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# LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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## **Swinhope Underground Electric Cable**

NGR: TF 294-963 — 214 963

Site Code: SEC 95

LCNCC Accession No. 157.95

## **Archaeological Watching Brief**

for

**YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY GROUP PLC**

**October 1995**

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25.10.95



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## **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Yorkshire Electricity to carry out an archaeological watching brief along the route of a 33kv underground cable which was being laid to replace the overheads cable. The route, 900m long, crosses a glacial valley to the west of the B1203, running east of Swinhope Park and Hall and west of St Helen's church and the Old Rectory.

## **Archaeological Background**

Swinhope lies high in the Lincolnshire Wolds, an area rich in archaeological remains, especially those of prehistoric date. Two Neolithic burial sites (long barrows) are located close to the cable trench, one to the west at Ash Hill (Scheduled Ancient Monument no. 70) and one to the south east at Hoe Hill (Scheduled Ancient Monument no. 71). Worked flint artefacts and manufacturing debris are common finds on the chalky boulder clay.

The village of Swinhope is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, showing that it was a settlement originating at least in the Anglo-Saxon period. There was a mill, presumably making use of the stream which still runs through the valley. The settlement did not survive and was already in decline by the early 14th century. The Black Death in 1348-9 accelerated its demise and by 1384 the site of the manor was recorded as valueless (Everson 1991, 191). The site of the village today is marked by the church and its name is preserved by Swinhope Hall.

The village remains were completely destroyed by ploughing in 1969. Their extent was mapped by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England from aerial photographs, which show the settlement remains as marks in the ploughsoil, lying east of the stream, north and east of the church, stretching up the hill on dryer ground. Field walking over the ploughed site in 1969 produced 11-15th century pottery sherds, associated evidence for building remains as well as four worked flints and two Romano-British pottery sherds. Medieval ploughing (ridge and furrow) was noted from air photographs in the valley bottom, where it was crossed by the electricity trench. The cable trench also crossed ridge and furrow on the slope north of the stream. (The plough furrows were not visible at the time of the watching brief.)

### **The Watching Brief**

A visit was made to the site on Monday September 25th 1995. A 5m wide easement had been stripped of topsoil and the trench excavated prior to the site visit. The trench was 500mm wide and 1m deep. A thin protective layer of sand had been placed in the base of the trench as bedding for the cables, one of which had already been laid. This was not thick enough to obscure the deposits visible in the trench sides. Laying of the second cable took place during the monitoring visit. The trench sides were examined for traces of archaeological features but none was found. The topsoil heap was examined for pottery and other artefacts. Despite weathering from rain no artefacts were found.

The cable trench ran southwards, down the valley slope and across a broad valley bottom criss-crossed by field drains, three open drains and a stream. The following natural variations in the ground were recorded (Figs. 2 and 3).

1. Chalk bedrock present beneath the topsoil and subsoil cover (Pls. 1, 2).
2. Chalky red-brown clay hillwash from the hill slope (Pl. 3, Pl. 5, background).
3. The glacial valley is cut through by a post-glacial stream. The flood silts are interleaved with the hillwash (Pls. 4, 5,6) .
4. South of the stream the flood silts deposits overlie banded layers of fine chalk pebbles (Pls. 5,6,7).
5. Isolated patch of grey silty clay extends for 18m along the trench. Fills a low dip in the ground. Overlies 4 (Pl. 6)
6. As the trench passes parallel to an open drain further silts and clays are present, overlying the chalk gravels (4) with a thin black peaty layer at the bottom (7), which coincides with the trench base. The silts extend 10m south of the track leading to Swinhope Hall (Pl. 8).
8. Just south of the silt a peak of boulder clay was observed underlying the chalk pebbles (Pl. 7).
9. South of the boulder clay outcrop are bands of silt, some containing fine chalk pebbles, others smooth. These extend to the south limit of the trench where it meets the road. They vary in texture and colour from grey to orange-grey, where bands of iron panning are present. Occasionally the underlying chalk pebbles were visible in the base of the trench and in places black organic lenses were also visible. Water lay in the base of the trench along much of the stretch south of the track indicating the continuing long history of waterlogging in the valley base (Pls. 9, 10).



### **Discussion**

Most of the cable route followed a course crossing a wet valley bottom which, although cultivated in the Middle Ages was to the west of the known medieval settlement. It is possible that settlement in earlier periods was also on dryer ground which may account for the total lack of finds from any period.

Naomi Field  
October 17th 1995

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks are due to Mr Paul Galvin (Yorkshire Electricity) who supplied the maps and Mr Steve Wilson (YE) for his assistance on site. Mark Bennet (Lincolnshire SMR) provided information on the scheduled sites in the area.. The report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

### **Reference**

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

## Figures

Fig. 1. Location of underground electricity cables at Swinhope. Reproduced from the 1966 O. S. 1:25000 scale map with the permission of The Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright. Licence No. AL50424.

Fig. 2. Cable trench, north section, showing extent of soil variations, refer to text for description of the numbered sections. Reproduced from 1:2500 scale map kindly supplied by Yorkshire Electricity.

Fig. 3. Cable trench, south section, showing extent of soil variations, refer to text for description of the numbered sections. Reproduced from 1:2500 scale map kindly supplied by Yorkshire Electricity.

## Plates

Pl. 1 North end of cable trench at junction with the road from Thorganby. Shows ducting under the road, the sand bedding and the two cables in position.

Pl. 2 General view of cable trench looking south across the valley from the Thorganby road. The chalk bedrock (1) lies immediately beneath the stripped topsoil.

Pl. 3 Junction of hillwash (2) and bedrock, north of the stream, near valley bottom

Pl. 4 Cable laying beneath the stream in valley bottom. Flood zone (3) marked by dark spoil to either side of the stream.

Pl. 5 General view from valley bottom looking northwards up the hill. Foreground shows junction of flood silts, 3, on south side of stream with chalk gravel

Pl. 6 Localised deposit of silty clay (5) overlying the chalk gravels(4) south of the stream.

Pl. 7 Outcrop of boulder clay (8) beneath the chalk gravels (4), south of track to Swinhope Hall

Pl. 8 Silt and peat deposits (6 and 7) in drain, cut through longitudinally by the cable trench

Pl. 9 General view looking north of the southern stretch of cable trench. Note standing water in the trench bottom.

Pl. 10 Close up view of peat and silt deposits (9) at south end of cable trench . The chalk gravels undulate at, or just below, the water level.



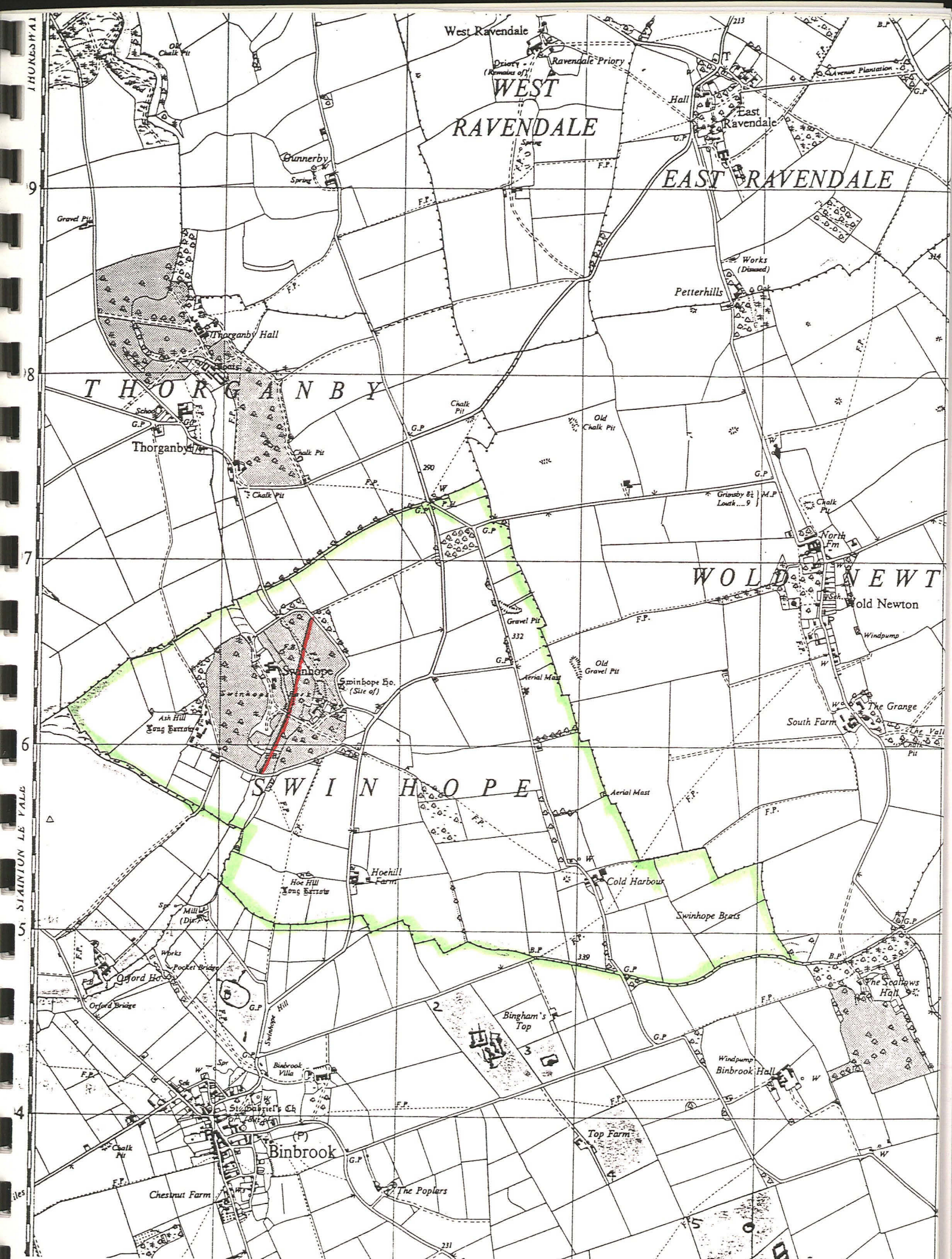
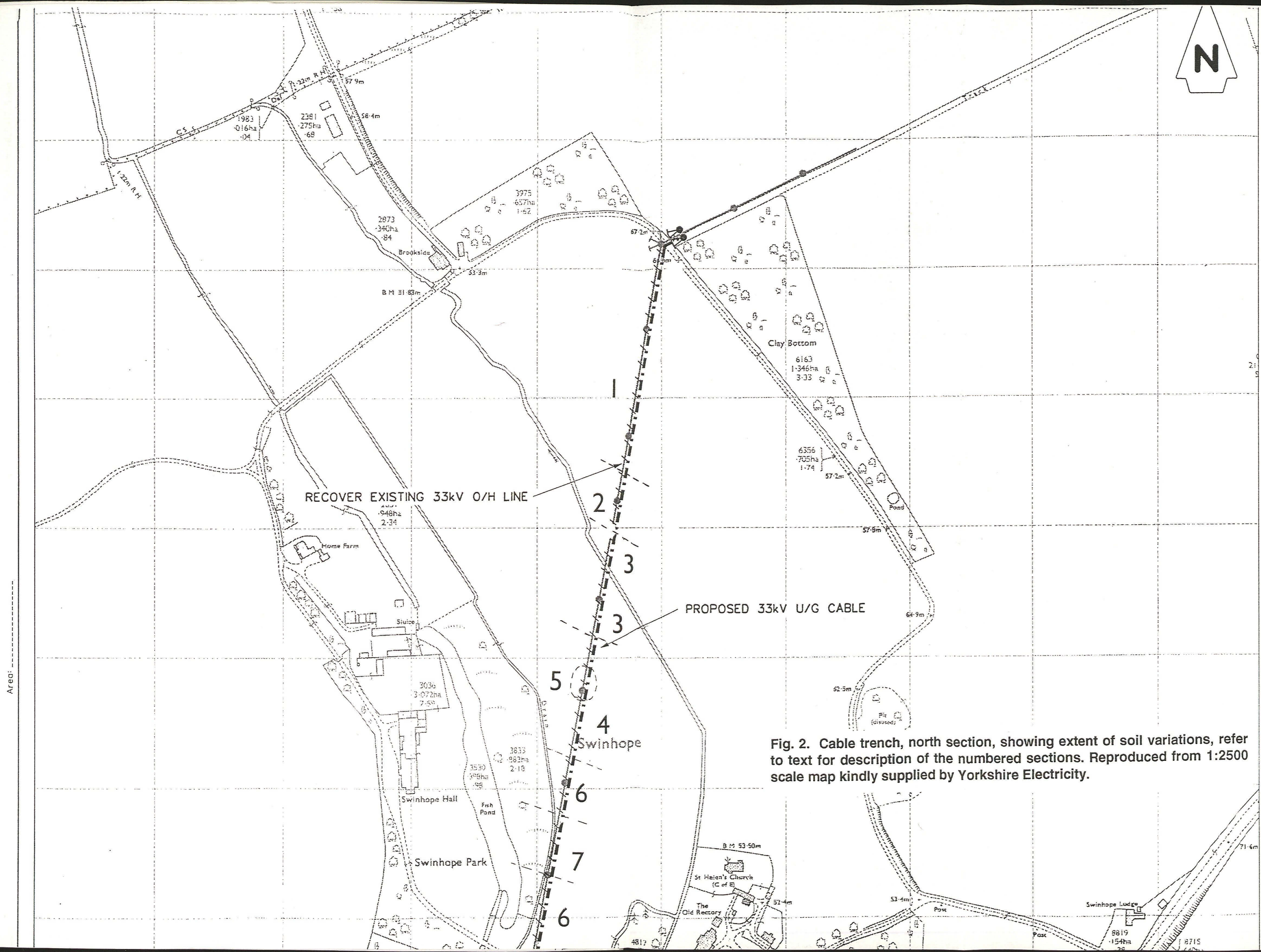
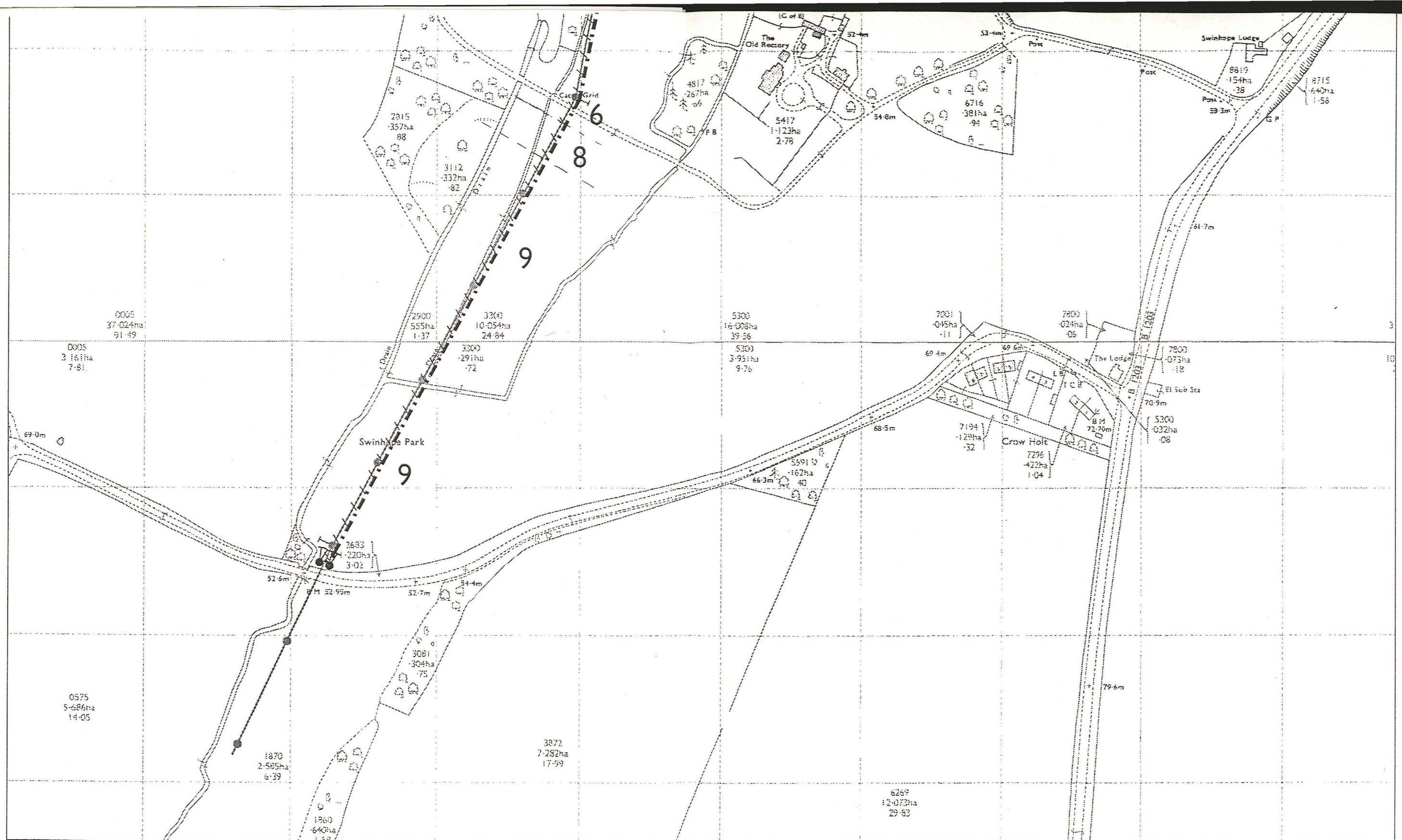


Fig. 1. Location of underground electricity cables at Swinhope. Reproduced from the 1966 O. S. 1:25000 scale map with the permission of The Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright. Licence No. AL50424.









**Fig. 3. Cable trench, south section, showing extent of soil variations, refer to text for description of the numbered sections. Reproduced from 1:2500 scale map kindly supplied by Yorkshire Electricity.**

NB:- This plan shows PROPOSED cable positions only.  
Up to date Mains Records plans must be  
obtained prior to commencing work on site.

Other Electricity Cables, not owned by ourselves, may  
also be laid in the area shown on this plan.  
Information on these can be obtained from the owners.

Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the  
controller of HM Stationary Office Crown copyright reserved.  
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Registered in England and Wales No 2366995

200 CLOUGH ROAD,  
HULL HU5 1SN  
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KEY	EXISTING	PROPOSED	FUTURE
LV U/G CABLE.			
LV O/H LINE.			
HV U/G CABLE.			
HV O/H LINE.			
Pole :- ● Tower :- □ Stay :-			
H Pole :- ●● Transformer :- ⊙ TwinStay :-			
RECOVERY/DISCONNECTION	+++++		

DESIGN ENG	-
DRAWN	S.V.P.
DATE	10.8.95
SCALE	1:2500
O.S. REFERENCE	
TF2196	
TF2195	

WAYLEAVE

SWINHOPE 33kV U/G CABLE

Y6/0417/5

CAD





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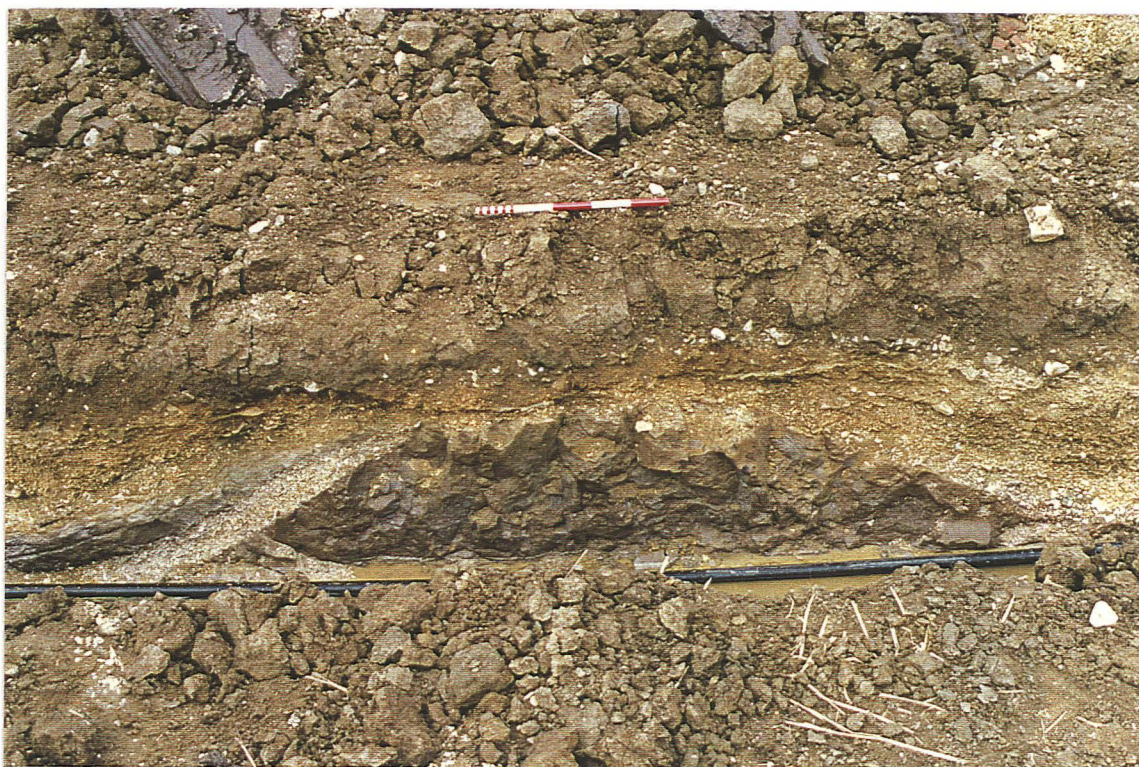


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