

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

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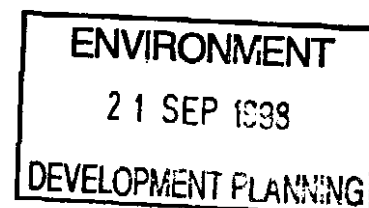
**Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief during
the excavations of cable connection trenches
at Red Hill, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Notts**

Scheduled Ancient Monument Notts 141

NGR SK 4941 3040

produced on behalf of :

East Midlands Electricity
Woolthorpe Close
Bilborough
Notts NG8 3JP



JSAC 393/98/02b

July 1998

Also at : Witham Park House, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JP Telephone 01522 880050

**Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief during
the excavations of cable connection trenches
at Red Hill, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Notts**

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Summary

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants was commissioned by East Midlands Electricity to undertake an archaeological watching brief within the area of Scheduled Ancient Monument 141. This followed Scheduled Monument Consent for excavations in connection with upgrading the electricity supply to Red Hill Farm and associated buildings.

Observation during the excavation of cable joining pits did not result in the exposure of any archaeological features.

The excavation within the scheduled area was predominantly constrained to previously disturbed ground which may have been made with spoil from recent gypsum workings. A modern field drain fragment and a small assemblage of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the trench. The pottery was of abraded condition and dated to the 2nd century.

A second trench outside the scheduled area near Red Hill Farm resulted in the collection of a larger sample of pottery and a pierced copper alloy disc. These came from a homogenous dark-earth horizon below recent hardstanding deposits which may represent the fill of a Roman feature of undetermined extent. The pottery showed a much greater range of fabric types, was in fresh condition, and dated to 2nd and 3rd centuries.

The watching brief has not identified any remains which add to further understanding of the site. The exposure of the possible fill of a Roman feature at the base of Red Hill shows that other in situ remains may survive within the marina area. Such remains, if present, remain vulnerable to any future development.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 East Midlands Electricity are upgrading the electricity supply to Red Hill Farm and associated buildings at Red Hill Marina, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire.
- 1.2 The scheme runs through a sensitive archaeological landscape including the site of a possible Roman shrine, Scheduled Ancient Monument 141. In recognising the potential threat to buried remains by service works, East Midlands Electricity commissioned *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* to undertake a watching brief of approximately 80m of trench. The results of this stage of works are contained in a separate report (*JSAC 376/98/001*).
- 1.3 A watching brief was also specified for Scheduled Monument Consent to undertake works within the protected area of the shrine centred on NGR SK 4941 3040.
- 1.4 This document forms the report on the watching brief undertaken within the scheduled area on behalf of East Midlands Electricity in May 1998. It has been written by Simon Johnson BA in conjunction with John Samuels BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA. It conforms to 'Archaeology and Planning' *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, is in accordance with current best archaeological practice, and the appropriate national standards and guidelines, including :

Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994);

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994);

Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991).

2.0 Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The site at Red Hill lies on a commanding scarp of Mercia Mud/stone south of the meeting of the Rivers Trent and Soar, centred on NGR SK 4941 3040, at an altitude of approximately 30.0m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2 The site appears to have been first recognised in the C18th during gypsum mining when coffins and skeletons were unearthed, others being found during the 1840's when a railway tunnel was cut (Elsdon 1982, 14). The first serious investigations were conducted after the first world war by TW Armitage who recovered a large assemblage of pottery, tiles and metalwork including coins and brooches, one example being a rare celtic bird brooch later published by CFC Hawkes in 1945.
- 2.3 Trial excavations, conducted during the 1950s recorded the remains of a Roman building on the edge of the scarp, previously identified from an aerial photograph. Sandstone fluted columns are also said to have been uncovered by the excavation's director HO Houldsworth (*Ibid*, 16).
- 2.4 Later excavation has revealed a second building and fieldwalking produced a large quantity of C4th coins, C1st-C4th pottery and 4 lead curse tablets. Excavations conducted by the Ministry of Works prior to the construction of the nearby power station resulted in the discovery of early Iron Age occupation. Middle-late Iron Age pottery has also been recovered during machining for a pipeline. Finds continue to be recovered from the area by local amateur archaeologists including a published 'Duck Beaker' cremation south of the scheduled area (Leary 1982, 165-167).
- 2.5 The quality and diversity of the finds found on the site since the C18th, specifically the curse tablets and range of potentially votive metalwork, has led to the suggestion that the site is a Romano-British shrine. The wealth of material within the broader area, its strategic position near the joining of the Rivers Trent and Soar, suggests that a settlement of some status (possibly a small town) also existed at that time, having developed from an existing Iron Age community.

3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 Archaeological monitoring comprised observation during groundworks followed by recording of the deposits exposed. The section faces of trenches were scanned for morphological changes and cleaned to expose the stratigraphic succession.
- 3.2 Recording was undertaken using a system based on the Museum of London's *Archaeological Site Manual* (1994) with each stratigraphic unit being allocated a unique context number. The deposits were photographed, drawn to scale and described on pro-forma context sheets.
- 3.3 The status of the site as a possible shrine, and the diverse nature and quantity of the metalwork recovered in the area, suggested the likelihood of metal artefacts being disturbed. A discriminator metal detector was therefore used to scan all spoil generated by the excavations to maximise collection.

4.0 Results

4.1 The cable connection trench within the scheduled area was dug from the base of an existing wood pole, following the cable for approximately 3.8m westwards. The trench measured c. 250mm wide with a maximum depth of 900mm. The trench was widened to 1.10m from 1.6m west of the telegraph pole to facilitate the cable connection.

4.2 No archaeological features were exposed. The stratigraphic succession may be summarised as:

Context	Depth	Description
(100)	500mm	Undifferentiated dark-earth topsoil comprising of a slightly sandy silty clay with frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular quartzite inclusions >4<10mm. Occasional fragments of Gypsum. Humic and turbaceous supported rough vegetation.
(101)	>400mm	Light to mid yellowish brown patchy and firm sandy clay with moderate inclusions of gypsum, slate, and frequent charcoal flecks.

4.3 The topsoil was unusually deep, but previous excavations have shown that the depth of deposits sealing *in situ* remains to vary between 101mm and 508mm (Elsdon 1982, 16). It is suggested, however, that this horizon was formed by dumping. Evidence to support this comes from the underlying deposit (101).

4.4 The underlying yellowish brown subsoil (101) did not show a uniform structure and had frequent charcoal inclusions with lumps/fragments of gypsum and slate. It is suggested that this was made ground, possibly by spoil from the C18th gypsum mine. This view is possibly supported by examination of the cliff face which is largely eroded north of the present works, but undulating and uneroded west and south. ?/

4.5 A second connection trench was excavated outside the scheduled area towards Red Hill Farm. Although outside the project specification, the writer felt that a record should be made prior to leaving the site. It was located just outside the south-west corner of the scheduled area within a parking area.

4.6 The trench measured approximately 3.2m by 1.0m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m. No archaeological features were exposed. The stratigraphy comprised:

Context	Depth	Description
(102)	700mm	Compact layer of dark grey silty clay with 40% sub-angular limestone inclusions and frequent lumps of brick/tile.
(103)	500mm	Homogenous dark-earth deposit comprised of undifferentiated silty clay with occasional sub-rounded inclusions between 5-10mm.

- 4.7 The upper horizon (102) was associated with compacted roadstone to form a hard standing for car parking and was thus of no archaeological importance. The underlying dark earth (103) is of greater interest. It produced a relatively large assemblage (given the size of the trench) of freshly broken pottery dated between the C2nd-C3rd, and a small pierced disc of silver washed copper alloy. Definitive interpretation of this deposit is difficult given the small sample seen, but it may represent the fill of a Roman feature of undetermined extent.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The watching brief did not result in the exposure of any archaeological features. It has been possible, however, to tentatively suggest that part of the scheduled area has been subject to ground raising by dumped material possibly originating from earlier gypsum workings.
- 5.2 Examination of the trench outside the scheduled area near Red Hill Farm resulted in the exposure of the fill of a possible Roman feature below more recent deposits. This suggests that other *in situ* remains may be preserved within the marina area which would be vulnerable to any further development.

6.0 References

- Hawkes CFC & P 1945 'A Celtic Bird-Brooch from Red Hill, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Jacobsthal Nottinghamshire' *Antiquaries Journal* **25**
- Elsdon SM 1982 'Iron Age and Roman sites at Red Hill, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire: excavations of E Greenfield, 1963 and previous finds' *Trans, Thoroton Soc.* **86**
- Leary RS 1996 'A Romano-British Duck Beaker from Red Hill, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire' *Trans. Thoroton Soc.* **100**

7.0 Finds archive

Context	No of Sherds	Fabric/Form	Date	Comments
100	1	Field Drain	Modern	Fragment
100	3	Grey ware	Roman	Body sherds
100	1	Grey ware	C2nd	Rim of small beaker
100	1	Grey ware	C2nd	Fragment of base of ?small beaker
103	6	Grey ware	Roman	Body sherds
103	1	Grey ware	C2nd	Pattern burnished, imitation of BB1
103	4	Derbyshire	C2nd	Body sherds
103	1	Derbyshire	C2nd	Rim of medium sized jar
103	1	Amphora	?C2nd	Fragment, ?Continental
103	1	Nene Valley	C2-C3rd	Base of Flagon
103	1	Nene Valley	C2-C3rd	Body sherd/base
103	1	Colour Coat	C2nd	Continental, ?Rhineland

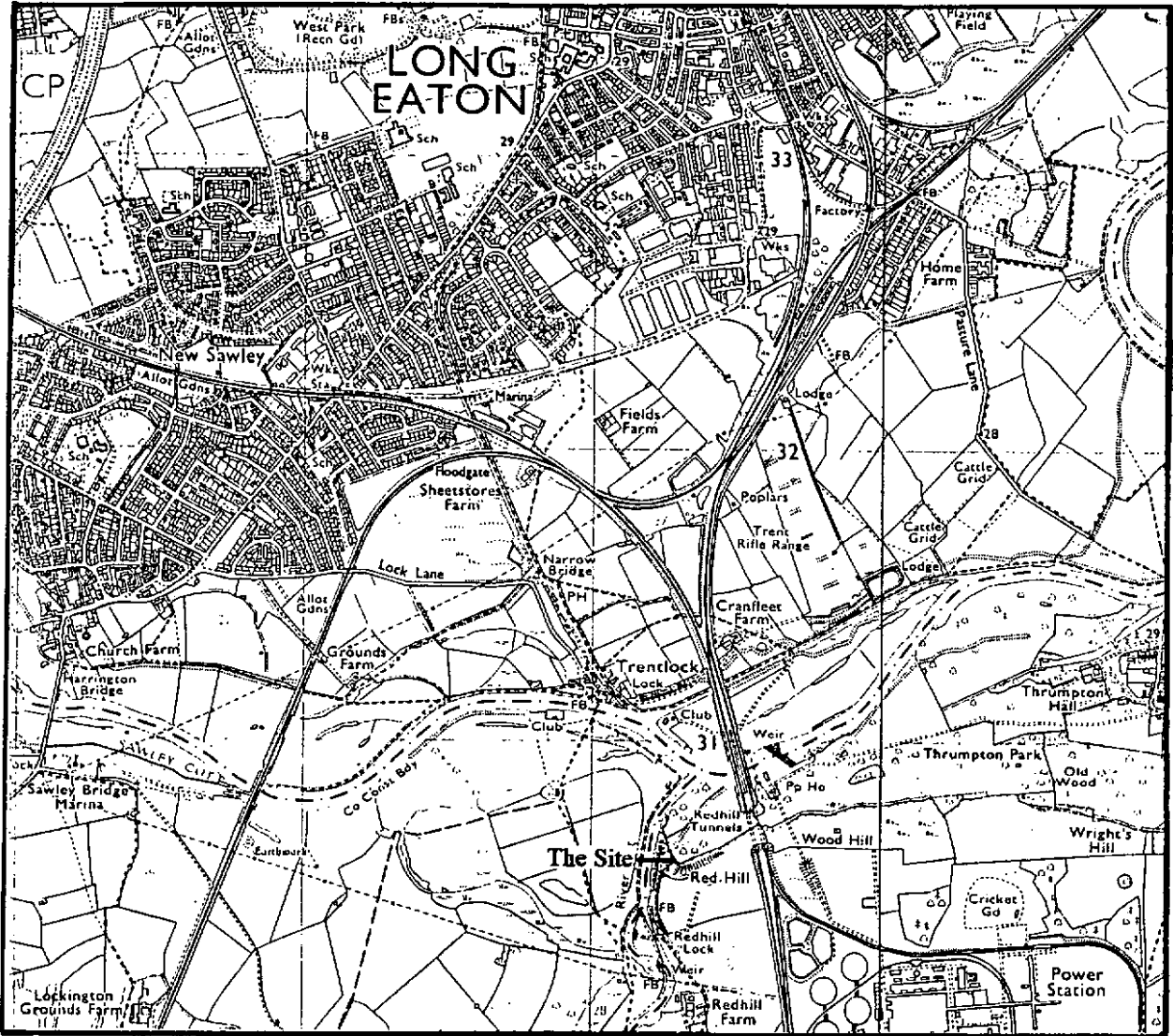
8.0 Figures

Figure 1 : Location of site

Figure 2 : Cable connection pit location

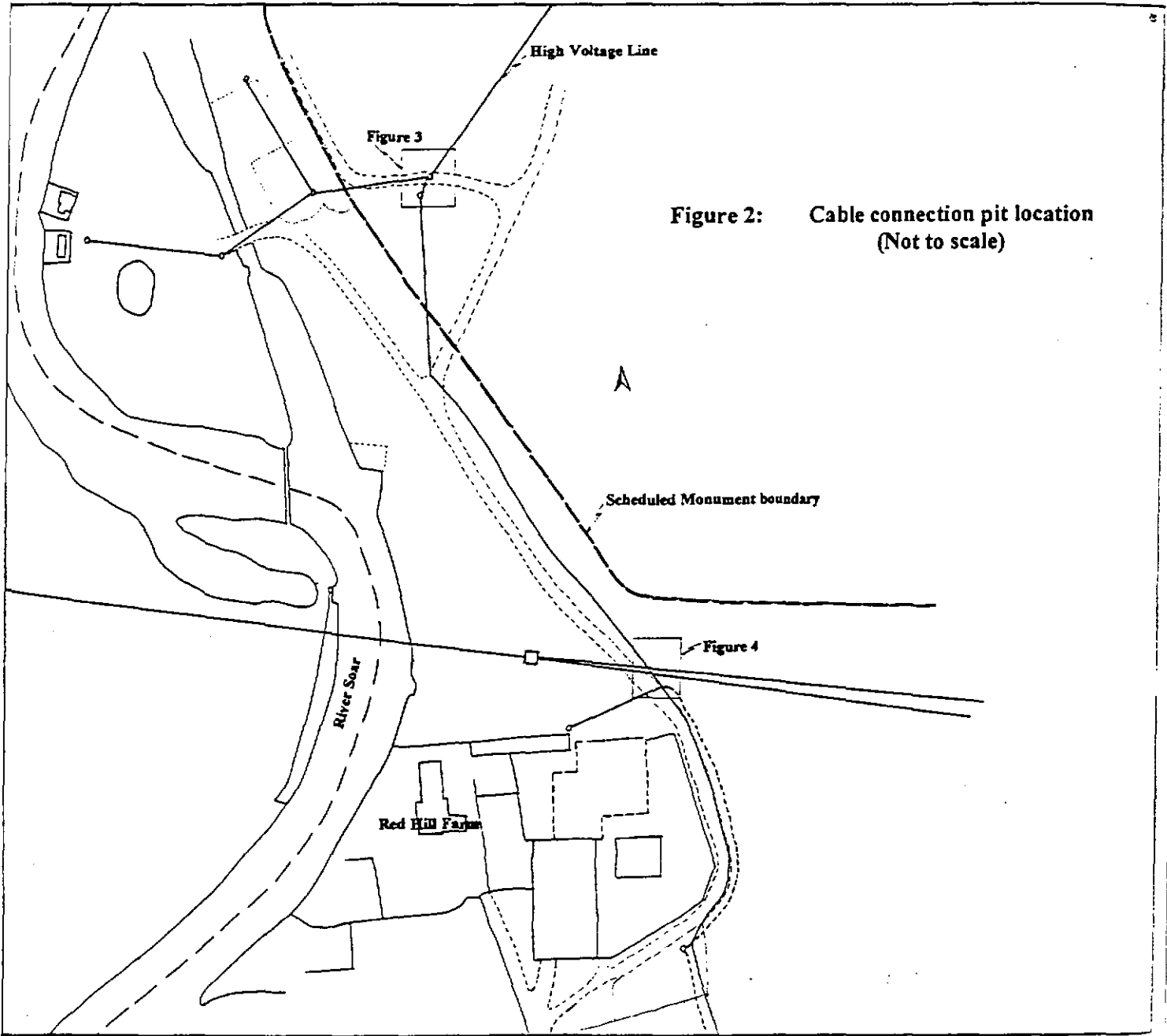
Figure 3 : Composite plan and section of connection trench and pit within scheduled area

Figure 4 : West section of cable connection pit adjacent to scheduled area at Red Hill Marina



Note : Map based upon Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office, Crown Copyright Reserved. Licence No. AL 52216A0001

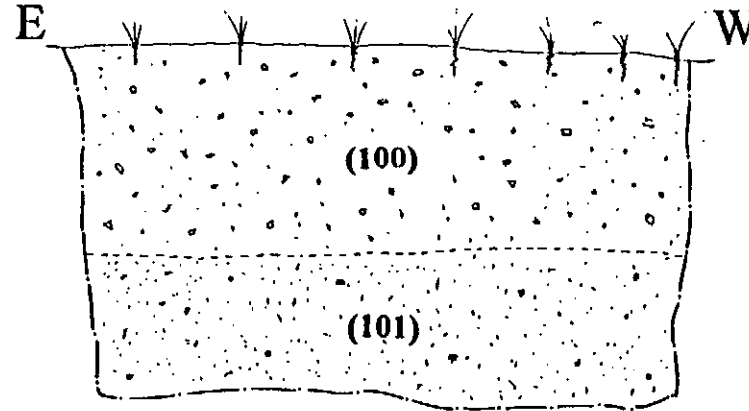
Figure 1: Site Location, 1:25000



**Figure 2: Cable connection pit location
(Not to scale)**

Note : Map based upon Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the
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Wood Pole



Wood Pole

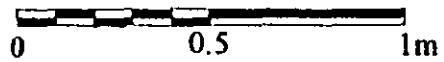


Figure 3: Composite Plan and Section of connection trench and pit within scheduled area

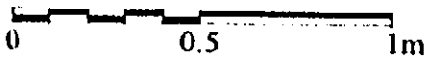
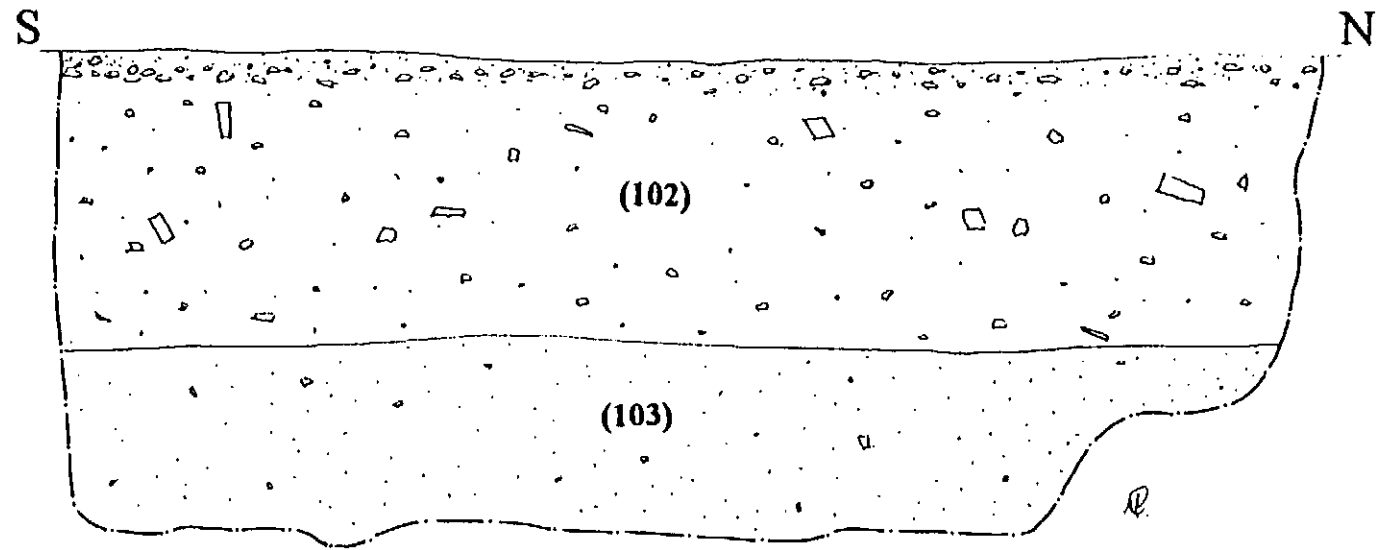


Figure 4: West section of cable connection pit adjacent to scheduled area at Red Hill Marina

9.0 Photographs

Plate 1 : South section of cable connection pit (see figure 3)

Plate 2 : West section of connection pit adjacent to Scheduled area (see figure 4)



Plate 1 : South section of cable connection pit (see figure 3)



Plate 2 : West section of connection pit adjacent to Scheduled area (see figure 4)

Appendix A : Project Specification

John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

*The Manor, South Street, Normanton on Trent, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG23 6RQ
Telephone 01636 821727 Fax 01636 822080*



**A Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief in connection
with the excavation of a cable trench at Red Hill, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Notts**

Scheduled Ancient Monument Notts 141

NGR SK 4941 3040

produced on behalf of :

**East Midlands Electricity
Woolsthorpe Close
Bilborough
Notts NG8 3JP**

JSAC/393/98/01

April 1998

Also at : Witham Park House, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JP Telephone 01522 880050

A Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief in connection
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Scheduled Ancient Monument Notts 141

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Summary

East Midlands Electricity has applied for Scheduled Monument Consent for the excavation of a 5m length of service trench across a Scheduled Ancient Monument at Red Hill, Ratcliffe-on-Soar, Notts. Although it is unlikely that the trench will have a significant impact on any buried archaeological remains, it is accepted that a watching brief should be undertaken during the trench's excavation. John Samuels Archaeological Consultants has been appointed to carry out the watching brief and has set out in this specification the methodology to be followed together with details of reporting, timetable, personnel, insurance and health and safety.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 An application for Scheduled Monument Consent has been made by East Midlands Electricity for the installation of 5m of an electricity service trench across the Scheduled Ancient Monument at Red Hill, Radcliffe-on-Soar, Notts.
- 1.2 The SAM is centred at SK4941 3040 and is thought to be the probable site of a Roman shrine.
- 1.3 The proposed trench will be 5m in length and about 0.30m wide and 0.60m deep for about 3m with the remaining 2m at 1.00m wide and 0.60m deep. It is thought that the trench is in land already disturbed by an existing cable.
- 1.4 It is proposed that a watching brief should be undertaken during the excavation of both trenches and *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants (JSAC)* has been appointed to carry this out.
- 1.5 This specification is designed to fulfill the requirements of the English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments. Its objectives are to identify and make a summary record of archaeological remains uncovered during the course of ground works. It corresponds to the staged approach recommended in government guidance on 'Archaeology and Planning (PPG16) (DoE 1990)' and national standards and guidelines, including :

'Management of Archaeological Projects' (English Heritage 1991).

'Code of Conduct' (IFA 1994).

'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations' (IFA 1994).

'Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs' (IFA 1993).

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief will be held during all below ground work connected with the proposed scheme. To a large extent it is expected that this will comprise the observation of any below ground work and the recording of any significant exposed archaeological features without hindering the progress of construction.
- 2.2 However, should any archaeological remains be uncovered and are of sufficient importance, arrangements will be made for further facilities and time for examination.
- 2.3 Recording techniques will be by single context on standard forms and the system is based upon the Museum of London's '*Archaeological Site Manual*' (1994) and be recorded by measured drawing (normally at 1 : 20 scale), photographed (in black and white, colour print and colour slide) and a written record made. In addition a site diary will be kept recording progress, initial observations and interpretations and other factors affecting the project. It is expected that all recording will be compatible with the guidelines set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists and specific requirements of the Inspector of Ancient Monuments.
- 2.4 Arrangements will be made for the appropriate accession by an appropriate museum service of all materials and archives from the site, after analysis and publication of the results. This excludes items of gold and silver which must, by law, be reported to HM Coroner as potential treasure trove.
- 2.5 All artifacts will be treated in accordance with UKIC guidelines, '*First Aid for Finds*' (1981). Any material considered suitable for environmental analysis will be sampled in 30 litre quantities for examination by either James Rackham or Bob Alvey who will be available for advice on site.
- 2.6 Should any human remains be found they will initially be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. If, following discussions with HM Coroner and Inspector of Ancient Monuments, it is considered necessary to remove the remains, all appropriate Home Office and environmental health regulations will apply.
- 2.7 Archaeological staff and visitors will respect standard Health and Safety provisions and any specific site requirements (see Section 5.0).
- 2.8 Arrangements will be made with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments and the County Archaeological Officer for Nottinghamshire for monitoring work on site and he will be kept informed of progress and his advice sought in any case of unexpected discovery.
- 2.9 The project archive will follow the guidelines contained in "*Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage*" (UKIC 1990) and "*Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*" (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992).

- 2.10 A post-excavation report will be produced within 8 weeks of completing the fieldwork. It will consist of : title page; summary; introduction; geological, archaeological and historical background; description of observations and discussion. Any relevant technical information will be contained in appendices.

3.0 Timetable and Personnel

- 3.1 The project will be directed by John Samuels BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA with assistance from Forbes Marsden BA, Cert Arch, Nansi Rosenberg BA, PIFA, Aleck Russell and Dan Slatcher BA. Additional staff will be brought in as required.
- 3.2 The watching brief is expected to take up to 3 days.
- 3.3 JSAC staff will be available throughout the groundworks programme and it is expected that post-excavation work and a report on the results will be complete within three months of the completion of fieldwork.
- 3.4 Specialist assistance will be provided, where required, by the following persons:
- Robert Alvey - Small finds / environmental sampling
 - John Carney - Geological and soil analysis
 - Jane Cowgill - Slags
 - Sheila Elsdon - Prehistoric pottery
 - James Rackham - Environmental sampling
 - John Samuels - Roman Pottery
 - Robert White - Conservation
- 3.5 If required further specialist staff may be appointed after discussions with the County Archaeologist and English Heritage.

4.0 Insurance

- 4.1 The archaeological contractor will produce evidence of Public Liability Insurance to the minimum value of £5m and Professional Indemnity Insurance to the minimum of £2m.

5.0 Health and Safety

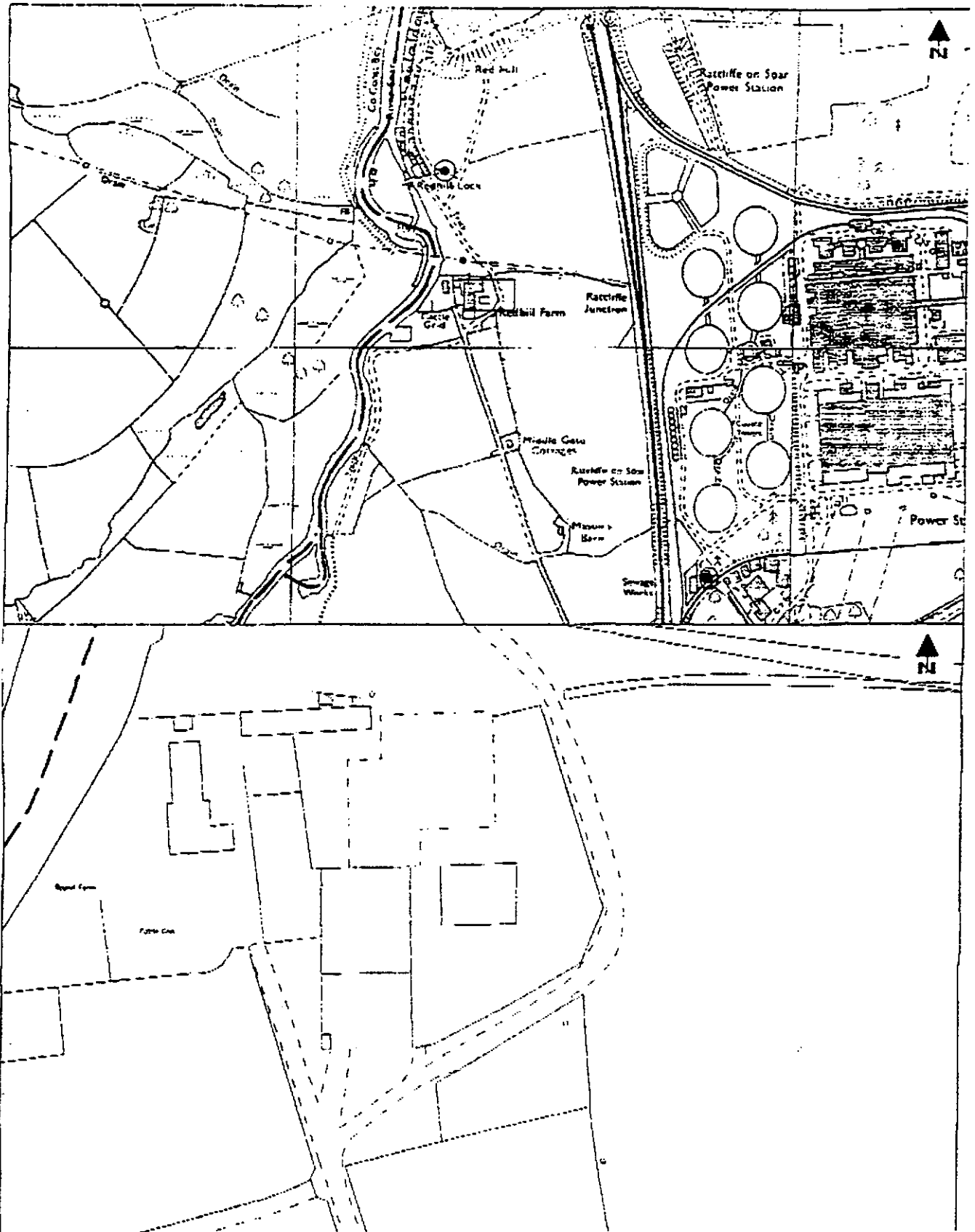
- 5.1 It is the policy of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants ('the Employer') to conform fully with the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Etc. Act (1974).
- 5.2 It is accepted that it is the duty of the Employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practical, the health and safety of all his employees at work.
- 5.3 The employer also has a duty to ensure that his employees are aware of their responsibility for their own health and safety, and for the health and safety of others, including the general public, who might be affected by their work.
- 5.4 Where employees are temporarily engaged at other workplaces, they are to respect relevant local regulations, both statutory and as imposed by other employers within the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act (1974).
- 5.5 In furtherance of the duty of care imposed by the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act (1974), the Employer shall make available to his employees whatever reasonable facilities are required by particular circumstances, e.g appropriate protective clothing, safety equipment, rest breaks for specialised tasks, etc.
- 5.6 Attention is paid to the requirements of more recent legislation including the provision and use of *Work Equipment Regulations* 1992, the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations* 1992 and the *Construction (Design and Management) Regulations* 1994. A risk assessment is undertaken, a safety officer appointed and all aspects of health and safety nominated during work.
- 5.7 In addition to the forgoing all *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* staff will be bound by the Health and Safety requirements of the main contractor.

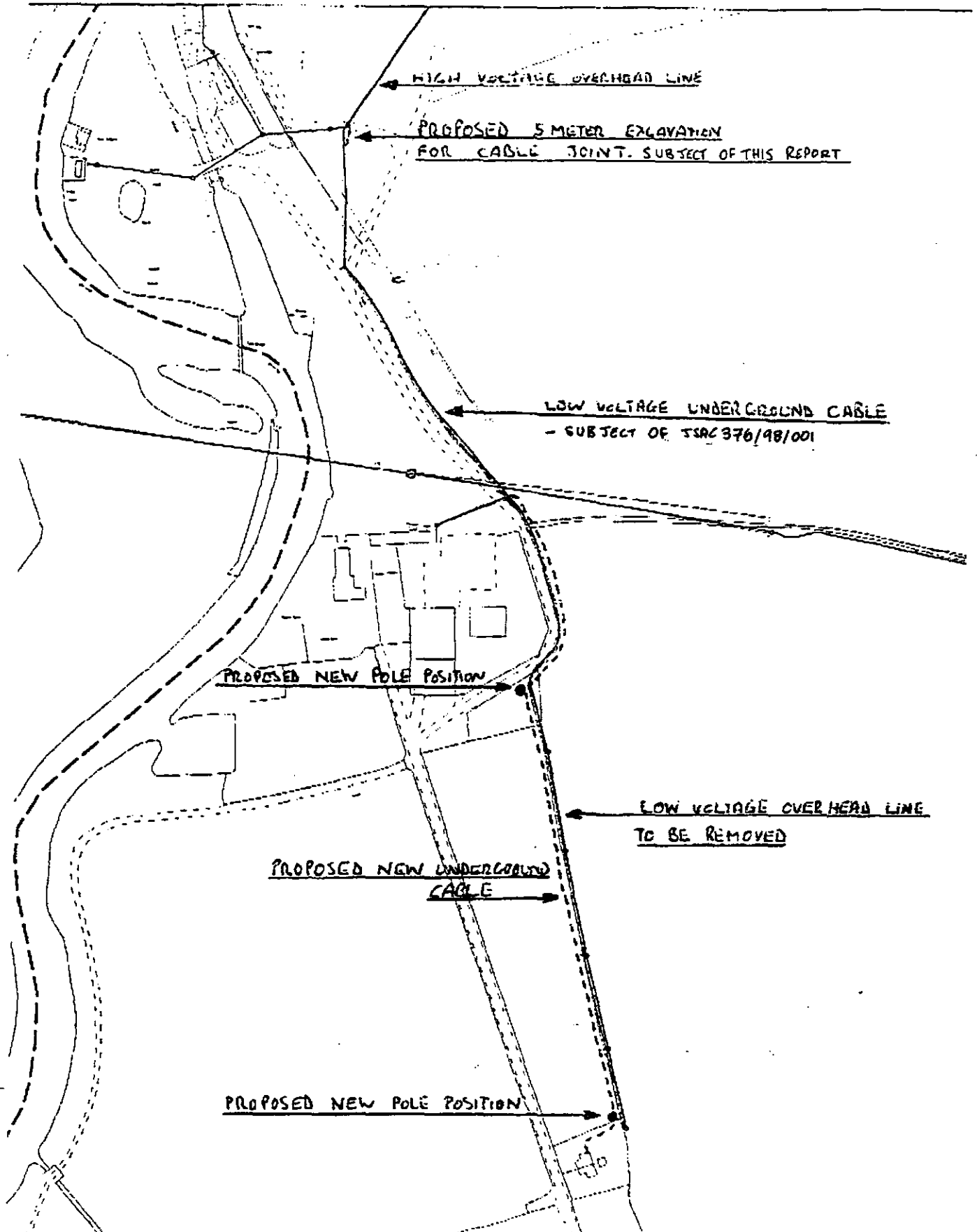
6.0 Figures

Figure 1 : Location of site

Figure 2 : Location of proposed service trench

Figure 3 : Area of Scheduled Ancient Monument Notts 141





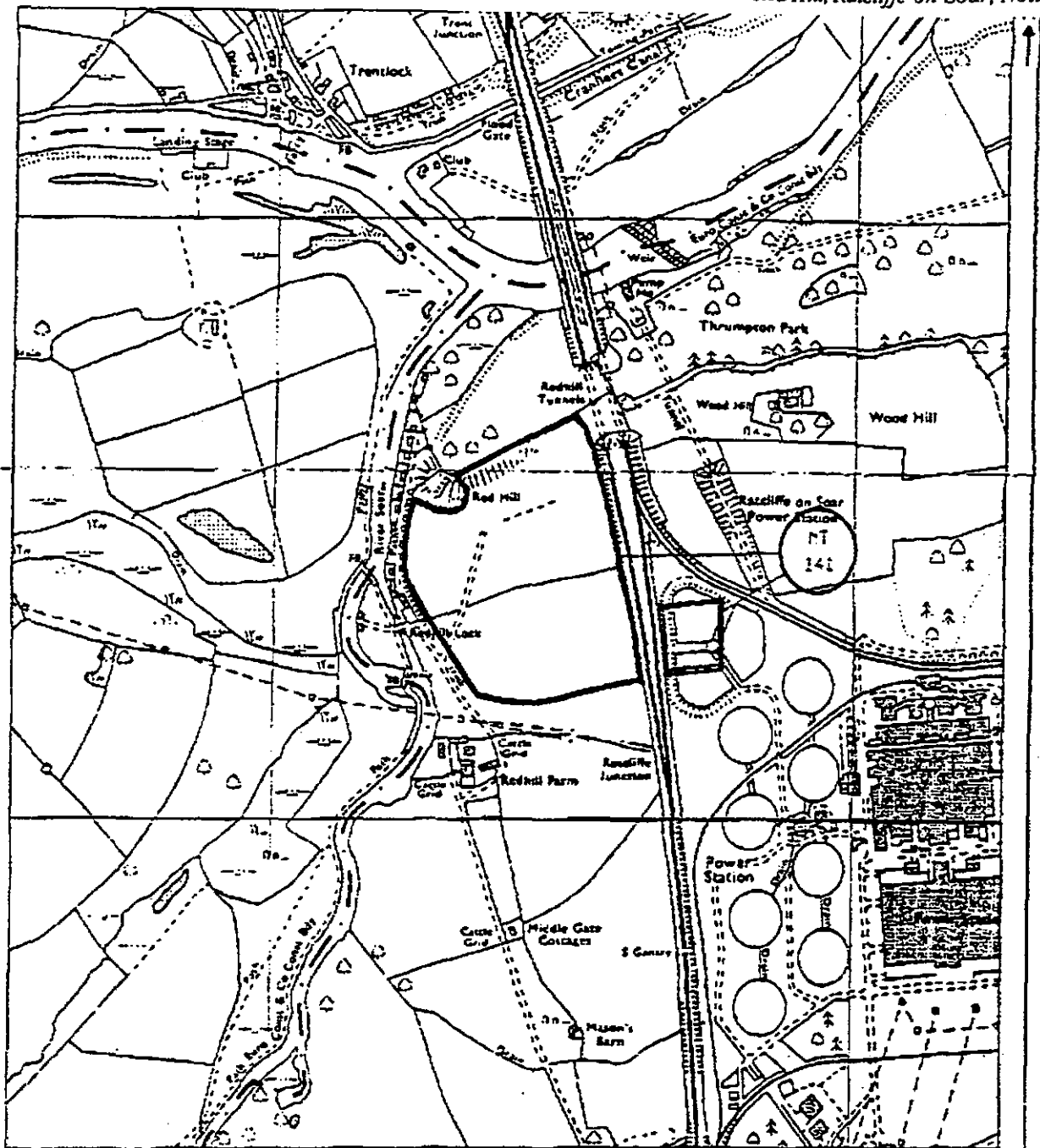
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SK40373008 (449374.330008)

ENGINEERING WARNING NOTES:

JSAC/393/98/01

Figure 2 : Location of proposed service trench



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For identification purposes only

Site Name: Roman site on Red Hill

County: Nottinghamshire

District: Rushcliffe

Parish: Ratcliffe on Soar

Notes: 2 land parcels: other NGR at SK49713030



English Heritage

Historic Buildings & Monuments Commission for England
Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 2HE
Telephone 01-734 6010

Key: Location/extent of site

Excluded area

Additional area

Extract from OS sheet: SK43SE

Date: 27.11.89

Scale: 1:10000

NGR: SK49413040

Derived from: 1:10000

County No: NT141

Figure 3 : Area of Scheduled Ancient Monument Notts 141

Appendix B : Scheduled Monument Consent

**Form of Notice for the Purposes of
Paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 1 of the Ancient Monuments and
Archaeological Areas Act 1979:**

[Note- This notice should be served by the applicant on all those who own or have an interest in the monument. The names and addresses of those on whom it has been served should be listed on the paragraph 2(1) (b) or 2(1) (c) certificate and should accompany the application form.]

Notice of application for Scheduled Monument Consent
Delete the words in square brackets, as appropriate, and omit the brackets.

This notice relates to the ancient monument at (x)

REDHILL

RATCLIFFE ON SOAR

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

An application is to be made [by] or [on behalf of] (y)

EAST MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY

WOOLSTHORPE CLOSE, BILBOROUGH

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for scheduled monument consent under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 to carry out the following works: (z)

EXCAVATE 5 METERS OF TRENCH AND JOINT
HOLE TO LAY AND JOINT A NEW CABLE.

An opportunity to make representations with respect to the application will be afforded by the Secretary of State before the application is determined.

Signature

N. G. [Signature]

Date

9-2-98

Footnotes

- (x) state the address or location of the monument, and the name (if any)
- (y) insert the name and address of the applicant
- (z) insert a brief description of the proposed works

AM 112A (1997)