

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

EDF Cable Trenches, Blythburgh Marshes, Blythburgh

National Grid Reference: TM 451 760 (centre point)

Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record Reference: **BLY 067**

Clare Good, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, December 2006

SCCAS Report Number: 2006/222

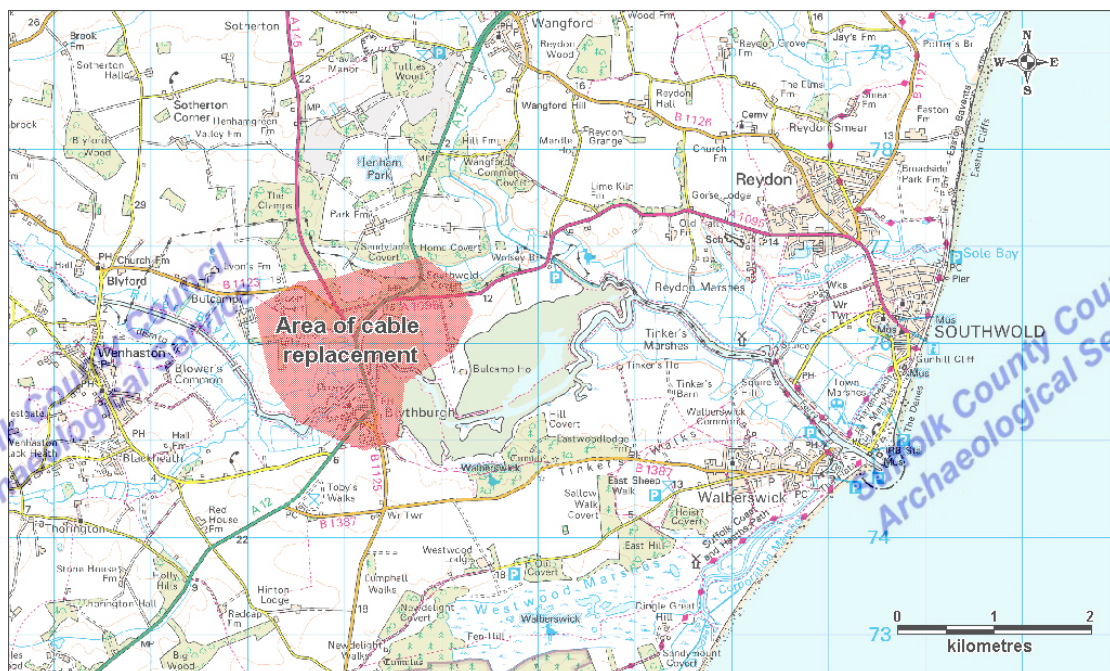
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Summary

The re-location of power cables from overland to trenches underground adjacent to the A12, the A1095 and the A145 near Blythburgh (TM 451 760 (centre point), BLY 067), required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. A series of trenches were excavated to an average depth of 0.8m in order for the cables to be relocated. Scattered archaeological finds and features dating from prehistory to the present are recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) near to the trenches, in particular Blythburgh village which is Medieval in origin. Despite this, no archaeological finds or features were revealed during the monitoring

Introduction

Planning consent for the re-location of power cables from overland pylons to trenches underground required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The cables to be moved were positioned alongside the A12, A1095 and the A145, near Blythburgh. Scattered finds and features dating from prehistory to the present were recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in the area, in particular Blythburgh village itself, known to be Medieval in origin. EDF Energy commissioned the project.



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Figure 1: Site location

A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix 1) was produced by Will Fletcher of the Conservation Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS), who requested a series of monitoring visits during and after the excavation of the cable trenches. This was to observe the trenches and the upcast soil to determine the presence, if any, of archaeological evidence in this area.

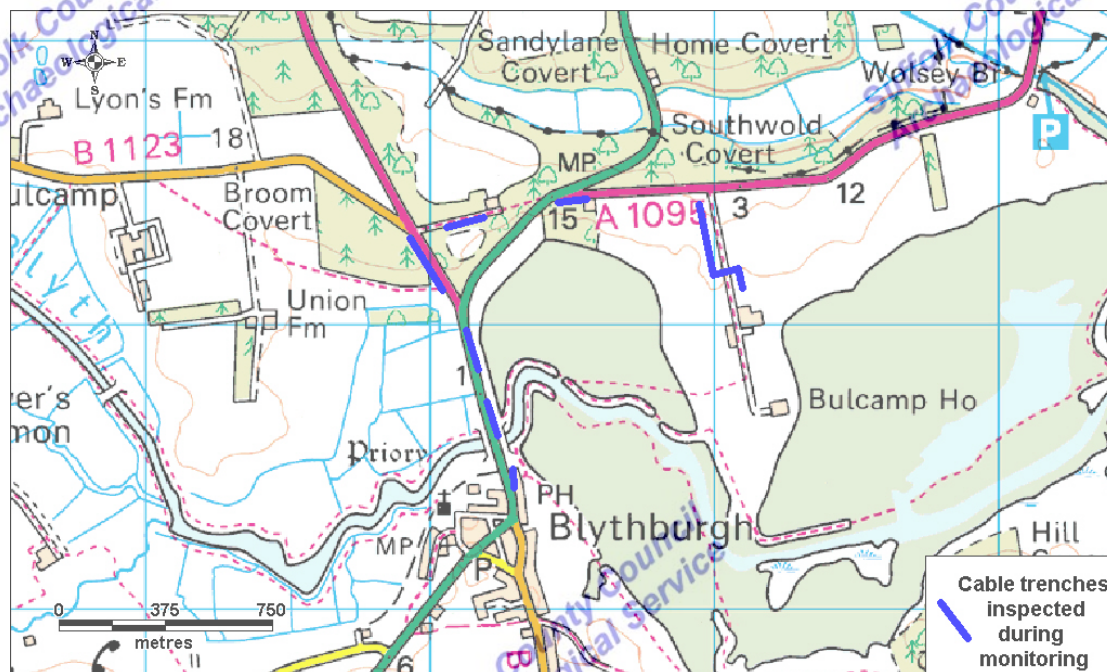


Figure 2: Cable trenches inspected during and after excavation

Results

The trenches were seen during various stages of excavation between 9th and 24th October 2006. The area thought to have most potential, closest to the Medieval village of Blythburgh, was watched continuously during excavation. This trench was dug through made ground to a depth of 0.8m, consisting of concrete, bright orange builders sand and dirty stony clay. A possible water main was also seen towards the base.

The other trenches were seen both during and after excavation and were, on average, dug to a depth of 0.8m. They were all dug through topsoil and natural subsoil, which comprised a mixed orange brown sand with occasional small stones

Despite revealing the natural subsoil in most places, and the good visibility afforded by the clean excavation of the trenches, no archaeological finds or features were found within the cable trenches.

Clare Good

Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, 13th December, 2006