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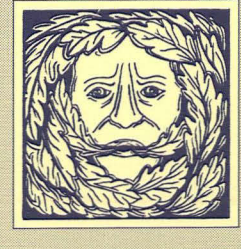
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF A CABLE TRENCH AT CHAPEL LANE, SOUTH COCKERINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

(SCC 04)



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

EVENT L15520 SOURCE L19657 L19658 NEGATIVE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF A CABLE TRENCH AT CHAPEL LANE, SOUTH COCKERINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

(SCC 04)

Work Undertaken For
Yorkshire Electricity Group Plc

November 2004

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

National Grid Reference: TF 3803 8915 – TF 3809 8916
City and County Museum Accession No: 2004.184

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

APS Report No. **157/04**

Quality Control

Chapel Lane,
South Cockerington
SCC 04

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Supervisor	Mark Peachey
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	Paul Cope-Faulkner

Checked by ~~Project Manager~~	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Gary Taylor	Tom Lane
Date: 9/11/04	Date: 11-11-04

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Chapel Lane, South Cockerington, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of a cable trench.

The site is located close to the core of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) village which is best represented by the standing church of St. Leonard.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural and recent deposits, including a relatively modern dumped layer which may be infilling a hollow. Finds retrieved from the investigation include 19th – 20th century pottery, 20th century glass and a recent toy.

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. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed."* (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Yorkshire Electricity Group Plc to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new cable trench at Chapel Lane, South Cockerington, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out on the 9th and 10th August 2004.

2.3 Topography and Geology

South Cockerington is situated 5km northeast of Louth and 32km northwest of Skegness, in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 450m north of the village centre as defined by the parish church of St. Leonard (Fig 2). The cable trench was excavated on the north side of Chapel Lane between National Grid References TF 3803 8915 and TF 3809 8916. The site lies at a height of *c.* 10m OD on land that slopes gently down to the northeast.

Local soils are of the Holderness Association, typically permeable fine to coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 214). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of Boulder Clay which in turn seals a solid geology of Cretaceous Chalk (BGS 1980).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

South Cockerington is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086. Referred to as *Cocrinton* the name is derived from a British river name, *Crocker*, meaning crooked or winding and the Old English *tūn*, meaning settlement or village. The Domesday Survey records no distinction between North and South Cockerington and that the land was held by the Bishop of Durham, the Bishop of Bayeaux, Colsuain, Albert of Lincoln and Rainer de Brimou and contained 210 acres of meadow, 138 acres of underwood, 1 and a half mills with the site of another (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St. Leonard which dates from the early 14th century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 662). Some slight earthworks are evident within the field which may indicate former ponds in the vicinity.

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

A single trench for the new underground cable was excavated by machine on the north side of the hedge alongside Chapel Lane. The sides of the trench were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and a section was drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

5. RESULTS

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

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the cable trench was a layer of yellowish brown sandy clay (003). Identified as natural, this measured in excess of 0.3m thick.

Partly overlying the natural, in the central portion of the trench was a dumped deposit of grey clayey silt (002). This had an extent of 12m and was up to 0.35m thick (Fig. 4, Section 1). A variety of 19th – 20th century artefacts were recovered from this layer.

Evident throughout the cable trench was a 0.35m thick topsoil comprising brown clayey silt (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural sandy clay can be identified as the underlying drift geology of Boulder Clay.

An extensive dumped deposit of 20th century date was identified in the centre of the trench. This has the appearance of deliberate infilling of a hollow, perhaps a pond.

Finds retrieved during the investigation include pottery, glass and a toy gun of 19th – 20th century date.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Chapel Lane, South Cockerington, as the site lay close to the core of the medieval village.

However, no medieval remains were identified and only natural, a recent dumped deposit and topsoil were recorded. Finds were only retrieved from the dumped layer and included 20th century glassware and a toy gun as well as 19th – 20th century pottery.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr S. Gray of Yorkshire Electricity Group Plc for commissioning the fieldwork and post-

excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey
Finds processing: Denise Buckley
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. (eds), 1976, *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society **19**

IFA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989, *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England (2nd edition, revised Antram, N.)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

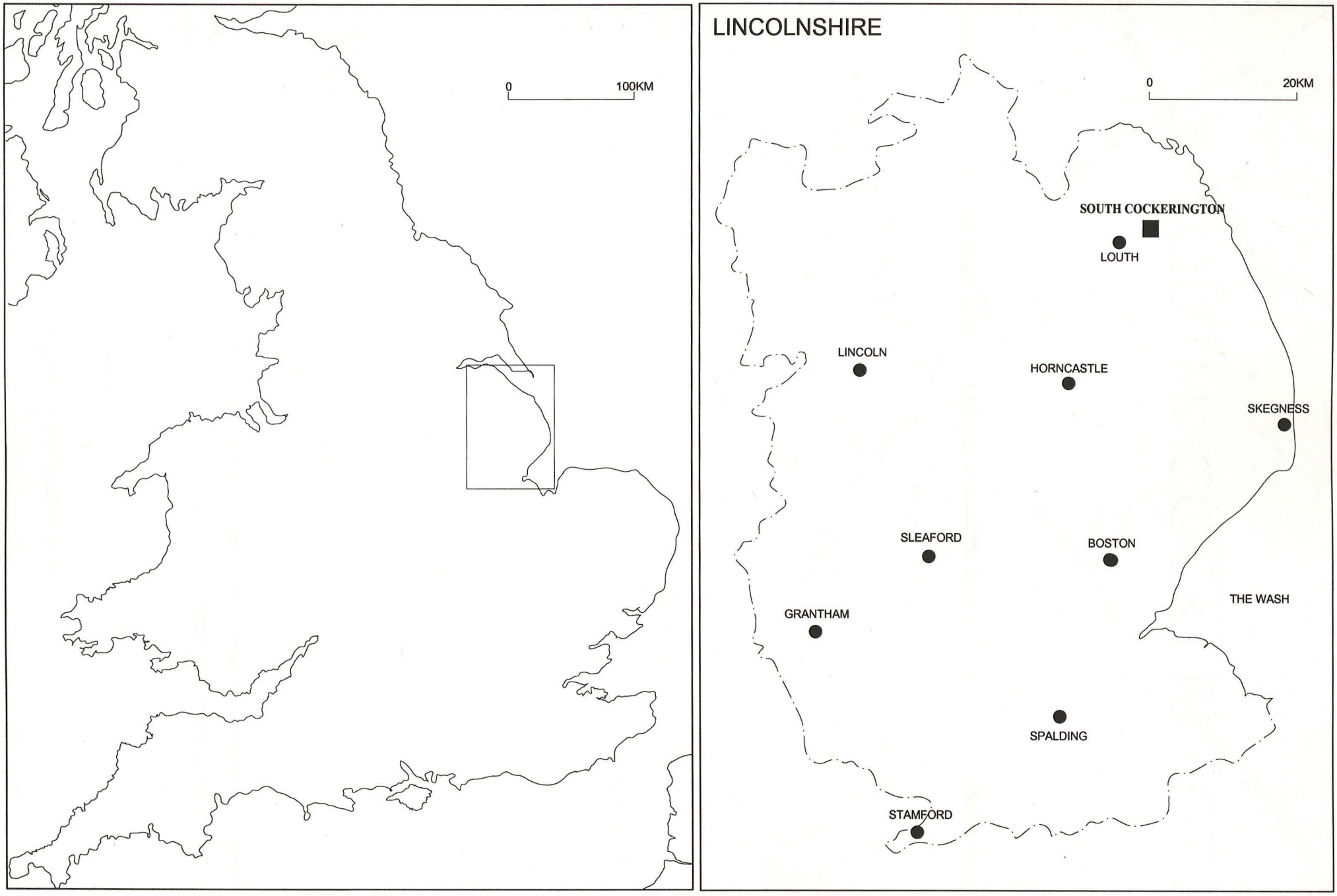


Figure 1 - General location plan

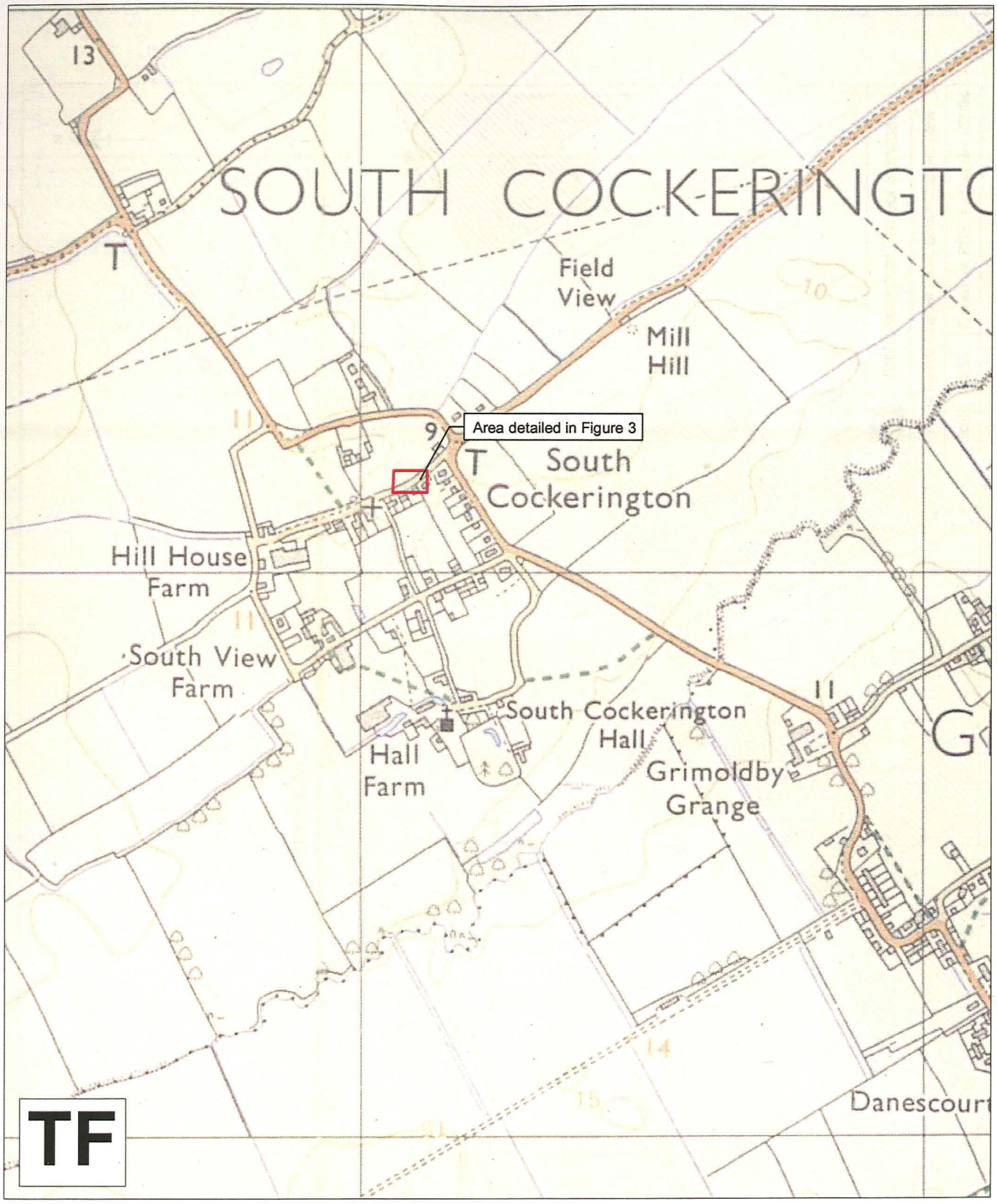


Figure 2 - Site location plan

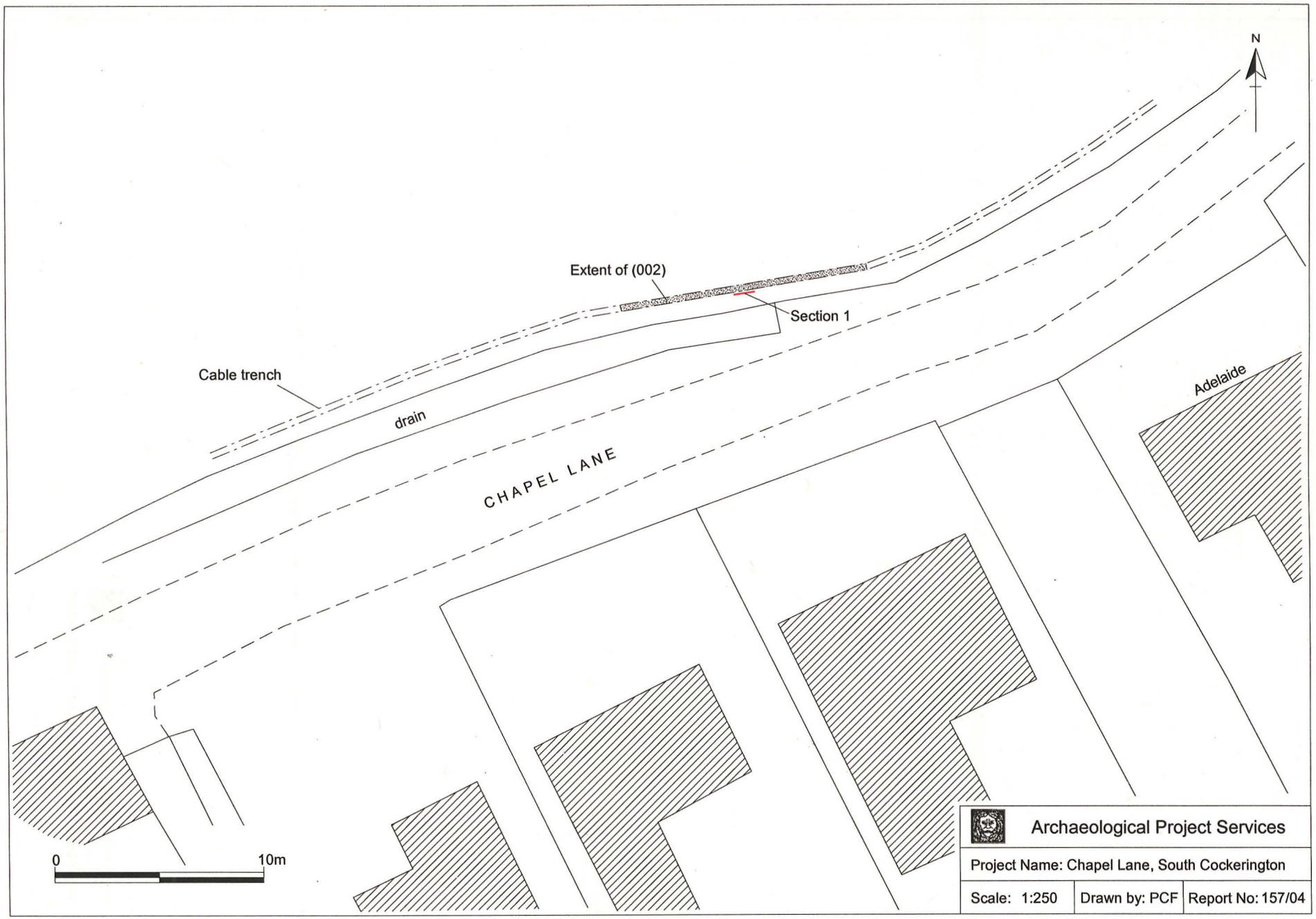
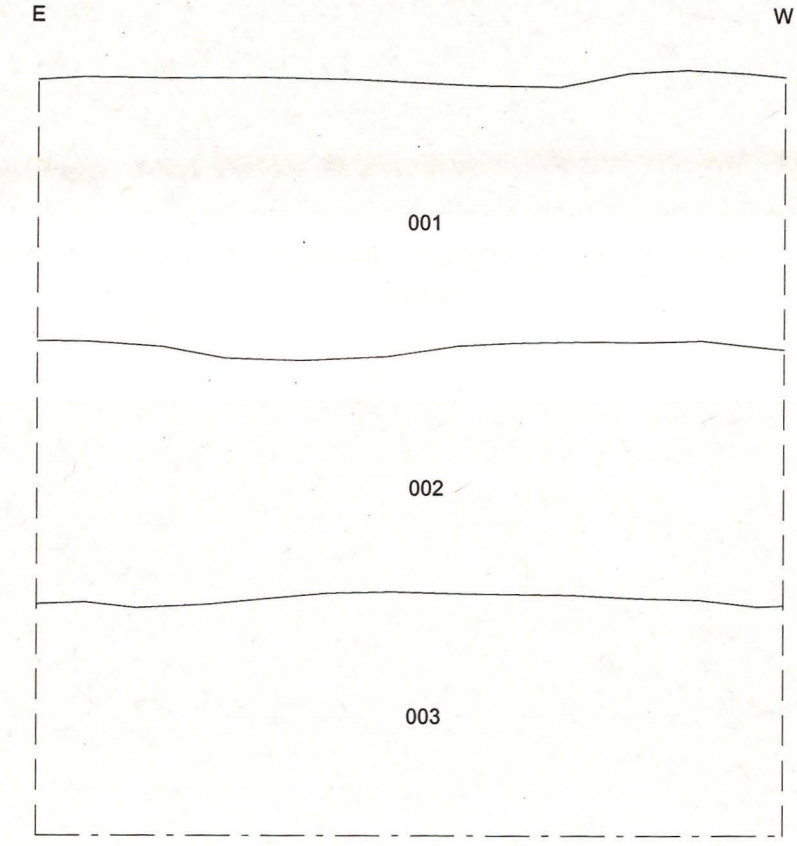


Figure 3 - Plan showing the route of the cable trench and section location



Section 1

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Chapel Lane, South Cockerington		
Scale 1:10	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 157/04

Figure 4 - Section 1

Plate 1 - View showing the cable trench during excavation, looking west

Plate 2 - Section 1 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking south

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable mid brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
002	Loose dark grey clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Dumped deposit
003	Friable dark yellowish brown sandy clay, >0.3m thick	Natural deposit

Appendix 2

THE FINDS
by Gary Taylor

Recording of the pottery was undertaken with reference to guidelines prepared by the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Slowikowski *et al.* 2001) and the pottery was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Lincolnshire ceramic type series. A total of 6 fragments of pottery weighing 1024g and probably representing only 3 individual vessels was recovered from a single context. In addition to the pottery, a small quantity of other artefacts, glass and metal, comprising 3 items weighing a total of 482g, was retrieved. No faunal remains were recovered.

Provenance
The material was recovered from a dumped deposit (002).

The pottery was probably made in Staffordshire.

Range
The range of material is detailed in the tables.

Table 1: Pottery

Context	Fabric Code	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
002	WHITE	Preserve jar, transfer-printed trademark, 19th-20th century	4(no link)	316	19th-20th century
	TPW	Blue and white transfer printed tableware, bowl, 19th century	1	27	
	LSTON	Jar, 19th-early 20th century	1	681	

The preserve jar fragments are embellished with a trademark indicating the vessel held marmalade.

Table 2: Other Artefacts

Context	Material	Description	No.	Wt (g)	Context Date
002	Glass	Colourless moulded paste jar, 20th century	1	77	1950s-80s
	Glass	Colourless mould produced bottle, 20th century	1	220	
	Die cast metal and plastic	Toy 'cowboy' pistol, 1950-80s	1	185	

Condition
All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. Archive storage of the collection is by material class.

Documentation
Details of archaeological sites and discoveries in the area are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.

Potential
The collection of artefacts is entirely of early modern date, with nothing earlier than the 19th century. As such, it is of limited local potential but does reflect the presence of occupation in the area from that time.

The lack of any material earlier than the 19th century is informative and suggests that archaeological deposits dating from prior to this period are absent from the area, or were not disturbed by the development, or were of a nature that did not involve artefact deposition.

References

Slowikowski, A., Nenk, B. and Pearce, J., 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper **2**

Appendix 3

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).

Cropmark — A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.

Dumped deposits — These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.

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.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context records
1	Sheet of scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

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 Museum Accession Number: 2004. 184

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SCC 04

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.