



Archaeological Monitoring and Recording on land at Cuckoo Bridge, Iron Bar Drove Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire June 2013 – June 2014

Report No. 14/258

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Illustrator: Carol Simmonds



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on land at Cuckoo Bridge, Iron Bar Drove
Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire
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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		OASIS: molanort1- 198021	
Project name	Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Cuckoo Bridge, Iron Bar Drove, Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire		
Short description	A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by MOLA Northampton (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology), on behalf of Western Power Distribution during ground works for the reconstruction of services on land at Cuckoo Bridge, Iron Bar Drove, Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire. The works comprised the observation of 594m of excavation alongside a hard standing farm track and along a field boundary. A spread of modern hardcore was noted in the southern half of the ground works, thought to be associated with the farm track and adjacent drain. Undisturbed deposits were recorded in the northern area. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.		
Project type	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording		
Site status	None		
Previous work	None		
Current Land use	Arable land		
Future work	Not known		
Monument type/ period	None		
Significant finds	none		
PROJECT LOCATION			
County	Lincolnshire		
Site address	Land at Cuckoo Bridge, Iron Bar Drove, Pinchbeck		
Study area (sq metres)	16000m ²		
Height (aOD)	3m		
OS Easting & Northing	520438 320814		
PROJECT CREATORS			
Organisation	MOLA Northampton		
Project brief originator	Louise Jennings, Planning Archaeologist Lincolnshire County Council		
Project Design originator	MOLA Northampton (Northamptonshire Archaeology)		
Director/Supervisor	David J Leigh		
Project Manager	Anthony Maull with David J Leigh		
Sponsor or funding body	Western Power Distribution		
PROJECT DATE			
Start date	June 2013		
End date	June 2014		
ARCHIVES	Location	Content	
Physical	MOLA (Northants)	None	
Paper		Watching brief forms (5) Photographic record sheets (2) Black and white photographs (22) Digital photographs (25)	
Digital		Report text and figures	
BIBLIOGRAPHY		Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (MOLA report)	
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording on land at Cuckoo Bridge, Iron Bar Drove, Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire, June 2013- June 2014		
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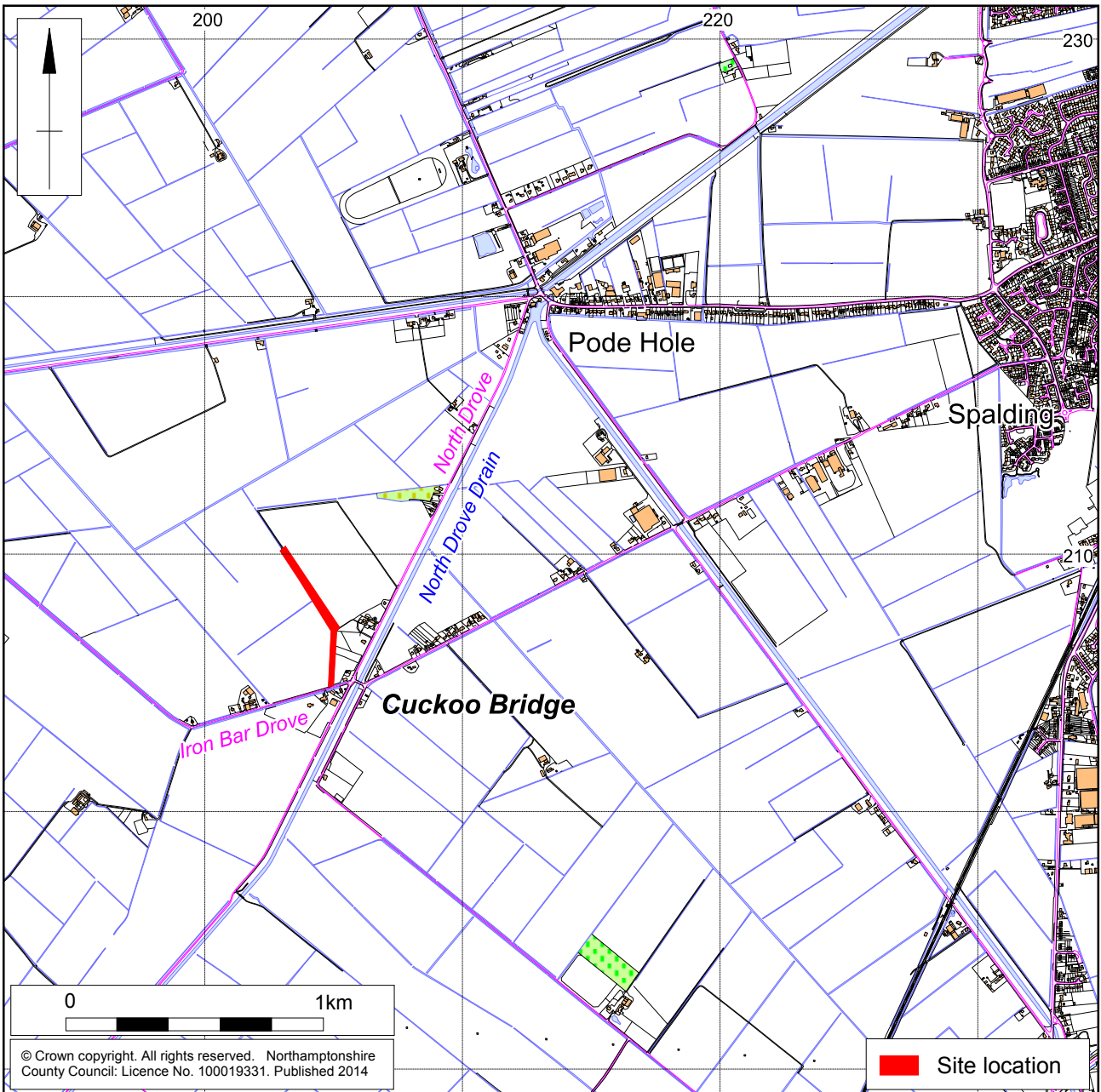
Abstract

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by MOLA Northampton (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology), on behalf of Western Power Distribution during groundworks for the reconstruction of services on land at Cuckoo Bridge, Iron Bar Drove, Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire. The works comprised the observation of 594m of excavation trenching alongside a hard standing farm track and along a field boundary. A spread of modern hardcore was noted in the southern half of the groundworks, thought to be associated with the farm track and adjacent drain. Undisturbed deposits were recorded in the northern area. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by MOLA Northampton (formerly Northamptonshire Archaeology) between June 2013 and June 2014 during ground works for the reconstruction of services on land at Cuckoo Bridge, Iron Bar Drove, Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire (NGR 520438 320814; Figs 1, 2 and 3). The work comprising the excavation of 594m of trenching was undertaken on behalf of Western Power Distribution. It was carried out following a request for a programme of archaeological investigation by the Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council in a brief issued 25 May 2013 (Jennings 2013).

It adhered to the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology (Leigh 2013) and the procedural document MoRPHE issued by English Heritage (EH 2006) along with the *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), as recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists, and followed the guidelines and requirements of the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC 2012).



Scale 1:25,000

Site location Fig 1

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and topography

Cuckoo Bridge is located in the parish of Pinchbeck in South Holland district, c5km to the south-west of Spalding, Lincolnshire (Figs 1 & 2). The site is located on the western boundary of Cuckoo Farm with the course of the groundworks located along the line of a farm track aligned perpendicular to, and to the north of Iron Bar Drove. Open fields defined by drains lie to the north and west. Up to the present application the area has been in agricultural use.

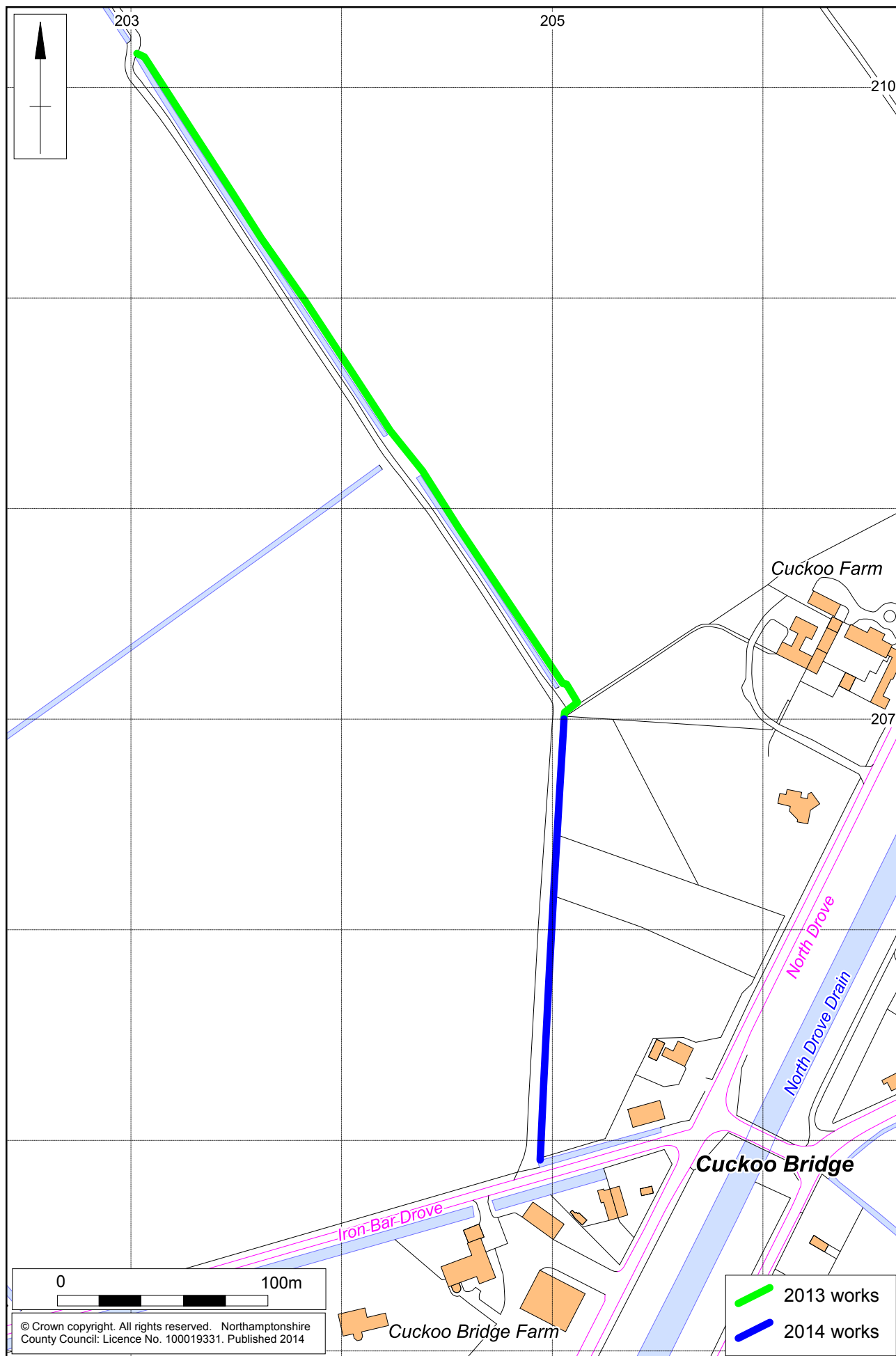
The site is on level ground at an average height of 3m aOD. The underlying solid geology has been mapped by the British Geological survey as comprising Oxford Clay Formation Mudstone (BGS Geindex, <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geindex>).

2.2 Historical background

There are no records of previous investigations, designated or non-designated heritage assets within the development area.

The investigation area lies within an area of archaeological interest and within a large documented Iron Age and Roman landscape. The site lies to the south-east of Baston Outgang, a gravel bed road thought to be of Roman date. This linked the settlement of Spalding with the western fen edge at Baston. Occupation comprising rectangular enclosures, fields and trackways are recorded in cropmark form on aerial photographs and as earthworks. To the north-east of the site, adjacent to North Drove Drain, was a rectangular enclosure (NMR/Pastscape143529) with field boundaries extending westwards. Enclosures were located c900m to the north of the site (NMR/Pastscape 352390) and field systems survived as earthwork remains (NMR/Pastscape 350740) c500m to the west of Cuckoo Farm.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services in the vicinity of Cuckoo Bridge Farm in 2005. Observation of the groundworks associated with a new dwelling revealed an undated ditch and deposits (APS 2005).



Scale 1:2,500

Area of archaeological investigation Fig 2



General view of the southern part of the investigation area, looking north Fig 3



The groundworks in progress in the northern area, looking north-west Fig 4

3 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- Observe the groundworks for the reconstruction works and to record all archaeological deposits uncovered;
- Determine the date, character, state of preservation and depth of any archaeological deposits observed and to retrieve all datable artefacts;
- Create a permanent archive and record of the archaeological information collected during the course of the fieldwork and analysis.

A photographic record in both black and white negative and digital format was kept. The written record used MOLA pro-forma sheets, (MOLA 2014). The programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008).

The fieldwork was undertaken between June 2013 and June 2014 during groundworks and comprised the excavation of a new service trench, approximately 594m long by 0.80m wide. This was completed in two phases, the northern half (384m long) during June 2013 and the southern half (210m long) in June 2014. The groundworks were carried out using a Case CX130 excavator fitted with a toothless bucket (Fig 4).

4 THE RECORDED EVIDENCE

Throughout the investigation area the natural substrate comprising a yellow-brown clay with pockets of white sand was undisturbed. In general this was at c0.40m below modern ground level. In the southern area the natural was overlain by dark grey-brown peaty loam topsoil up to 0.40m thick (Fig 5).



The stratigraphic sequence, looking north-east Fig 5

In the southern half of the investigation area the topsoil was overlain with a spread of modern hardcore comprising fragments of modern brick and concrete up to 0.30m thick (Fig 6).



The hardcore spread, looking east Fig 6

No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present.

5 THE SITE ARCHIVE

The project has generated a small archive comprising:

RECORD	NUMBER
Watching brief forms	5
Photographic record sheets	2
Black and white photographs	22
Digital photographs	25

The will be consolidated and prepared for deposition with The Collection, Lincolnshire Museums.

6 CONCLUSIONS

A spread of modern hardcore was recorded in the southern half of the new service trench which was clearly lain to create a firm surface for access into the field. Throughout the remainder of the investigation area undisturbed soils were recorded.

No pre-modern archaeological deposits were present within the investigation area. The lack of any artefactual evidence suggests that no significant archaeological deposits are present in the immediate vicinity of the new service trench.

The archaeological investigation was carried out in favourable conditions and the results are considered to be reliable.

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15 December 2014



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