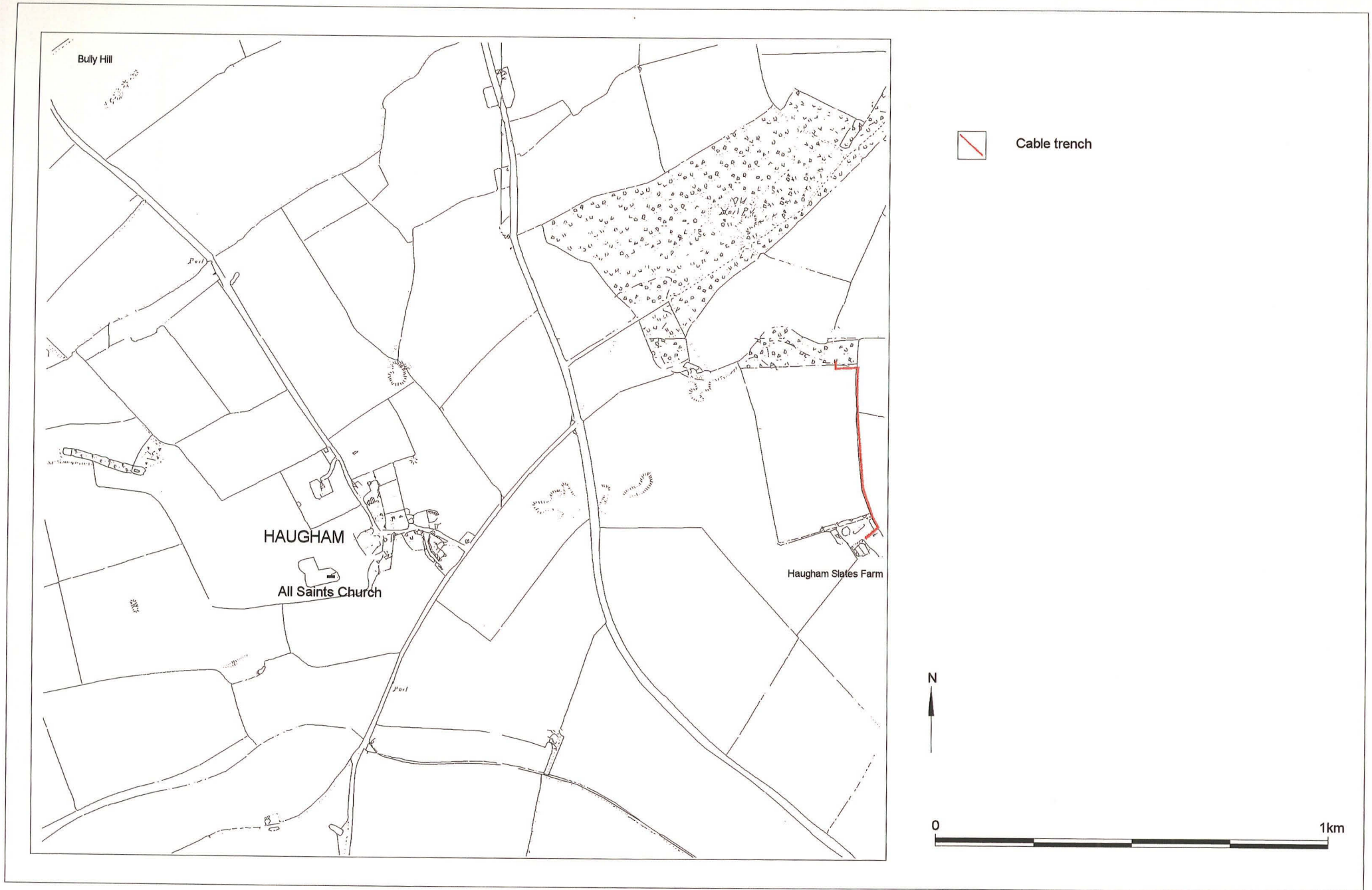


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

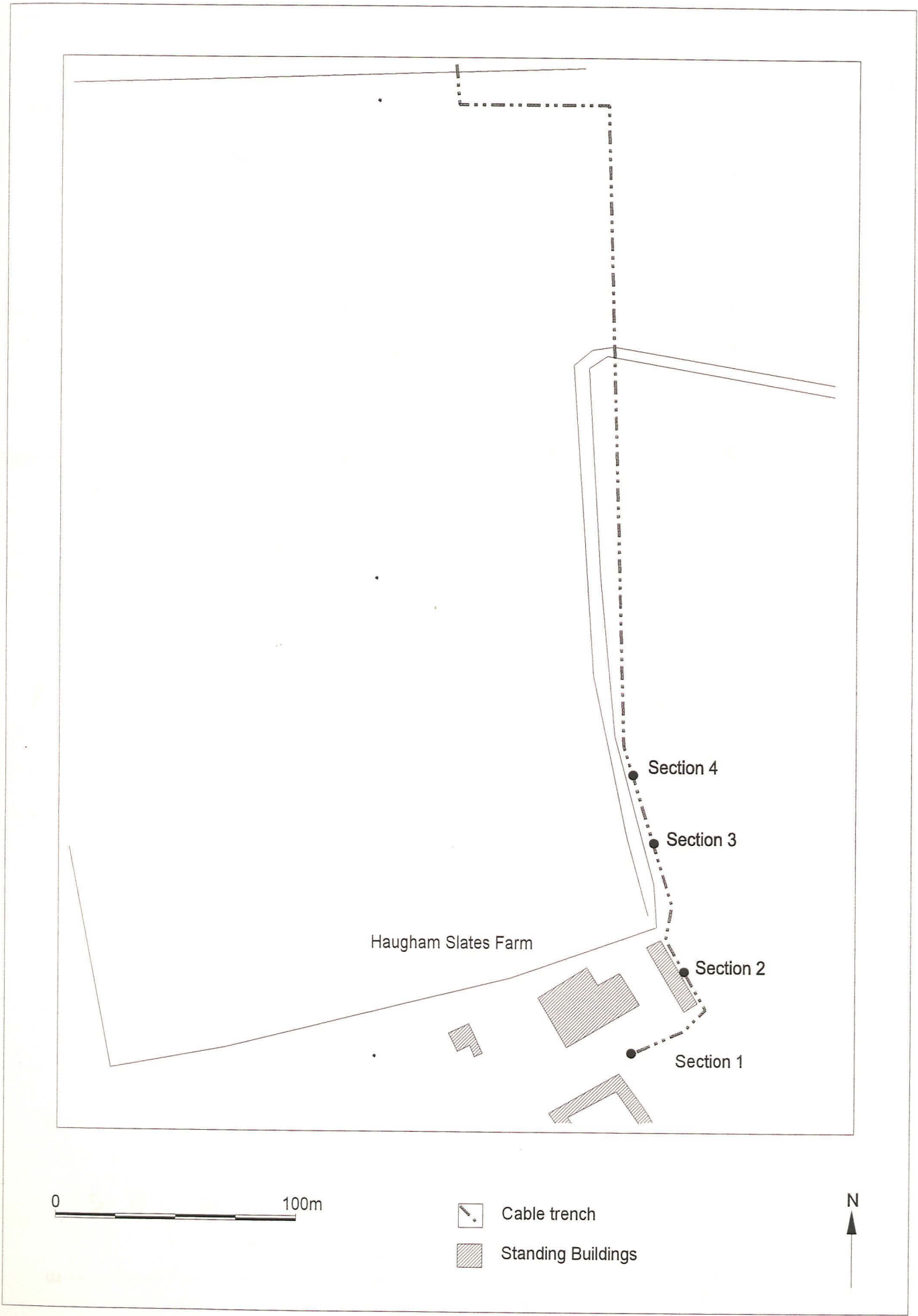


Figure 3 - Plan of the cable trench showing section locations

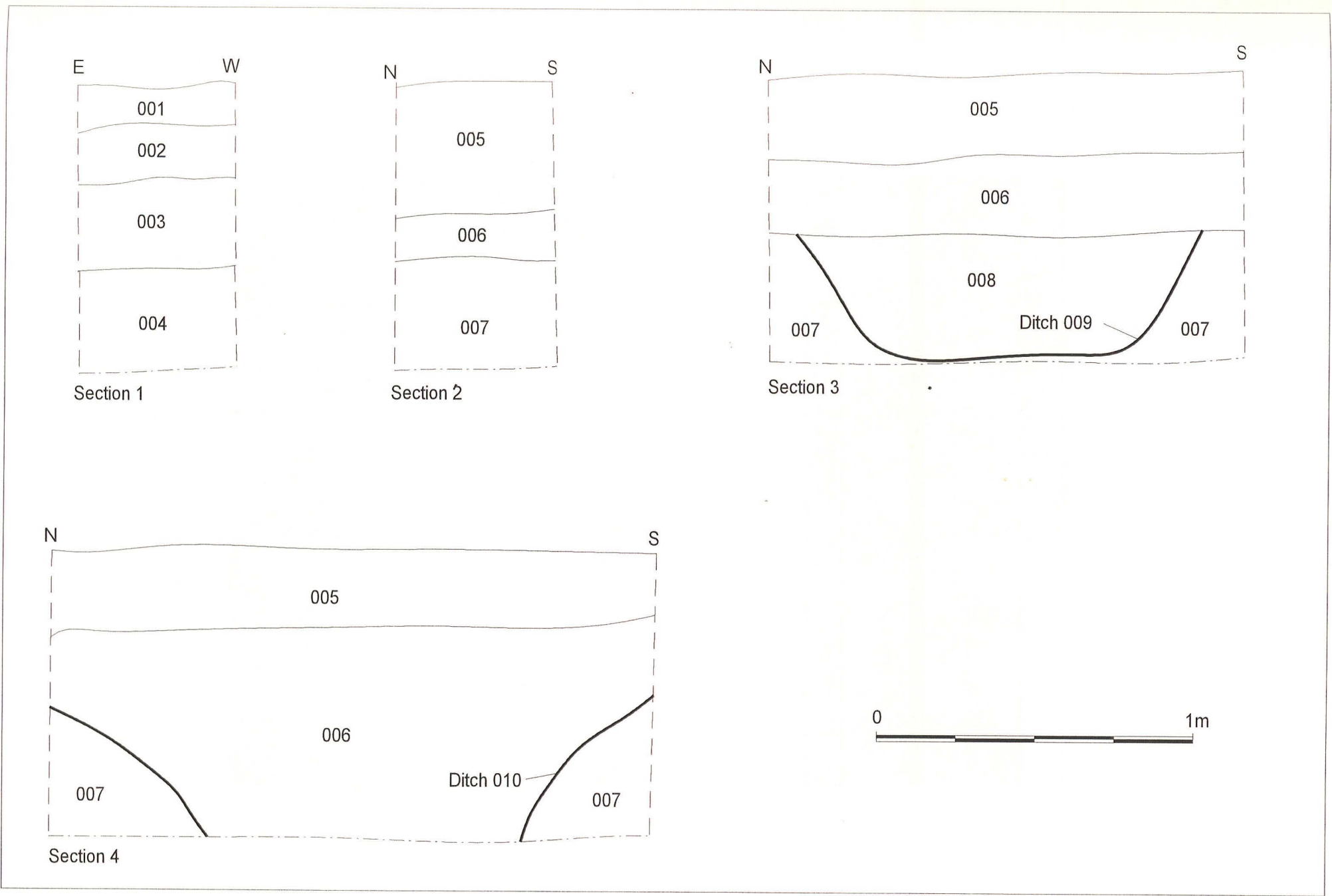


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4



Plate 1 - General view of the cable trench,
looking north towards the radio mast (centre)



Plate 2 - Section 3, showing the possible ditch (009),
looking east

Appendix 1

CONTEXTS DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Firm mid brown silt, 0.14m thick	Topsoil
002	Firm mid yellowish white to mid brown and red silt with crushed stone, 0.16m thick	Levelling deposit
003	Firm mid-dark brown silt, 0.28m thick	Buried soil
004	Firm mid yellowish red-brown clayey silt, 0.32m thick	Subsoil
005	Firm mid brown to mid reddish brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
006	Firm mid reddish brown clayey silt, 0.2m thick (except where it fills 010)	Subsoil
007	Firm light yellowish white chalk	Natural geology
008	Firm mid brown clayey silt	Fill of 009
009	Feature, 0.97m wide x 0.4m deep, aligned east-west	Possible ditch
010	Feature, 1.9m wide by >0.4m deep, aligned east-west	Possible ditch

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

Gary Taylor MA and Tom Lane FSA MIFA

Provenance

The material is derived from topsoil (005) and the fill of a possible ditch (008).

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Context	Description	Latest Date
005	3 x Nottingham stoneware, 2 linked of large pancheon type vessel	Late 18 th - 19 th
	2 x broken flint blades, both patinated. 1 has apparent use damage or retouching	Bronze Age
008	1 x burnt stone or highly ferruginous stone	

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage has been archived by material class.

Potential

The assemblage has little potential. Flints of Bronze Age date and late 18th - 19th century pottery suggest activity of these periods in the vicinity, though all such material recovered in this investigation is residual.

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

10	Context records
3	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record
1	Bag of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 117.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HSF99

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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