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**Spell Howe, Flotmanby Wold
Hunmanby
North Yorkshire
TA 0655 7875**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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MAP 2003

**Spell Howe, Flotmanby Wold
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Archaeological Watching Brief

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

A narrow trench was excavated to accommodate telephone cables over a distance of approximately one kilometre, at times passing close to known archaeological sites. No archaeological remains or material were observed during the course of the excavation as the trench was dug into already disturbed ground.

1. Introduction

1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out between the 17th and 27th January 2003 by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd during the excavation of a service trench at Flotmanby Wold between Stockendale Farm and Spell Howe Tumulus, Folkton parish, North Yorkshire (TA 0700 7850 - Figs. 1 and 2).

1.2 The excavation was undertaken by Morrison Construction on behalf of British Telecom, who funded the work.

1.2 All maps within this report have been produced from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the controller of her Majesty's Stationery office, Crown Copyright. License No. AL 50453A.

2. Geology

2.1 The site stands on soils of the Hunstanton series. Deep well-drained reddish coarse and loamy soils over a solid geology of Till and glaciofluvial drift over chalk (Mackney *et al.* 1983).

3. Archaeological Background

3.1 The excavation trench passed through an area at the crest of the Yorkshire Wolds escarpment, which contains evidence of burials ranging from the Neolithic period to the Iron Age, including Round Barrows, Long Barrows

and Square Barrows. Towards the western end of the trench lies Spell Howe, the only remaining upstanding Barrow to survive the onslaught of modern farming practices in the area. Adjacent to Spell Howe are the complete remains of an underground observation bunker dating from the Second World War. In addition to the known Prehistoric material in the area, the trench bisected one of several banked ditches (dykes) in the area in the vicinity of Stockendale Farm (Figs. 3 and 4). These dykes, while difficult to date precisely, are believed to belong to the later Iron Age/early medieval period. Several lynchets (cultivation terraces) can be seen on the lower slopes below Spell Howe (TA 0665 7910).

4. Methodology

- 4.1 All work was carried out using prescribed excavation equipment and was observed at all times by a qualified archaeologist. The trench was excavated into the grass verge on the north side of the road to a constant depth of 0.70m, and was 0.20m wide. The excavation of this trench was observed over a length of approximately 1 kilometre.

5. Results

- 5.1 The line of the trench ran parallel to the road and was dug within the grass verge for the entirety of its length; no traces or remains of any archaeological material was found. At the point at which the trench cut through the Dyke close to Stockendale Farm, again no *in situ* material was evident. The deposits seen appeared as a homogenous, mid brown, silty, redeposited soil, with a common amount of naturally occurring flint, along the entirety of the excavated trench. At the point at which the trench came closest to Spell Howe, again no archaeological remains were found. At regular intervals along the trench, evidence of the services previously laid could be seen, it could be concluded therefore that the whole of the ground excavated by the machine had been disturbed by previous groundworks.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 The Watching Brief showed that the area has been rendered totally sterile of archaeological remains by previous groundworks.

7. Bibliography

- Mackney, L. *et al* 1983 Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 1: Northern England.
- Stoertz, C. 1997 Ancient Landscapes of the Yorkshire Dales. R.C.H.M.E.

APPENDIX 1

Catalogue of Sites

NGR (TA)	Description
06227905	ditch
06157870	ditch
06357860	ring ditch
06157850	round barrow
06057775	grave
06707945	unclassified
06657910	field system
06507770	ring ditch
06807880	ring ditch
07027901	round barrow
07157910	tumulus
06807880	ring ditch
07357985	tumulus
07457995	tumulus
07407975	ring ditch
07157870	square barrow
07107865	square barrow
07157860	square barrow
07207850	square barrow
07307800	dyke
07497763	ditch
07387752	ditched enclosure
07457830	dyke
07607860	dyke
07707940	ring ditch
07507900	enclosure
07557878	ring ditch
07707875	ring ditch

(Based on information from the S.M.R., Heritage Unit, N.Y.C.C.)

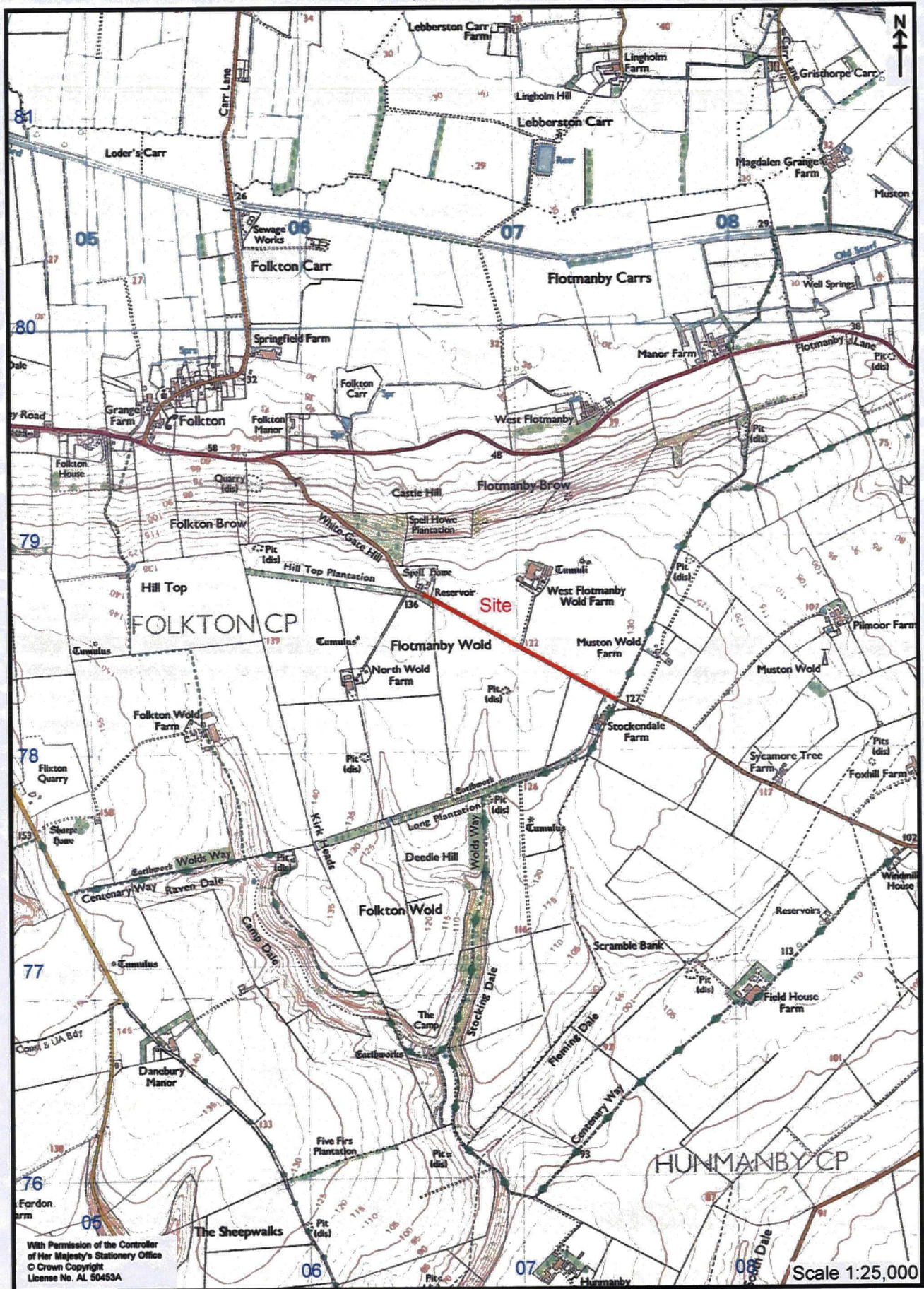


Figure 1. Site Location

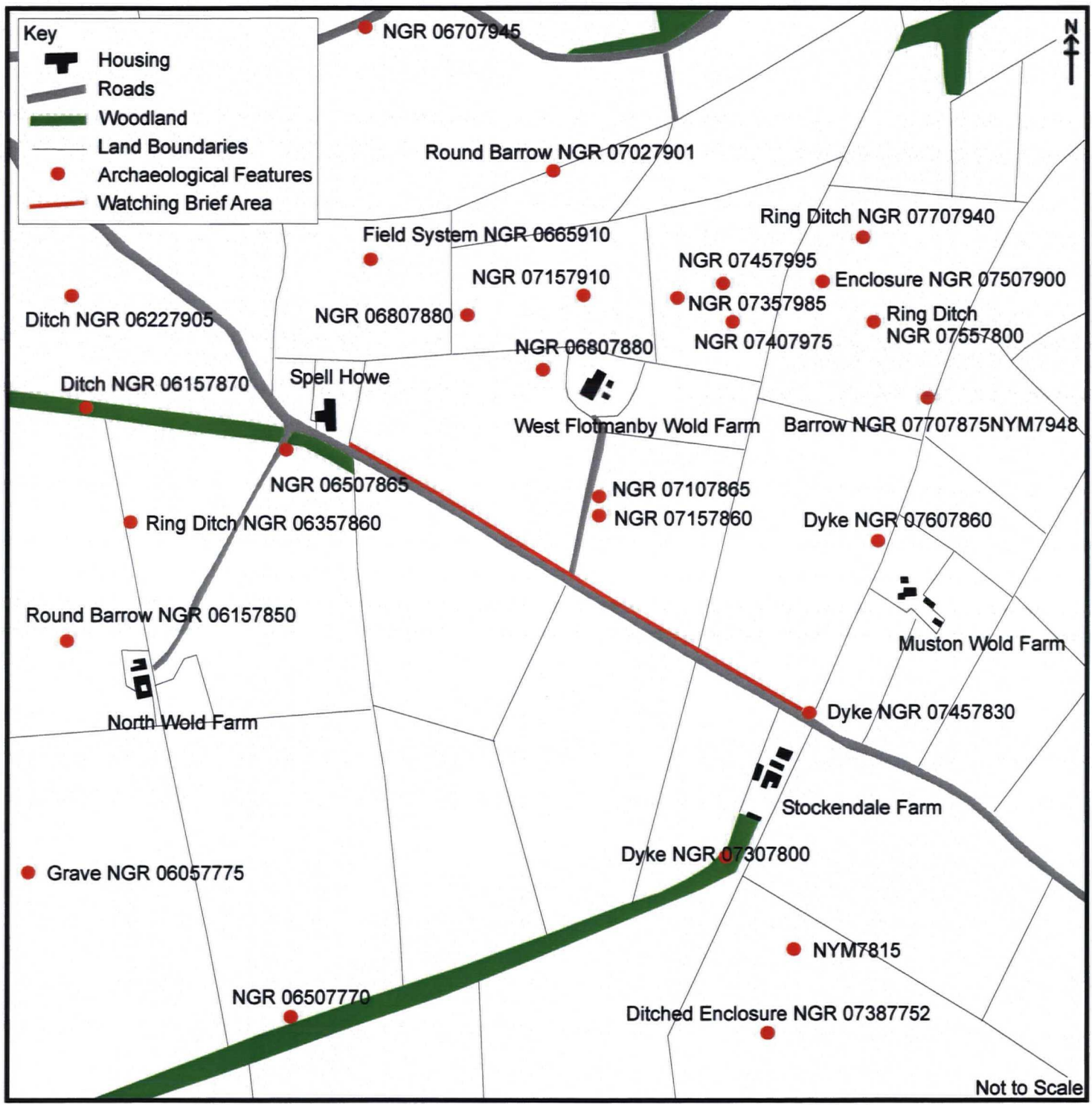


Figure 2. Cable Trench Location and Known Distribution of Archaeological Sites