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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF AN ELECTRICITY CABLE TRENCH AT NORTH KELSEY LINCOLNSHIRE (NKE99)

A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

00119

EVENT L12128
SOURCES L16857 L16858
54574 L181834
54575 L181835

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF AN ELECTRICITY CABLE TRENCH AT NORTH KELSEY LINCOLNSHIRE (NKE99)

Work Undertaken For
Yorkshire Electricity

March 2000

Report Compiled by
Mark Dymond HND

National Grid Reference: TA 0457 0176
City and County Museum Accession No:112.99

A.P.S. Report No. **55/99** ?? something check w/APS

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a trench for an electric cable at North Kelsey, Lincolnshire.

A grange of medieval date (c. 1066-1500) with associated fishponds is recorded in the village, and the village itself was a large early medieval settlement. The route of the trench passes through a paddock containing earthworks and cropmarks of probable medieval date.

The investigations revealed a probable post-medieval (c. 1500-1800) soil layer beneath redeposited material. These deposits probably represent an area of eroded soil derived from adjacent upstanding earthworks. A small quantity of post-medieval and recent pottery and brick was recovered during the investigation, together with a single Roman pottery fragment.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

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

2.2 Planning Background

Yorkshire Electricity notified the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section of their intention to lay a cable at North Kelsey. The Archaeology Section advised that the route was archaeologically sensitive and recommended that the ground works be archaeologically monitored.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Yorkshire Electricity to undertake a watching brief during the insertion of the underground electricity cable in North Kelsey village, Lincolnshire. The work was carried out between the 21st and 27th April 1999.

2.3 Topography and Geology

North Kelsey is located 6km west of Caistor and 30km north of Lincoln, in the administrative district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Situated at the eastern edge of North Kelsey village, the trench route is located 300m northeast of All Hallows' parish church and to the east of High Street. Approximately110m long, the trench extends from a *cul-de-sac* off High Street at National Grid Reference TA 0452 0176, eastward to The Paddocks, TA 0463 0175 (Fig. 2). The route is at a height of about 13m OD and traverses the face of a slight slope down from south to north.

Soils on the trench route are Beccles 1 Association typical stagnogleys on till (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 117). Beneath this drift deposit is a solid geology of Oxford Clay (Everson *et al.* 1991, 139).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

North Kelsey is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Referred to as *Chelsi, Norchelsie and Nortchelesei* the name is thought to possibly derive from a personal name made up of Old English and Scandinavian elements (Ekwall 1974, 270).

At the time of the Domesday Survey North Kelsey was divided into a manor, owned by Count Alan, and sokeland of other manors

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held by the king and William De Perci. Within Count Alan's manor was a mill. In the later Lindsey Survey of *c.* 1115 land in North Kelsey was held by the Count of Brittany. (Foster and Longley 1976). Within North Kelsey parish is the site of the deserted settlement of *Hornode*. This extinct settlement was referred to in 1420 when permission was granted to a local hermit to celebrate divine service at the chapel of Hornode St. Mary in North Kelsey (*ibid.*, lviii).

During the medieval period the Gilbertine Priory of North Ormsby held land which included a court or grange, at the southern edge of the village. Associated with the grange was a complex of fishponds, suggesting fish farming on a commercial scale (Everson *et al.* 1991, 139)

The route of the trench passes through an area of earthworks comprising medieval ridge and furrow north of the pipeline route and field or croft boundaries to the south. In addition, there are earthworks of a medieval moat 125m to the southwest and a post-medieval quarry.

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to determine the spatial arrangement, date, form and function of the archaeological features encountered.

4. METHODS

The cable trench was excavated by machine, and measured 0.3m wide by 0.85m deep. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections were compiled at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Three phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Post-medieval deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

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

5.1 Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposit encountered was a mid bluish grey clay (004). In Sections 1, 2, and 4, this was sealed by a light brownish yellow chalky silty clay (003). A minimum thickness of 0.35m was recorded for each (Fig. 3).

5.2 Phase 2 Post-medieval deposits

Above the natural blue clay (004) in Section 3, was a layer of dark greyish brown clayey silt containing brick fragments (006). This layer, probably a buried soil, was 0.22m thick, and was exposed along the centre of the trench route. A fragment of brick retrieved from this deposit has been provisionally dated to the post-medieval

period.

Overlying the buried soil (006) was a layer of light brownish yellow silt and clay (005), containing chalk inclusions and measuring 0.2m thick. This is probably redeposited material and may be associated with the earthworks present in the field.

5.3 Phase 3 Modern Deposits

Sealing all deposits was a 0.15m thick subsoil of yellowish brown silt (002, 008) that contained a fragment of handmade brick of possible post-medieval date and a single sherd of Roman pottery. This deposit was in turn overlain by a layer of topsoil comprising dark blackish brown silt (001, 007) that contained pottery of 19th-20th century date (Appendix 3).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) encountered during the watching brief comprised clay. This clay was located along the entire length of the cable trench and may represent an outcrop of boulder clay.

Post-medieval deposits (Phase 2) comprise a buried soil layer that may represent the ground surface prior to the formation of the earthworks. This was sealed by a layer of redeposited material possibly derived from erosion of adjacent upstanding earthworks, located to the east. No earthwork features were affected by the cable trench.

All deposits were overlain by subsoil and topsoil. Both of these deposits are visible throughout the entire length of the service trench.

A small quantity of post-medieval and recent pottery and brick was retrieved, together with a single Roman pottery fragment. This artefact may indicate some otherwise unknown Romano-British activity in the vicinity.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out on land at North Kelsey because the cable trench traverses an area of upstanding earthworks, probably of medieval date.

Despite the presence of earthworks, no archaeological features were identified within the trench, apart from a buried soil. This was sealed by soil eroded from adjacent earthworks.

Limited artefactual material was retrieved during the investigation and was mostly of post-medieval or recent date, though a single fragment of Roman pottery was recovered. The nature of the local site conditions precludes the recovery of environmental indicators (seeds, wood, shells, *etc.*), other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr P.D. Richardson of Yorkshire Electricity 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 Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record was kindly provided by Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Denise Drury
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley

Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Mark Dymond
Post-excavation Analyst: Mark Dymond

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Everson, P.L., Taylor, C.C., and Dunn, C.J., 1991 *Change and Continuity: Rural Settlement in North-West Lincolnshire*, HMSO

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

HMSO Her Majesties Stationery Office

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

Figure 1: General location map

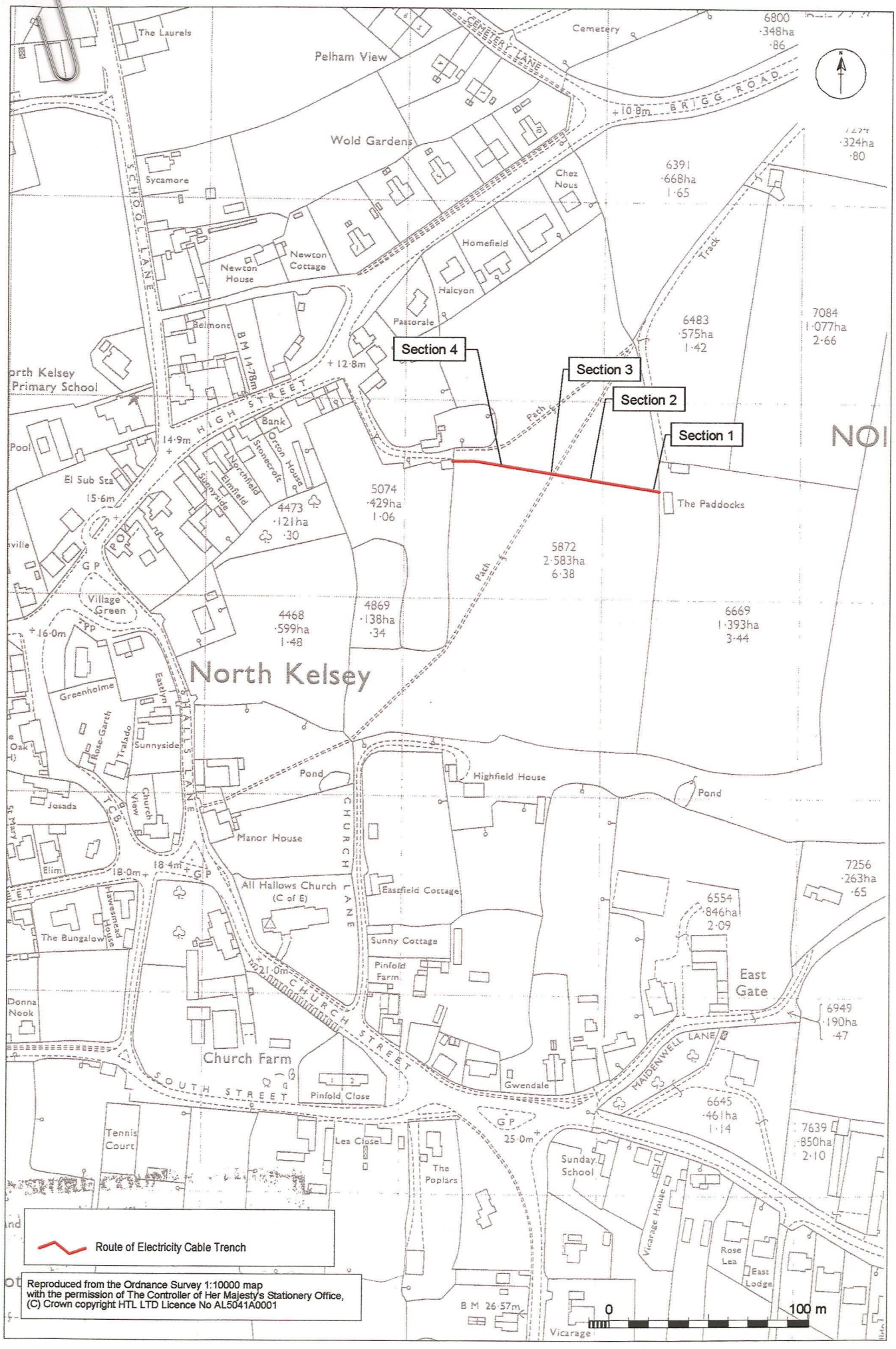
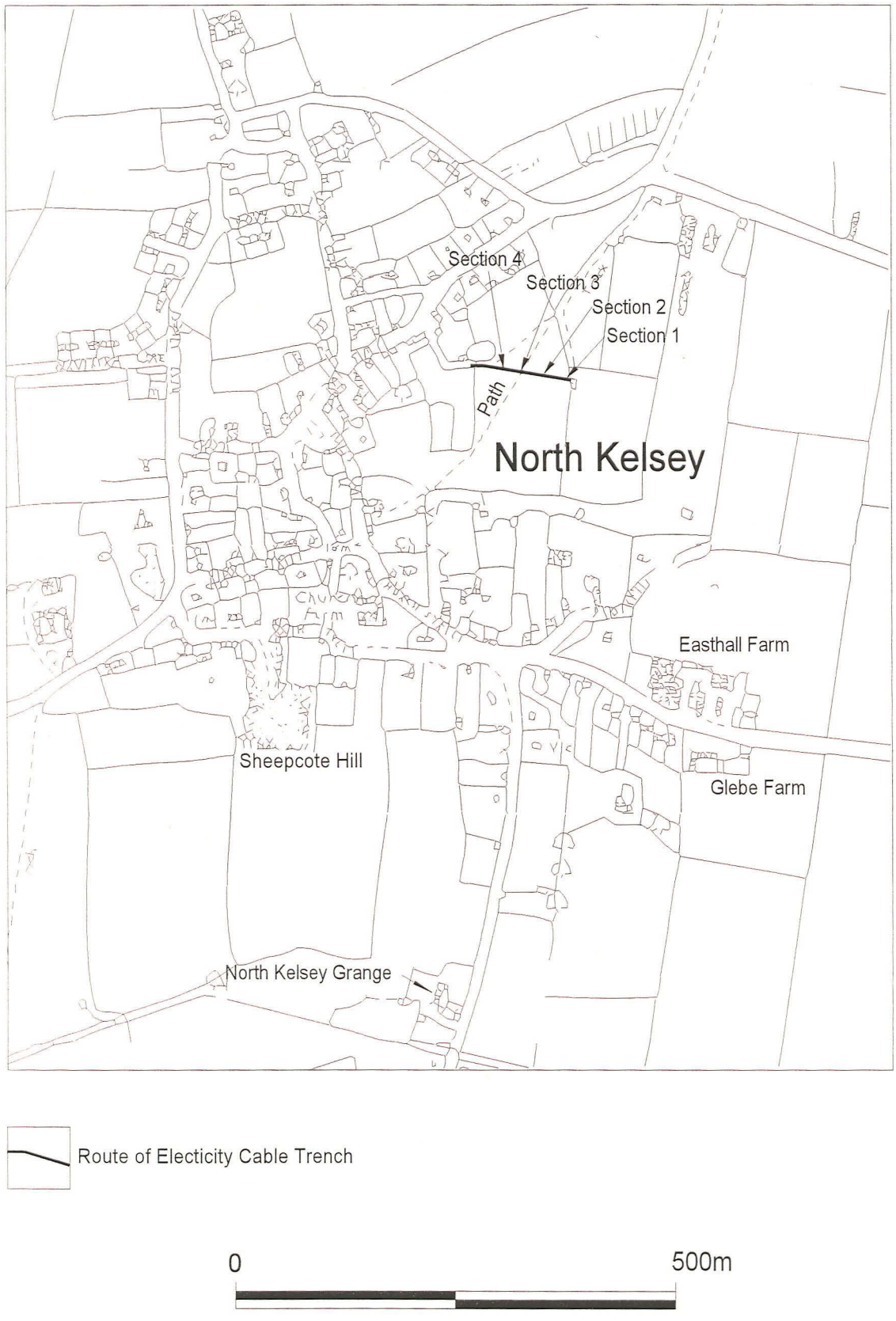


Figure 2 Trench Location Plan



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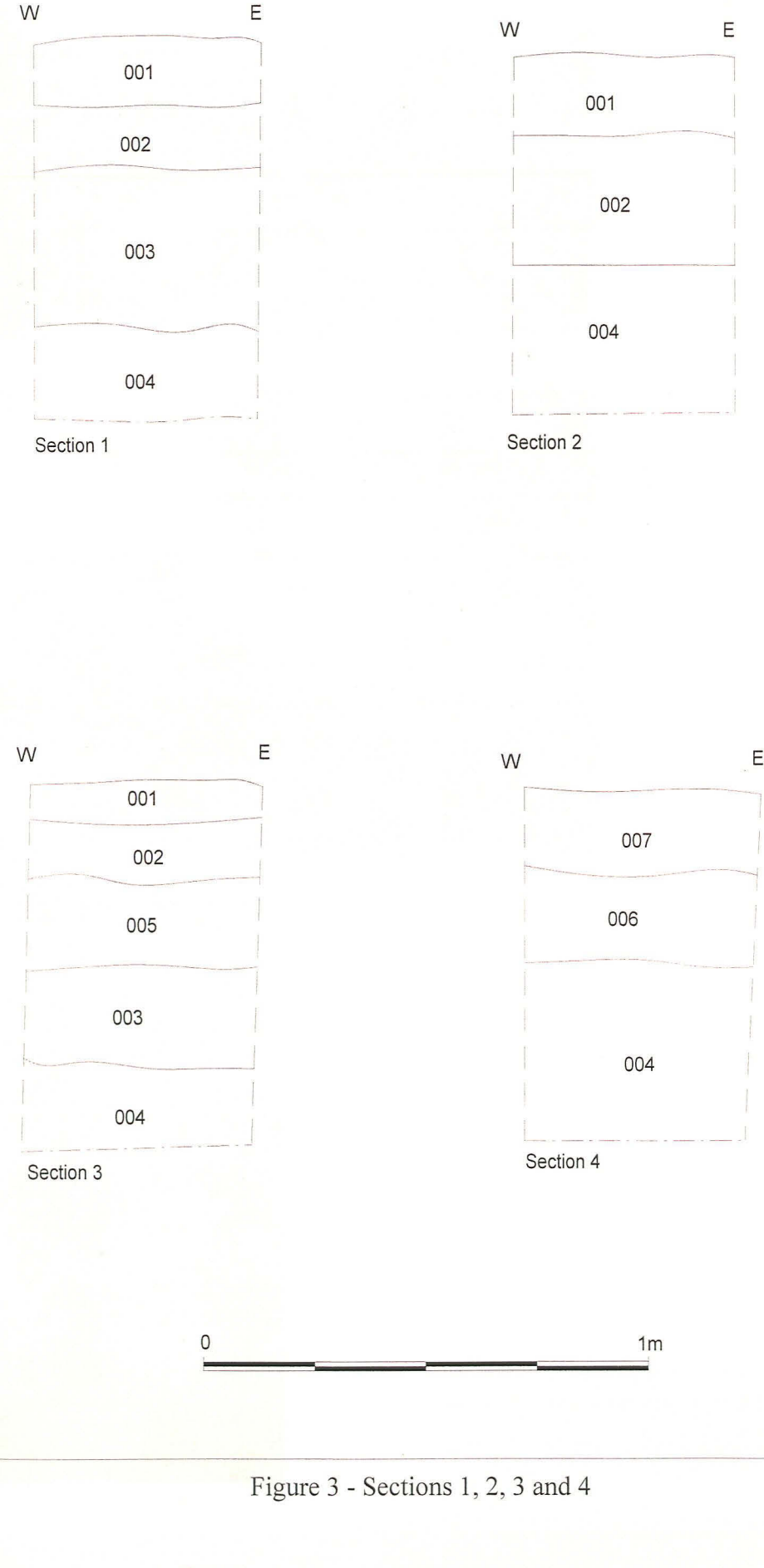

Figure 3 - Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4

Plate 1 - General view over the area, prior to trenching

Plate 2 - Section showing the general sequence of deposits

Plate 3 - View along the cable trench

Appendix 1

LAND AT NORTH KELSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. SUMMARY

a. *A watching brief is required during the installation of an underground electricity cable at North Kelsey village.*

b. *The cable trench crosses an area of medieval earthworks and cropmarks.*

c. *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*

d. *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the work. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2. INTRODUCTION

a. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during the installation of an underground electricity cable on the eastern side of North Kelsey village. The site is located at national grid reference TA 0457 0176.

b. This document contains the following parts:

i. Overview.

ii. Stages of work and methodologies.

iii. List of specialists.

iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3. SITE LOCATION

a. North Kelsey is located approximately 34km north of Lincoln and 6km west of Caistor in the administrative district of West Lindsey. The site is situated on open ground approximately 250m to the east of the Village Green and 500m to the north east of All Hallows Church at TA 0457 0176.

4. PLANNING BACKGROUND

a. The Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section has requested that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the groundworks associated with the installation of an underground electricity cable.

5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

a. North Kelsey is situated 6km to the west of Caistor. The site lies on the east side of the village of North Kelsey at approximately 20m OD. The soils of the area are Beccles 1 Association typical stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 117-119).

6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY

a. The site lies in an area of earthworks and cropmarks thought to be medieval in origin. If the proposed groundworks disturb archaeological remains they will provide information on the date and function of these features.

b. North Kelsey was a large early medieval settlement and by the early 13th century the Gilbertine Priory of North Ormsby held land here, including a grange established to the south of the present village.

7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

a. The aims of the watching brief will be

i. To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during ground disturbance.

b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:

i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;

ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;

iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and

iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

8. SITE OPERATIONS

a. General considerations

i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.

ii. The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

b. Methodology

i. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

ii. The sections of the trenches will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The plans of the trench and features will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Section drawings of the trenches and features will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

(1) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

(2) groups of features where their relationship is important

v. Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9. POST-EXCAVATION

a. Stage 1

i. On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

ii. All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

b. Stage 2

i. Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

ii. Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

c. Stage 3

i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

ii. This will consist of:

(1) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.

(2) Description of the topography of the site.

(3) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.

(4) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.

(5) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.

(6) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

(7) Sections of the archaeological features.

(8) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

(9) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

(10) Appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features.

10. REPORT DEPOSITION

a. Copies of the report will be sent to the client and the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11. ARCHIVE

a. The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12. PUBLICATION

a. A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13. CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

a. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14. VARIATIONS

a. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the Archaeology Officer, Lincolnshire County Council.

15. PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

a. The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction.

b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.

16. SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

a. The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Saxon - City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Environmental Analysis	James Rackham, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark blackish brown silt, 0.15m thick. Same as 007	Topsoil
002	Yellowish brown silt, 0.15m thick. Same as 008	Subsoil
003	Light brownish yellow chalky silty clay, 0.35m thick	Natural
004	Light bluish grey clay, 0.35m thick	Natural
005	Light brownish yellow silt and clay, 0.2m thick	Redeposited soil
006	Dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.22m thick	Buried soil
007	Same as 001	Topsoil
008	Same as 002	Subsoil

Appendix 3

THE FINDS
Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor

Provenance
The material was recovered from the topsoil (001), subsoil (002 and 008) and a buried soil (006).

The post-medieval pottery fragments are likely to have been made in Staffordshire or elsewhere in the Midlands, though the handmade bricks and the Roman pottery sherd are probably Lincolnshire products.

Range
The range of material is detailed in the table.

Pottery of Roman date is the earliest material recovered. However, the small assemblage is dominated by pottery fragments of 19th-early 20th century date. In addition to the pottery, brick was recovered but no faunal remains were retrieved.

Context	Description	Context Date
001	5x white glazed tablewares, 19th-early 20th century	19th-early 20th century
	1x yellow glazed earthenware, pancheon, 19th-early 20th century	
	1x lead glazed stoneware, 19th-early 20th century	
002	1x handmade brick, ?post-medieval	?post-medieval
006	1x handmade brick, post-medieval	post-medieval
008	1x sandy oxidised ware, Roman	Roman

Condition
Although the brick fragments, and the Roman pottery, are abraded most of the assemblage is unworn and in good condition. The objects present no long-term storage problems and archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation
There have been limited previous archaeological study of North Kelsey though details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential
The assemblage has limited potential as much of it is relatively recent. However, the Roman pottery fragment may suggest some otherwise unrecognised activity of the period in the vicinity.

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Boulder Clay	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
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, *e.g.*(004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc*. 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.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

8	Context records
4	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet (6 colour slides)
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:	112.99
Archaeological Project Services Site Code:	NKE99

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.