

# Humber Field Archaeology

*Archaeological Consultants and Contractors*



Archaeological Observation  
Investigation and Recording  
during the  
installation of a low voltage  
underground electricity cable  
Cottam House - Cottam House Farm  
Cottam

Site Code: WB2014.027

National Grid Reference: SE 9940 6469

SMR Reference: YE/CONS/17063

Museum Reference: ERYMS (BAG); 2014.61

Scheduled Monument Consent; S00069181

for

Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC

Watching Brief Report Number: 1426  
December 2014

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Plate 6 Contexts (1001) and (1004) within the DMV part of the trench

D. P. Rawson, December 2014

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## Summary

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A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) during the excavation of a single electricity cable trench, at Cottam House and Cottam House Farm, Cottam in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

No archaeological features were observed in the trench and no finds were collected. The east portion of trench near to Cottam House was notably different from the rest of the trench, in that large blocks of weathered chalk were very close to the surface. Given the close proximity of the Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) this suggests that substantial amounts of earth might have been moved to level the site for the building of Cottam House in the 18th century.

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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 (HFA) for Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC, during the excavation of a single electricity cable trench at Cottam House and Cottam House Farm, Cottam in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Site Code:	WB2014.027
National Grid Reference:	SE 9940 6469
SMR Reference:	YE/CONS/17063
Museum Reference:	ERYMS (BAG): 2014.61
Scheduled Monument Consent	S00069181

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## 2. Planning Background

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The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology (HFA), in accordance with the archaeological requirements set out in a letter produced by The Humber Sites & Monuments Record Office, Date: 3rd June 2011, SMR Reference: YE/CONS/17063

- 1 All groundwork should be carried out under continuous archaeological supervision. If archaeological deposits are encountered, adequate time should be afforded to investigate these, and to enable a full and detailed record of them to be made.
- 2 Access to the site should be afforded to the Yorkshire Electricity's nominated archaeologist at all reasonable times.
- 3 A minimum of two weeks notice of the commencement of work should be given in writing to the Curatorial Section of the Humber Archaeology Partnership and to the Yorkshire Electricity's nominated archaeologist.
- 4 On completion of the work, a report should be produced by the archaeologist and submitted to the Humber Archaeology Partnership Sites and Monuments Record.
5. Arrangements should be made for depositing the archive with a local museums service, in line with Policy HE12.3 of *Planning Policy Statement 5 Planning for the Historic Environment* (Dept. of Communities & Local Government, March 2010).

Scheduled Monument Consent for the work was granted on the 10th October 2013, reference S00069181 (see appendix 2).

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## 3. Archaeological Background

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The site lies within an extremely sensitive archaeological landscape, adjacent to and within the nationally important Scheduled Monument of Cottam Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) (SM 32638, HA 1017068). Cottam village was mentioned in the Domesday Book and it is likely that it has even earlier, Anglo-Saxon origins. It survives today as nationally important earthworks remains of house platforms,

hollow-ways and ridge and furrow. Cottam is associated with St John of Beverley, who was Bishop of York from AD 705 and is reputed to have cured two of the inhabitants of the settlement. Cottam was recorded as Cottun in the Domesday Book of 1087, which notes that it had arable land for five plough teams and was held as a single manor, valued at 40 shillings, by St Peter's Church in York from the Archbishop of York. It was taxed at 34 shillings for the 1334 Lay Subsidy, which was about average for the area, but given 53% relief in 1354 following the hardships that were partly caused by the Black Death. Cottam was surveyed in 1569 when no mention of open fields was made, only the existence of closes, which implies that the settlement had been largely depopulated by this time. In 1706 there was still a small settlement of nine cottages surviving, but in 1719 the owners, the Dean and Chapter of York Minster, gave permission for the demolition of all but four cottages 'as soon as conveniently may be'.

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## 4. Methodology

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The scheme of works comprised the supervision of the excavation of the cable trench. A series of three visits were made to the site between the 22nd September and the 22nd October 2014.

Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits. The excavated dimensions of the foundation trenches were recorded, as were the depth sequences of any exposed stratigraphy. Where archaeological deposits/features were identified, context numbers were assigned and detailed descriptions were made, plans and sections were drawn and a photographic record was maintained.

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## 5. Results

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The trench for the cable was around 61m long in total (Figure 2), being generally around 0.40m wide, but varying in depth from 0.55m to 0.90m. No archaeological features were observed and no finds were collected during the excavation of the trench.

The trench could be divided into three parts; the easternmost part within the grounds of Cottam House (Plate 1), the central part as it crossed the hollow-way that would have served the former village (Plate 3), and the western part where it cut through a steep bank at the western edge of the hollow-way and entered the earthworks of the DMV.

The eastern portion was around 20m long and was 0.55m deep (Plate 1). Throughout the base of the trench there was the un-weathered chalk bedrock (1003), above which there was a 0.50m thick layer of chalk brash (1002) and a 0.05m thick layer of a grey brown topsoil (1001) (Plate 2).

The central portion was around 15m long and up to 0.90m deep (Plate 3). By the time the western part of this portion of trench had been reached there was (1002) in the

base, with above it a 0.80m thick layer of chalk fragments in a dark grey brown clay silt matrix (1004) (Plate 4). Above the (1004) the topsoil (1001) was some 0.10m thick and darker than to the east.

The western portion was 26m long and around 0.90m deep (Plate 5). Throughout the base of the trench there was a layer at least 0.70m thick of (1004) with a 0.20m thick layer of (1001) above.

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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).

The east portion of trench near to Cottam House was notably different from the rest of the trench, in that large blocks of weathered chalk were very close to the surface. Given the close proximity of the DMV this suggests that substantial amounts of earth might have been moved to level the site for the building of Cottam House in the 18th century.

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## **7 Acknowledgements**

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Thanks are accorded to the Freedom Group for their co-operation during the course of this project. The work was carried in accordance with a letter prepared by the Humber Sites and Monuments Record Office. The report was edited by David Atkinson with administrative support being provided by Georgina Richardson.

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## **8. References**

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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 (MAP2), English Heritage, 1991.

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## **9. Appendices**

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### **Appendix 1**

#### **Context list**

- (1001) Grey brown to dark grey brown topsoil, up to 0.20m thick
- (1002) Chalk brash, 0.50m thick
- (1003) Chalk bedrock
- (1004) Chalk fragments in a dark grey brown clay silt matrix, 0.80m thick

## Appendix 2 Scheduled Monument Consent



### ENGLISH HERITAGE YORKSHIRE OFFICE

Mr Steve Gray  
Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC  
200 Clough Road  
Hull  
HU5 1SN

Direct Dial: 01904 601988  
Direct Fax: 01904 601999

10 October 2013

Dear Mr Gray

**Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2  
control of works  
Application for Scheduled Monument Consent**

**COTTAM HOUSE, COTTAM MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT, AND CULTIVATION  
TERRACES, COTTAM, EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE  
Scheduled Monument No: SM 32638, HA 1017068  
Our ref: S00069181  
Application on behalf of Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC**

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport to advise you of the decision regarding your application for Scheduled Monument Consent dated 4 September 2013 in respect of proposed works at the above scheduled monument concerning burial of an existing overhead power line. The works were described in the following documentation submitted by you:

Documentation list:

Scheduled Monument Consent application, including:  
1 x A3 works and site location plan

2. In accordance with paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State is obliged to afford you, and any other person to whom it appears to the Secretary of State expedient to afford it, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed for that purpose. This opportunity was offered to you by English Heritage and you have declined it.

3. The Secretary of State is also required by the Act to consult with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage) before deciding whether or not to grant Scheduled Monument Consent. English Heritage considers the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be works which would not



37 TANNER ROW YORK YO1 6WP  
Telephone 01904 601901 Facsimile 01904 601999  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

*English Heritage is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to an information request, unless one of the exemptions in the FOIA or EIR applies.*

*English Heritage will use the information provided by you to evaluate your application for Scheduled Monument Consent. Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration where applicable.*





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significantly diminish the visual amenity of the monument but would cause significant damage to the monument's archaeological deposits or evidence, which can be acceptably mitigated by conditions or safeguards already specified in the application to ensure archaeological supervision and recording.

I can confirm that the Secretary of State is agreeable for the works to proceed providing the conditions set out below are adhered to, and that accordingly Scheduled Monument Consent is hereby granted under section 2 of the 1979 Act for the works described in paragraph 1 above, subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by English Heritage. At least 2 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Dr Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage, 37 Tanner Row, York, YO1 6WP in order that an English Heritage representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.
- (ii) The specification of work for which consent is granted shall be executed in full.
- (iii) This consent may only be implemented by Mr Stephen Gray, Northern Powergrid.
- (iv) Where consent is transferable to future owners, English Heritage shall be notified of land disposal upon completion of the sale.
- (v) Original material shall be reused wherever possible.
- (vi) All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the owner and developer that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.
- (vii) Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument or ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.



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*English Heritage will use the information provided by you to evaluate your application for Scheduled Monument Consent. Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration where applicable.*



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- (viii) Any ground disturbance works to which this consent relates shall be carried out under the detailed archaeological supervision of Mr Dave Atkinson, Humber Archaeology Partnership, The Old School, Northumberland Avenue, Hull, HU2 0LN or his nominated representative who shall be given 2 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement and timetable of work. No works shall commence until Mr Atkinson has confirmed in writing to English Heritage that they are willing and able to carry out the agreed supervision.
- (ix) Levelling shall be effected by filling holes and depressions with material imported from outside the scheduled area.
- (x) Excavation of the cable trench shall be limited to the minimum necessary width and depth for Health and Safety purposes.
- (xi) A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to:  
Dr Dave Evans, Archaeology Manager, Economic Development and Regeneration, Hull City Council, Humber Archaeology Partnership, The Old School, Northumberland Avenue, Hull, HU2 0LN (the County Sites and Monuments Record) and to Dr Keith Emerick, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage, 37 Tanner Row, York, YO1 6WP within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- (xii) The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.

4. By virtue of section 4 of the 1979 Act, if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within the period of five years beginning with the date on which this consent was granted (being the date of this letter), this consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless a shorter time period is set by a specific condition above).

5. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bye law, order or regulation other than section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

6. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of section 55 of the 1979 Act under which any person who is aggrieved by the decision given in this letter may challenge its



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*English Heritage will use the information provided by you to evaluate your application for Scheduled Monument Consent. Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration where applicable.*



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validity by an application made to the High Court within six weeks from the date when the decision is given. The grounds upon which an application may be made to the Court are (1) that the decision is not within the powers of the Act (that is, the Secretary of State has exceeded the relevant powers) or (2) that any of the relevant requirements have not been complied with and the applicant's interests have been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply. The "relevant requirements" are defined in section 55 of the 1979 Act: they are the requirements of that Act and the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 and the requirements of any regulations or rules made under those Acts.

Yours sincerely

P. P.

**Keith Emerick**

Ancient Monuments Inspector

E-mail: [Keith.Emerick@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:Keith.Emerick@english-heritage.org.uk)

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

cc: Dr Dave Evans, Archaeology Manager, Economic Development and Regeneration,  
Hull City Council, Humber Archaeology Partnership, The Old School, Northumberland  
Avenue, Hull, HU2 OLN



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## **Appendix 3**

### **Archive**

**Project Details:** An archaeological watching brief on the Electricity cable trench excavation, Cottam House and Cottam House Farm, Cottam in the East Riding of Yorkshire

**Site Code:** WB2014.027

**National Grid Reference:** SE 9940 6469

**SMR Reference:** YE/CONS/17063

**Accession Number or Museum Reference:** ERYMS (BAG); 2014.61

**Author:** D. P. Rawson **Date of fieldwork** 22.09.14 – 22.10.14

**Report Number.** Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number: 1426  
December 2104

### **Quantity**

There were no finds

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 (HFA) during the excavation of a single electricity cable trench, at Cottam House and Cottam House Farm, Cottam in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

No archaeological features were observed in the trench and no finds were collected. The east portion of trench near to Cottam House was notably different from the rest of the trench, in that large blocks of weathered chalk were very close to the surface. Given the close proximity of the Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) this suggests that substantial amounts of earth might have been moved to level the site for the building of Cottam House in the 18th century.

### **Index to Archive**

#### **1 Background:**

- 1.1 Correspondence
- 1.2 Scheduled Monument Consent

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

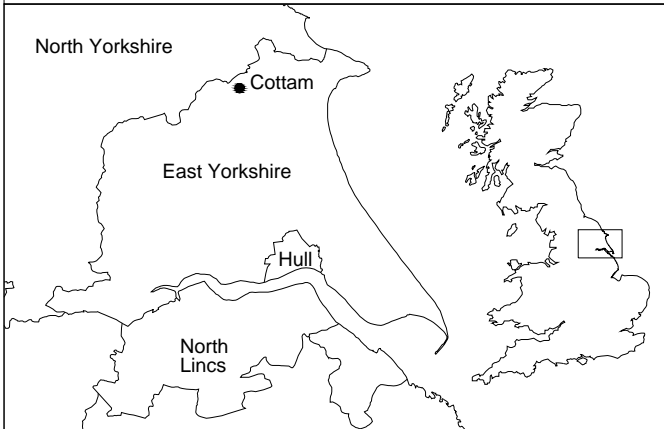
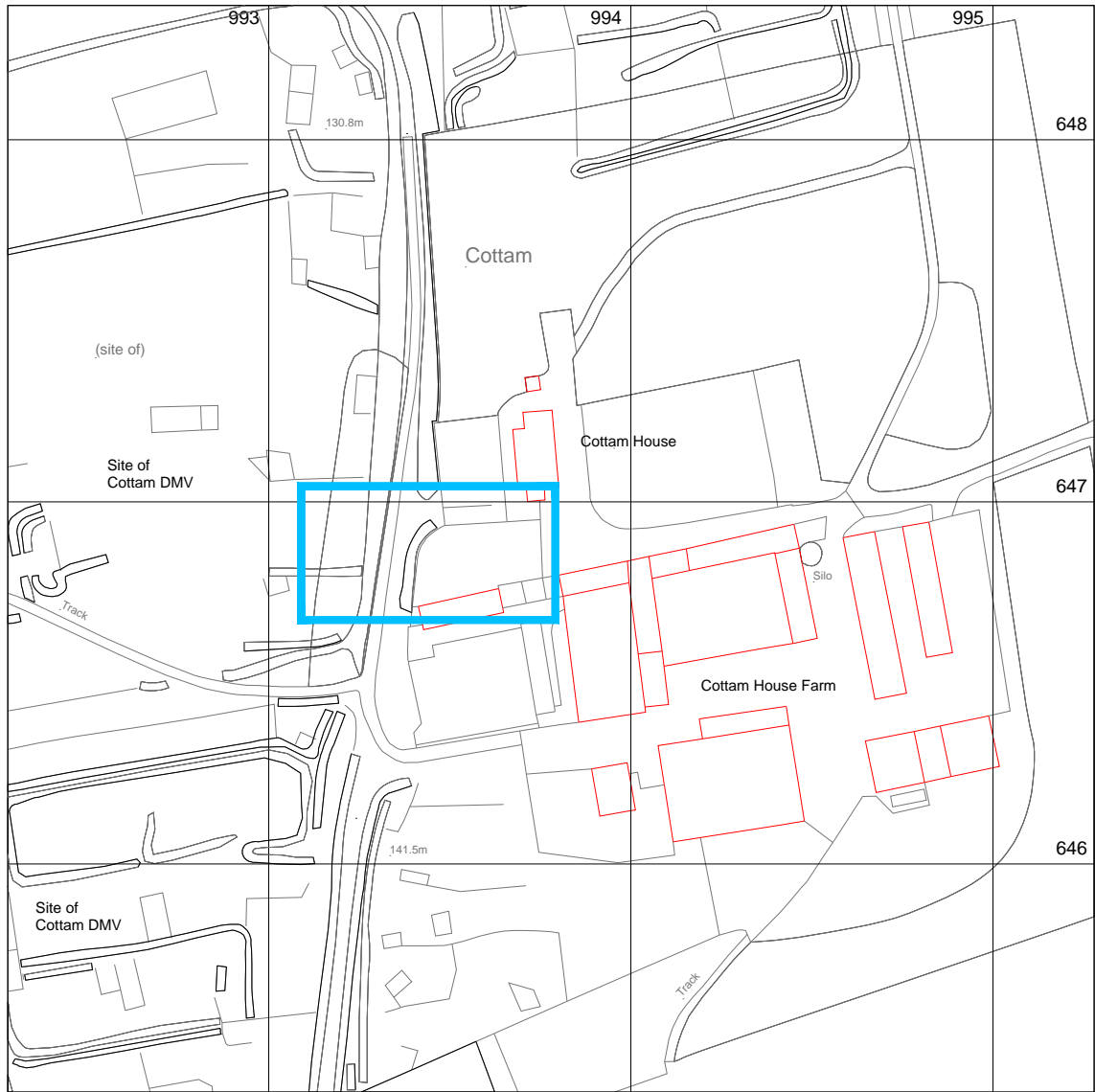
- 2.1 Staff site visit log
- 2.2 Site plans/notes

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

- 3.1 Photographic Catalogue
- 3.2 Contact Sheets
- 3.3 Reference Prints

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

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording during the installation of a low voltage underground electricity cable, Cottam House - Cottam House Farm, Cottam, Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 1426, December 2014



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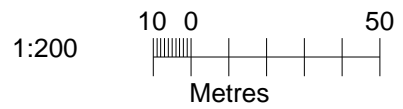


Figure 1 Site location plan

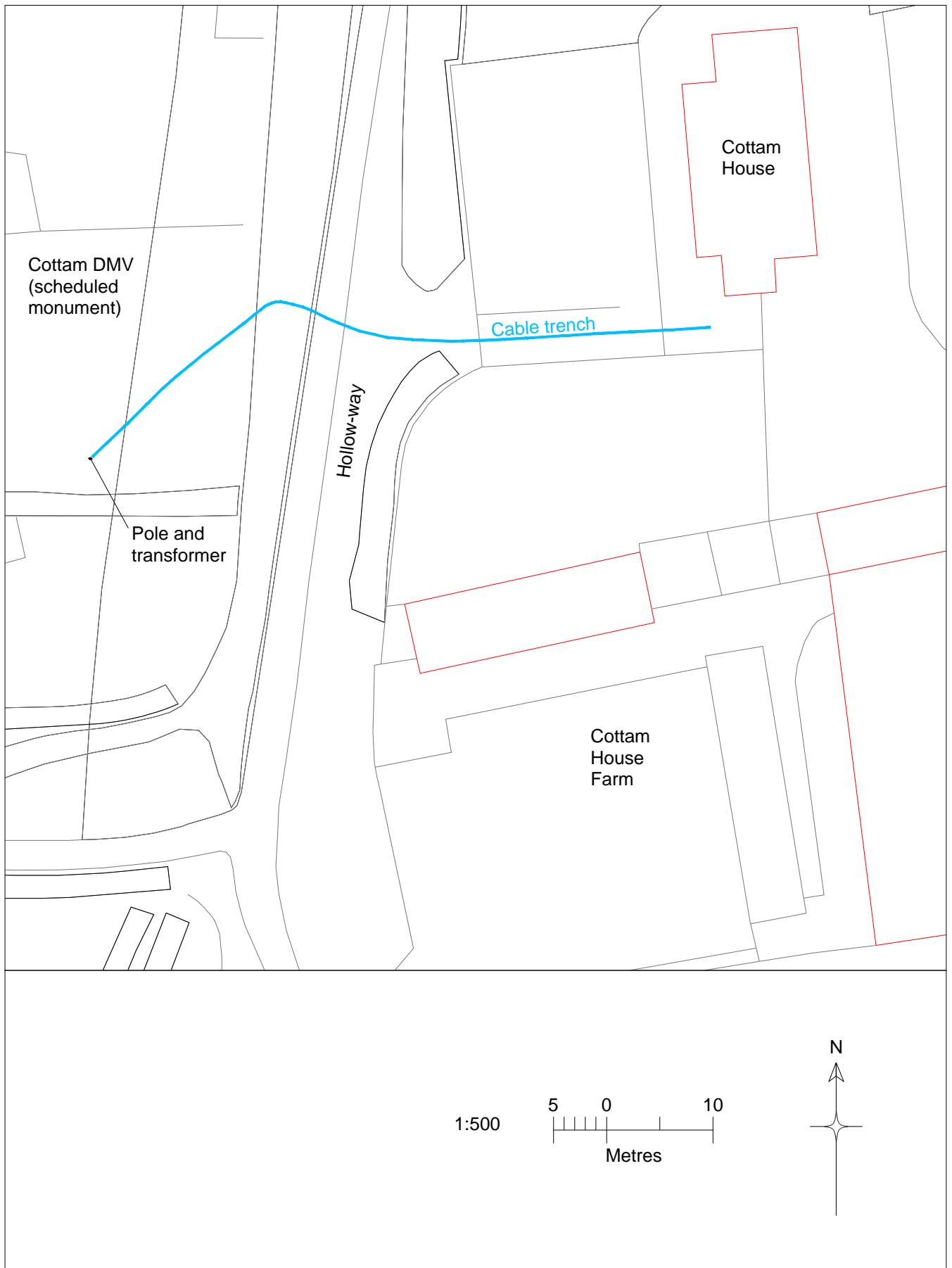


Figure 2 Plan showing the location of the cable trench



Plate 1 Cottam House part of the trench viewed from the west



Plate 2 Contexts (1001) - (1003) in the Cottam House trench



Plate 3 The trench crossing the sunken road or hollow-way viewed from the southwest, with Cottam House in the background



Plate 4 Contexts (1001), (1002) and (1004) in western part of the trench within the hollow-way





Plate 5 The trench within the DMV and nearing the transformer pole, viewed from the south



Plate 6 Contexts (1001) and (1004) within the DMV part of the trench

# Humber Field Archaeology

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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