

# Humber Field Archaeology

*Archaeological Consultants and Contractors*



Archaeological Observation  
Investigation and Recording  
at the  
Gate Helmsley – Kexby  
11kw Overhead Line Rebuild

Site Code: WB2013.001

National Grid Reference: SE 6969 5538 (A166 Gate Helmsley) –  
SE 6926 5094 (south of A1079 Kexby)

Event Record: CYO207

Northern Powergrid Project No: D107507

for


Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC

Watching Brief Report Number: 1336  
February 2013

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(located at end of report)

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D.P. Rawson □ February 2013

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## Summary

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A programme of archaeological observation and investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the excavation of a cable trench and various pole replacements on the 11kw overhead line rebuild between Scoreby near Gate Helmsley and Kexby in the City of York.

Little or no surface evidence was found for archaeological landscape features during the walking of the line rebuild route. It appeared that the ridge and furrow denoted by the HERs ☐ YO2668 ☐ YO2681 and ☐ YO2665 had been ploughed out at some point. Longevity of occupation in the vicinity of Lime Field Farm was suggested by the presence of ridge and furrow in the paddock and pottery dating from the 12th to 14th centuries in the field immediately to the east.

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## 1. Introduction

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This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological observation investigation and recording undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology on behalf of Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC during groundwork associated with the excavation of a cable trench and various pole replacements on the 11kW overhead line rebuild between Scoreby near Gate Helmsley and Kexby in the City of York (YO2665 YO2666).

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## 2. Archaeological Background

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There are a number of undesignated heritage assets along the pole alignment most of which are related to the late prehistoric Romano-British landscape that covered much of the area between York and the River Derwent.

The assets will be described running from north to south. There is an area of undated ridge and furrow (YO2688 SE 6938 5268 centre) around 300m north of Londesborough Lodge. Around 200m to the south of the same farm there is a round barrow cemetery that has been recorded as crop marks (YO3534 SE 6925 5224 centre). The group comprises two large concentric ring ditches approximately 50m across and three smaller single ring ditches. Fragmentary linear features may represent parts of mortuary enclosures associated with or predating the funerary monument. The round barrow dates to the Bronze Age whilst the mortuary enclosure dates to the Neolithic.

To the west of South Farm is an undated area of ridge and furrow (YO2681 SE 6899 5180) whilst to the south of this farm a number of features have been recorded including a late Neolithic to early Bronze Age hengiform monument a late Bronze Age to late Iron Age ring ditch and a Romano-British granary and oven (YO2006 SE 6932 5174).

Finally south of the A1079 there are several records of undated ridge and furrow (YO2665 YO2666 and YO2667 SE 6926 5094 centre).



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### 3. Methodology

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The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) in accordance with the recommendation made by John Oxley (City Archaeologist City of York) to Steven Gray (Wayleave Officer Northern Powergrid) that an archaeological watching brief be commissioned to monitor all works that disturb the ground (Date: 1st August 2012).

The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of a cable trench excavation and the walking of the pole alignment between Gate Helmsley and Kexby with inspection of any uncast from the individual pole replacement for archaeological finds. Eight visits were made to the site between the 22nd January and the 7th February 2013.

Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits. The excavated dimensions of the cable trench were recorded as were the depth sequences of any exposed stratigraphy. Contexts were assigned to the observed stratigraphy and a photographic record was maintained.

Archaeological artefacts found during the fieldwork were bagged according to their context and returned to Humber Field Archaeology for further specialist analysis.

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### 4. Results

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#### The cable diversion trench

The trench was excavated from east to west for some 150m across the north-west corner of field 9 (see below) and into the paddock separating this field from the complex of buildings defining Lime Field Farm (Figure 1). The entire trench was 0.40m wide and around 1m deep. No archaeological features were observed and the stratigraphy within the trench was as stated below.

In the easternmost 100m of trench (Figure 2) there was a layer of pale grey and yellow/orange sand at least 0.80m thick (1002) above which there was a 0.20m thick layer of dark grey/brown sandy topsoil (1001) (Figure 3). The westernmost 50m of the trench were in both field 9 and the paddock noted above (Figure 4). With the exception of the final 10m at the east end throughout the next 40m there was within the base of the trench a layer at least 0.50m thick of yellow/brown sandy silt clay (1004) (Figure 5). Above this there was a 0.30m thick layer of dark reddish grey/brown silt clay sand (1003) and 0.20m of (1001). Finally within the final 10m of trench throughout its base there was a layer at least 0.50m thick of dark reddish brown sandy silt clay containing frequent gravel (1006) (Figure 6). Above this there was a 0.30m thick layer of grey/brown pinkish silt clay sand containing frequent gravel (1005) and 0.20m of (1001).

#### The paddock

As has been stated above the westernmost portion of the cable trench was excavated in the paddock adjacent the buildings comprising Lime Field Farm (Figure 7). Ridge

and furrow was visible—running from east to west across the paddock—the ice in the furrows rendering it particularly visible for photographic purposes (□□□□□).

### **The line rebuild and associated field walking**

The line rebuild ran roughly north to south from a point on the A166 to the east of Gate Helmsley (SE6969 5538) to a field immediately south of the A1079 to the west of Kexby (SE 6926 5093). Including the spur in field 17 the rebuild was over 4.7km in length.

#### **Field 1**

Only the pole replacement spoil was examined for finds. The field was not walked as it had been given over to pasture (□□□□□).

#### **Field 2**

Only the pole replacement spoil was examined for finds. The field was not walked as it had been given over to pasture.

#### **Field 3**

The pole alignment was walked since the short stubble meant that the ground surface was partly visible—though heavily waterlogged (□□□□□).

#### **Field 4**

The field had been given over to pasture. However there appeared to be some unidentified earthworks present—though the area does not have a HER (□) (□□□□□).

#### **Field 5**

The field had a young crop and was walked because some of the ground surface was visible where significant flooding had not taken place (□□□□□).

#### **Field 6**

See field 5 commentary.

#### **Field 7**

The pole alignment was walked since the short stubble meant that the ground surface was partly visible.

#### **Field 8**

The field had a young crop and was walked because some of the ground surface was visible.

#### Field 9

The field had a young crop and was walked because some of the ground surface was visible (□□□□□). A small assemblage of pottery sherd was recovered from the surface and the nature of the individual sherds is discussed below (see **5. Finds**).

#### Field 10

The pole alignment was walked since the short stubble meant that the ground surface was partly visible.

#### Field 11

The field had a young crop and was walked because some of the ground surface was visible.

#### Field 12

The field had a very young crop and was walked because some of the ground surface was visible. According to the HER the field contains undated ridge and furrow (□ YO2688) but no evidence was found for this during the recent inspection (□□□□□).

#### Field 13

The field had quite a young crop and was walked because some of the ground surface was visible.

#### Field 14

The field had a young crop and was walked because some of the ground surface was visible where significant flooding had not taken place.

#### Field 15

The field had quite a young crop and was walked because some of the ground surface was visible.

#### Field 16

The field had quite a young crop and was walked because some of the ground surface was visible. According to the HER the field contains undated ridge and furrow (□ YO2681) but no evidence was found for this during the recent inspection (□□□□□).

#### Field 17

The field had quite a young crop and was walked because some of the ground surface was visible. It contained the east to west spur of overhead line replacement running from SE 6911 5172 to SE 6934 5167.

## Field 18

The field had quite a young crop and was walked because some of the ground surface was visible.

## Field 19

The pole alignment was walked since the short stubble meant that the ground surface was partly visible.

## Field 20

The field had a young crop and was walked because some of the ground surface was visible.

## Field 21

The field was quite waterlogged and contained patches of sedge but was walked nevertheless. According to the HER the field contains undated ridge and furrow (YO2665) but no evidence was found for this during the recent inspection.

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## 5. The Finds

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### The Pottery – 10000 sherds recovered

All the pottery sherds recovered were from unstratified contexts (1000).

## Field 9

Two sherds of North Yorkshire white ware dating to the 13th–14th centuries. The sherds displayed some similarity to Brandsby type ware of the 14th century.

A single sherd of North Yorkshire white ware that was rather coarser and grittier than those described above and possibly dating to the 12th century.

A single sherd of high medieval period sand tempered ware with tiny spots of glaze.

The finds were not recommended for retention.

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## 6. Discussion

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The following is solely the opinion of Humber Field Archaeology and may not reflect that of Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

Little or no surface evidence was found for archaeological landscape features during the walking of the line rebuild route. It appeared that the ridge and furrow denoted by

the HERs □ YO2668□□ YO2681 and □ YO2665 had been ploughed out at some point. Longevity of occupation in the vicinity of Lime Field Farm was suggested by the presence of ridge and furrow in the paddock and pottery dating from the 12th to 14th centuries in the field immediately to the east.

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## 7. Acknowledgements

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Thanks are accorded to Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC and to all at Lime Field Farm for their help and co-operation during the course of this project.

The work was undertaken as per the recommendation received by Northern Powergrid from the City of York archaeologist. The report was edited by David Atkinson and the finds spot dated by Peter Didsbury. Administrative support was provided by Georgina Richardson and June Rooney.

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## 8. References

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Guidelines for Finds Work The Institute of Field Archaeologists Finds Group First Draft□1991.

Institute of Field Archaeologists□ 2008 Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (October 1994□revised September 2001 and October 2008)

Management of Archaeological Projects (□ AP2)□English Heritage□1991.

Museums and Galleries Commission□1992 Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections.

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## 9. Appendices

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### Appendix 1

#### Context list

- (1000) Unstratified SS
- (1001) Dark grey/brown sandy topsoil 0.20m thick
- (1002) Pale grey and yellow/orange sand at least 0.80m thick
- (1003) Dark reddish grey/brown silty clay sand 0.30m thick
- (1004) Yellow/brown sandy silt clay at least 0.50m thick
- (1005) Grey/brown pinkish silty clay sand containing frequent gravel 0.30m thick
- (1006) Dark reddish brown sandy silt clay containing frequent gravel at least 0.50m thick.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Archive**

#### **Project Details:**

Archaeological observation □ investigation and recording at the Gate Helmsley – Kexby 11kw overhead line rebuild □ City of York

**Site Code:** WB2013.001

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SE 6926 5094 (south of A1079 Kexby)

**Event Record:** CYO207

**Northern Powergrid Project No:** D107507

**Author** David Rawson **Date of fieldwork** 22.01.13 – 07.02.13

**Report Number.** Humber Field Archaeology Report Number: 1336  
February 2013

#### **Quantity**

□ the finds were recommended for discard  
4x A4 plastic sleeves contain the paper archive

#### **Summary of work**

A programme of archaeological observation □ investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the excavation of a cable trench and various pole replacements on the 11kw overhead line rebuild between Scoreby near Gate Helmsley and Kexby in the City of York.

Little or no surface evidence was found for archaeological landscape features during the walking of the line rebuild route. It appeared that the ridge and furrow denoted by the HERs □ YO2668 □ YO 2681 and □ YO 2665 had been ploughed out at some point. Longevity of occupation in the vicinity of Lime Field Farm was suggested by the presence of ridge and furrow in the paddock and pottery dating from the 12th to 14th centuries in the field immediately to the east.

#### **Index to Archive**

##### **1 Background:**

1.1 Correspondence

##### **2 Site Data:**

2.1 Site notes  
2.2 Staff site visit log  
2.3 Site plans

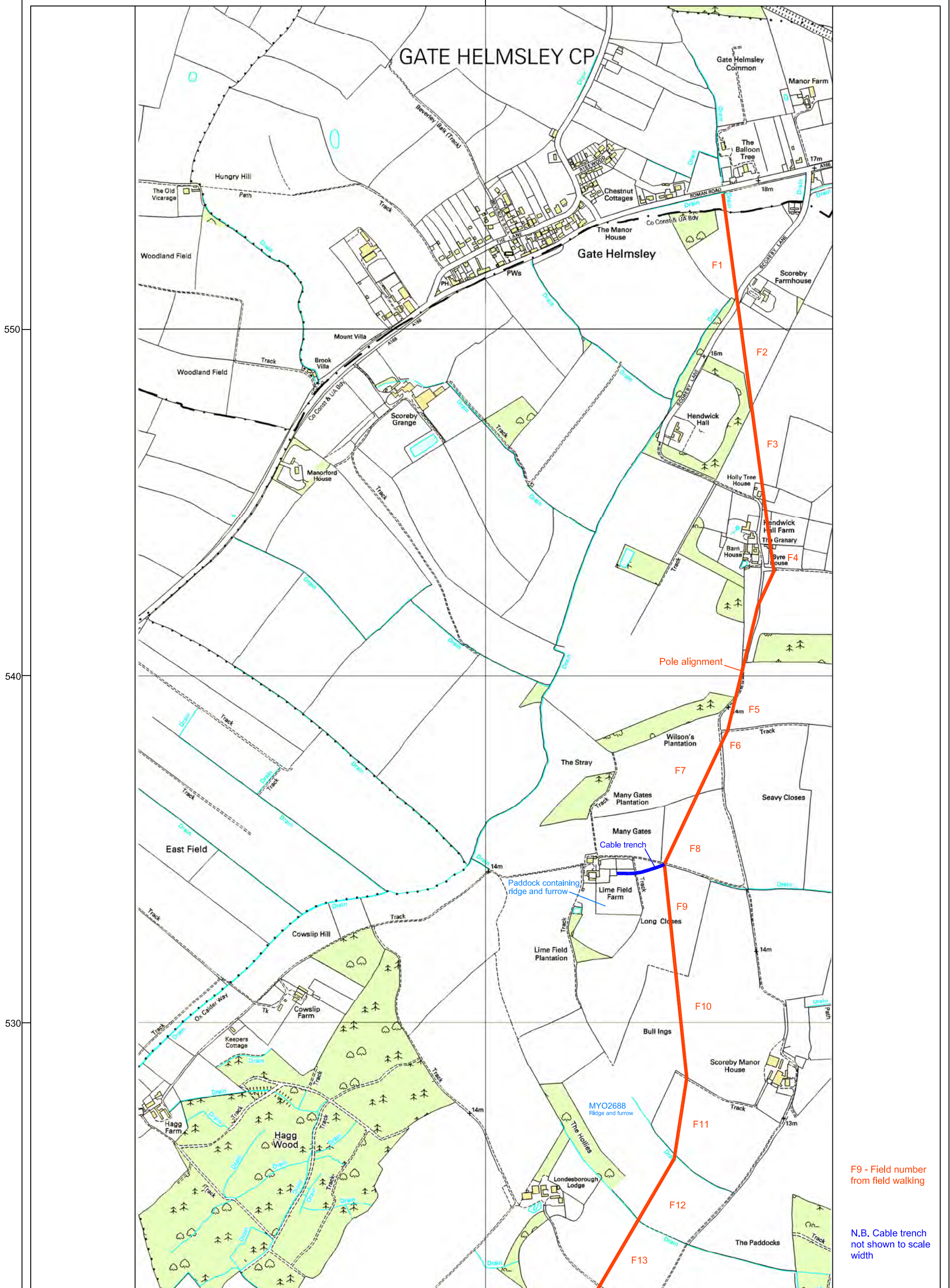
##### **3 The Photographic Record:**

3.1 Photographic Catalogue  
3.2 Contact Sheets  
3.3 Reference Prints

##### **4. Final Report:**

Archaeological Observation □ Investigation and Recording at the Gate Helmsley – Kexby □ 11kw  
Overhead Line Rebuild □ Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 1336 □ February  
2013



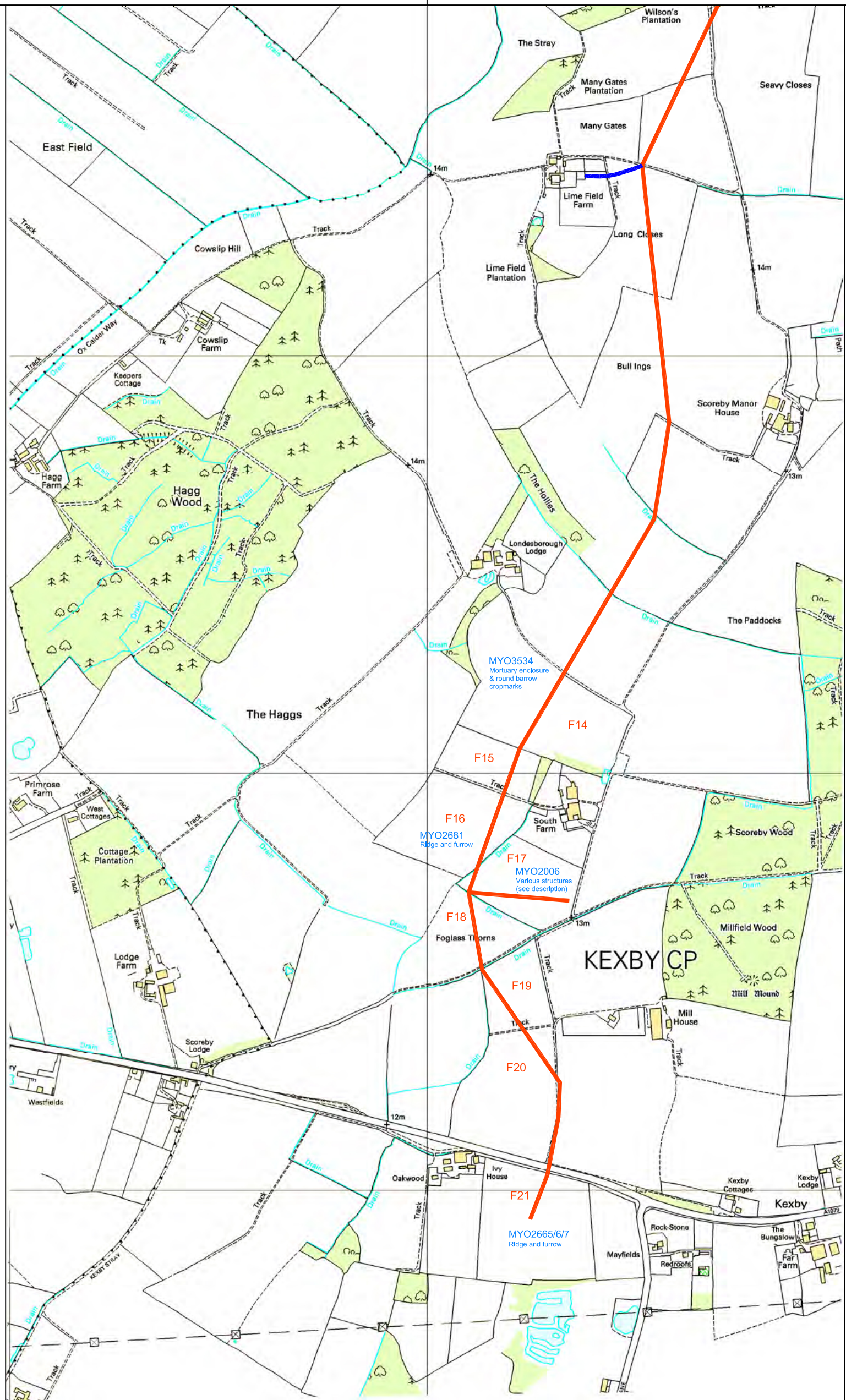




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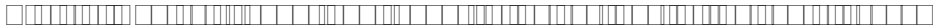
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Project Management • Desk-based Assessment • Field Survey • Fieldwork • Finds Research  
• Post-excavation Analysis • Inter-tidal Work



Humber Field Archaeology is an independently-funded part of the Humber Archaeology Partnership, a partnership serving The East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council