

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



Archaeological Observation
Investigation and Recording
on
Land south of Norton Mill Lane
Norton
Doncaster

Site Code: WB2014.032
National Grid Reference: SE 5425 1579

for

Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) PLC

Watching Brief Report Number: 1427
December 2014

Contents

Summary.....	2
1. Introduction.....	3
2. Planning Background.....	3
3. Archaeological Background.....	3
4. Methodology.....	6
5. Results.....	6
6. Discussion.....	7
7 Acknowledgements.....	7
8. References.....	8
9. Appendices.....	9

List of Figures
(located at end of report)

- Figure 1 Site location plan
Figure 2 Plan showing the location of the cable trench

List of Plates
(located at end of report)

- Plate 1 General view of the site from the south-east
Plate 2 The most westerly part of the trench viewed from the west
Plate 3 Contexts (1001)-(1003) in the eastern part of the trench
Plate 4 The central part of the trench viewed from the west
Plate 5 Contexts (1001)-(1003) in the central part of the trench
Plate 6 The bulk of the trench viewed from the south-east
Plate 7 Contexts (1001)-(1003) in the southern part of the trench

D. P. Rawson, December 2014

Summary

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA), during the excavation of a trench for an electricity cable on land south of Norton Mill Lane, Norton, Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

No archaeological features were observed and no finds were collected during the programme of works.

1. Introduction

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 trench for an electricity cable on land south of Norton Mill Lane, Norton, Doncaster, South Yorkshire (Figure 1, Plate 1).

Site Code: WB2014.0232
National Grid Reference: SE 5425 1579

The site is located 300m north of Norton on the south side of Norton Mill Lane. It is bounded to the south, east and west by agricultural land and to the north by Norton Mill Lane and a Scheduled Monument (Monument no. 29949).

2. Planning Background

The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from HFA at the request of Northern Powergrid, in accordance with the procedures set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by HFA, with reference to the South Yorkshire Archaeological Service's (SYAS) Model Brief for Archaeological Monitoring (Watching Brief), and the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists, 2008 Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.

3. Archaeological Background

The following information is taken from a letter from English Heritage to Mr Mark Ramsey of Doncaster MBC, dated 5th August 2014, a report on Priory Mill (Norton Mill) prepared by Roy Gregory of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (2012) and the English Heritage List Entry (List entry no. 1016945; HER ref. 00294/01).

The site of the cable trench lies to the south of Norton Mill Lane to the south of the Scheduled Monument of Norton Priory (monument no. 29949). The monument includes the earthworks and buried remains of the medieval manorial complex of Norton. It is situated on the south bank of the River Went, north of the nucleated medieval settlement of Norton.

Norton was first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 where it is recorded that it was owned by Ilbert de Laci. It is documented that the whole manor was one league in length (approximately 4.8km), 11 furlongs in breadth and was worth a total of 70 shillings. In total, there was enough land for eight ploughs, with two of them under the direct control of the lord of the manor. There was also a mill with an annual value of five shillings.

In the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535 a chantry chapel is recorded at Norton for the families of the Foliots and Hastings. The endowment included a house, 80 acres of arable land and closes called Bustard, Prioryard and Housegarth, which had an annual value of five pounds. The chapel is believed to have been situated at the top of Priory Road or Hall Lane in the area known as Priory Garth. This part of the parish is now known as Norton Priory.

A number of title deeds dating to the 17th century document the sale and lease of lands within the manor of Norton. A document dating to 1711 which details the marriage settlement between William Ramsden (the lord of the manor) and Mary Robinson provides a lot of information about the Manor House, known as Norton Hall, and associated holdings. Included in the estate were barns, stables, kilns, a dovecote, orchards, gardens, courtyards and two water corn mills. On the death of Mary Ramsden in 1743 the land passed to the Master and Fellows of St Catharine's College, Cambridge who, in 1756 obtained a private Act of Parliament empowering it to pull down Norton Hall, at that time described as a ruinous edifice with 35 rooms, and to use the materials to build a farmhouse. Two farms and a bungalow now occupy the site of the hall and the chapel. The walled gardens which were associated with the later phases of the hall are still standing between the two farms.

The monument survives as a series of earthworks and buried remains which extend from east to west along the south bank of the River Went. The medieval manor house is understood to lie beneath the hall, which was described in the 18th century, and despite later disturbance medieval remains are likely to survive beneath the present farm buildings. Immediately east of Norton Priory Farm are the earthwork remains of a moat. A sub-rectangular platform measuring approximately 60m by 50m is completely enclosed by a 'U' shaped ditch. The south and west arms of the moat are visible as slight depressions but those on the north and east sides are very distinct, surviving up to a depth of 2m. The north east corner of the moat opens out into a mill stream. This would have allowed the stream to feed the moat and for the moat to act as an overflow channel in times of heavy rainfall. Farm buildings overlie the south west corner of the moat.

Approximately 150m north west of the moated site are a series of three sub-rectangular fishponds. These run in a line from east to west approximately 5m south of the mill stream. The largest, at the eastern end, measures approximately 60m by 20m and survives to a depth of 2m. The central pond measures about 40m by 20m and is separated from both the western and eastern pond by about 10m. The third pond lies on a south east to north west axis and is approximately 24m long.

In the field to the north of the fishponds but south of the river is another series of clearly defined earthworks. Running along the edge of both the river and the mill stream are low banks which survive to a height of approximately 0.5m. These were probably constructed as water management features to reduce the risk of flooding in this area. Centred at SE 54471600 is a rectangular feature which is defined by low banks and which measures 17m north to south by 12m east to west. This is interpreted as the site of a medieval building with the banks representing the buried remains of walls. Approximately 9m to the west of the building platform are three sides of a second sub-rectangular feature which is defined by a 2m wide shallow ditch. The earthworks in this field are difficult to define on the ground as a result of subsidence

caused by mineral extraction. Although this has caused some distortion of the earthworks the archaeological significance of the remains is clear. In the field centred at SE 54281590 are a series of earthworks which survive to a height of approximately 1m. These are a complex series of banks and ditches which form a roughly rectangular shaped area. The banks indicate the buried remains of walls but again, subsidence has made it difficult to define the precise layout of the archaeological deposits. Approximately 50m further west in this field are the slight earthwork and buried remains of a dovecote. The first edition Ordnance Survey map, which dates to 1854, clearly shows the site of the dovecote, which was still standing at this time.

In the field to the north of that containing the dovecote and to the north of the mill stream, are a series of extensive earthworks. These represent significant archaeological remains, some of which appear to relate to water management features, but others may represent buried structural remains.

To the west of the dovecote is the site of Priory Mill which, as it stands, is an early 19th century water powered corn mill. It is a Grade II Listed Building (NHLE no. 1151465; HER ref. 03475/01). Although many of the above ground features relate to the latest phase of construction the mill lies on the site of an earlier mill, which possibly correlates to a reference in the Domesday Book. Very distinct earthworks in the field to the north of Priory Mill indicate different phases of water management but the course of the mill race, the mill pond and the mill stream has been maintained. The physical relationship between the medieval fishponds, the moat, the mill and the mill stream indicates their original contemporaneity and interdependence.

To the west of the mill building are the earthwork remains of the mill race and the standing remains of the mill race wall and sluice gate. The mill race has been partly infilled but is still visible as a slight depression. The mill race fed water from the river to the mill over a distance of approximately 400m. The mill race originally extended approximately 200m beyond the area of protection to the west but this area has been infilled and ploughed. Any archaeological deposits will therefore have been damaged or destroyed and so the area has not been included in the scheduling. The level of water reaching the mill was controlled by a sluice gate and an overflow channel which directs water from the north east corner of the mill race to the river. The grooved stone posts which would have held the sluice gate are still in place although these possibly relate to a later phase of use. Steep earthworks and walling at the eastern end of the mill race would have acted as a dam wall through which the water supply to the mill wheel was controlled with the use of another sluice gate. The dam wall is particularly overgrown with vegetation and its full extent difficult to determine because of the later construction of farm buildings. Once the water had passed through the wheel it would be directed back to the river via the tail race which is marked on the Ordnance Survey map as the Mill Stream. It is along this course, back to the river, that the water was reused as part of the water management of the fishponds and the moat. At the eastern end of the area of protection to the east of the moated site is another series of earthworks. The earthworks include a 10m wide ditch which survives to a depth of approximately 1m. The ditch runs from the eastern edge of the area of protection in a westerly direction and meets the tail race. The ditch is interpreted as a sunken track and as such would have led to a crossing point across the tail race and possibly also the river. To the south of the track and approximately 88m from its east end are a series of low banks which define a rectangular feature

measuring approximately 30m by 15m and interpreted as the site of a medieval building, with the low banks representing the buried remains of walls. The building and its associated features front onto the sunken track which would have provided access to it. Between the site of the building and the moat are the remains of the medieval open field system. The surviving remains are visible as parts of two medieval furlongs (groups of lands or cultivation strips) marked by headlands. The cultivation strips collectively form ridge and furrow which is curved in the shape of an elongated reverse 'S'. The headlands survive to a height of 0.5m but the ridge and furrow is more degraded and slight in appearance.

In addition, the surrounding area contains extensive Iron Age and Romano-British remains.

With regard to the cable trench field itself, an 1818 Inclosure Map shows it as owned by one Thomas Gee and another person called Richardson. A township map of 1827 shows it as now in the ownership of a Mrs Egremont. The Ordnance Survey map evidence shows that the small, now redundant quarry close to the north-west corner of the field was laid out at some time between 1854 and the latter part of the century.

4. Methodology

The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of the excavation of the cable trench. A single visit was made to the site on the 17th November 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.

5. Results

The cable trench was a little over 100m long, generally 0.40m wide and 0.90m deep (Figure 2, Plates 2-7). No archaeological features were observed during its excavation.

In the westernmost part of the trench (Plate 2) the trench base contained chalk brash in a dark red brown silt clay matrix (1003) (Plate 3). At this stage the brash was of unknown thickness. Above this there was a 0.70m thick layer of dark red brown sandy silt clay that contained very occasional inclusions of chalk fragments in its lower part (1002). This layer also grew progressively sandier towards the very western end of the trench. The (1002) was in turn topped by a 0.20m thick layer of dark grey brown topsoil (1001).

Towards the central portion of the trench (Plate 4) the base of the trench contained a layer at least 0.40m thick of (1003), with an 0.20m thick layer of (1002) and a 0.30m thick layer of (1001) above (Plate 5).

Finally, in the southernmost part of the trench (Plate 6) the base contained a layer at least 0.70m thick of (1003), the blocks of chalk here being significant larger than those encountered to the north and west (Plates 6 and 7). Above the (1003) the layer (1002) was absent or negligible, there being a 0.20m thick layer of (1001).

With the completion of the trench the programme of observation, investigation and recording was concluded.

6. Discussion

The following is solely the opinion of Humber Field Archaeology, and may not reflect that of the South Yorkshire Archaeological Service (SYAS), archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

The westernmost part of the trench was only around 150m from the River Went and so the greater presence of sand in the (1002) at this end of the trench probably indicated a fluvial origin for much of this material. The presence of large blocks of chalk in the (1003) at the southern end of the trench indicated what would have spurred the excavation of the quarry in the second half of the 19th century.

7 Acknowledgements

Thanks are accorded to the owner of the field, Mr Michael White, for his assistance during the course of this project.

The report was edited by David Atkinson with administrative support being provided by Georgina Richardson.

8. References

Atkinson, D. 2014. Installation of Low Voltage Underground Electricity Cable: Land South of Norton Mill Lane, Norton, nr Doncaster: Written scheme of investigation for archaeological observation, investigation and recording

English Heritage. 5th August 2014. Letter to Mr Mark Ramsey of Doncaster MBC regarding: Notifications under Circular 01/2001, Circular 08/2009 & T&CP (Development Management Procedure) Order 2010. Priory Farm, Norton Mill Lane, Norton, Doncaster Application No 14/01500/FUL

Gregory, R. 2012. *Norton Watermill* (unpublished report on Priory Mill for the owner, Mr M. White)

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

SYAS. 2014. Model Brief for Archaeological Monitoring (Watching Brief)

9. Appendices

Appendix 1

Context list

- (1001) Dark grey brown topsoil, 0.20m to 0.30m thick
- (1002) Dark red brown sandy silt clay that contained very occasional inclusions of chalk fragments in its lower part, 0.70m thick
- (1003) Chalk brash in a dark red brown silt clay matrix, at least 0.70m thick

Appendix 2 Archive

Project Details: A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording on land south of Norton Mill Lane, Norton, Doncaster, South Yorkshire

Site Code: WB2014.032

National Grid Reference: SE 5425 1579

Author: D. P. Rawson **Date of fieldwork** 17.11.14

Report Number. Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number: 1427
December 2014

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 trench for an electricity cable on land south of Norton Mill Lane, Norton, Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

No archaeological features were observed and no finds were collected during the programme of works.

Index to Archive

1 Background:

- 1.1 Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)
- 1.2 SYAS Model Brief
- 1.3 Correspondence (e-mails)

2 Site Data:

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

3 The Photographic Record:

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

4. Final Report:

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording on land south of Norton Mill Lane, Norton, Doncaster, Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 1427, December 2014

Appendix 3 Oasis Form

18/12/2014

OASIS FORM - Print view

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: humberfi2-198413

Project details

Project name	Norton Mill Lane, Norton
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA), during the excavation of a trench for an electricity cable on land south of Norton Mill Lane, Norton, Doncaster, South Yorkshire. No archaeological features were observed and no finds were collected during the programme of works.
Project dates	Start: 17-11-2014 End: 17-11-2014
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WB2014.032 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Electricity Act 1989 Section 36

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SOUTH YORKSHIRE DONCASTER NORTON Land south of Norton Mill Lane, Norton
Postcode	DN6 9BX
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	SE 5425 1579 53.6355813168 -1.17944329851 53 38 08 N 001 10 46 W Point

Project creators

<http://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm>

1/3

18/12/2014

OASIS FORM - Print view

Name of Organisation	Humber Field Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Humber Field Archaeology
Project director/manager	Humber Field Archaeology
Project supervisor	D. Rawson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Electricity Authority/Company

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Humber Field Archaeology
Digital Archive ID	WB2014.032
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Humber Field Archaeology
Paper Archive ID	WB2014.032
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Unspecified Archive","Correspondence","Map","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Photograph","Plan","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording on land south of Norton Mill Lane, Norton, Doncaster
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Rawson, D.
Other bibliographic details	Watching Brief Report Number 1427
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Humber Field Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Hull
Description	A4
Entered by	David Atkinson (dave.atkinson@hullcc.gov.uk)

<http://oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm>

2/3

18/12/2014

OASIS FORM - Print view

Entered on

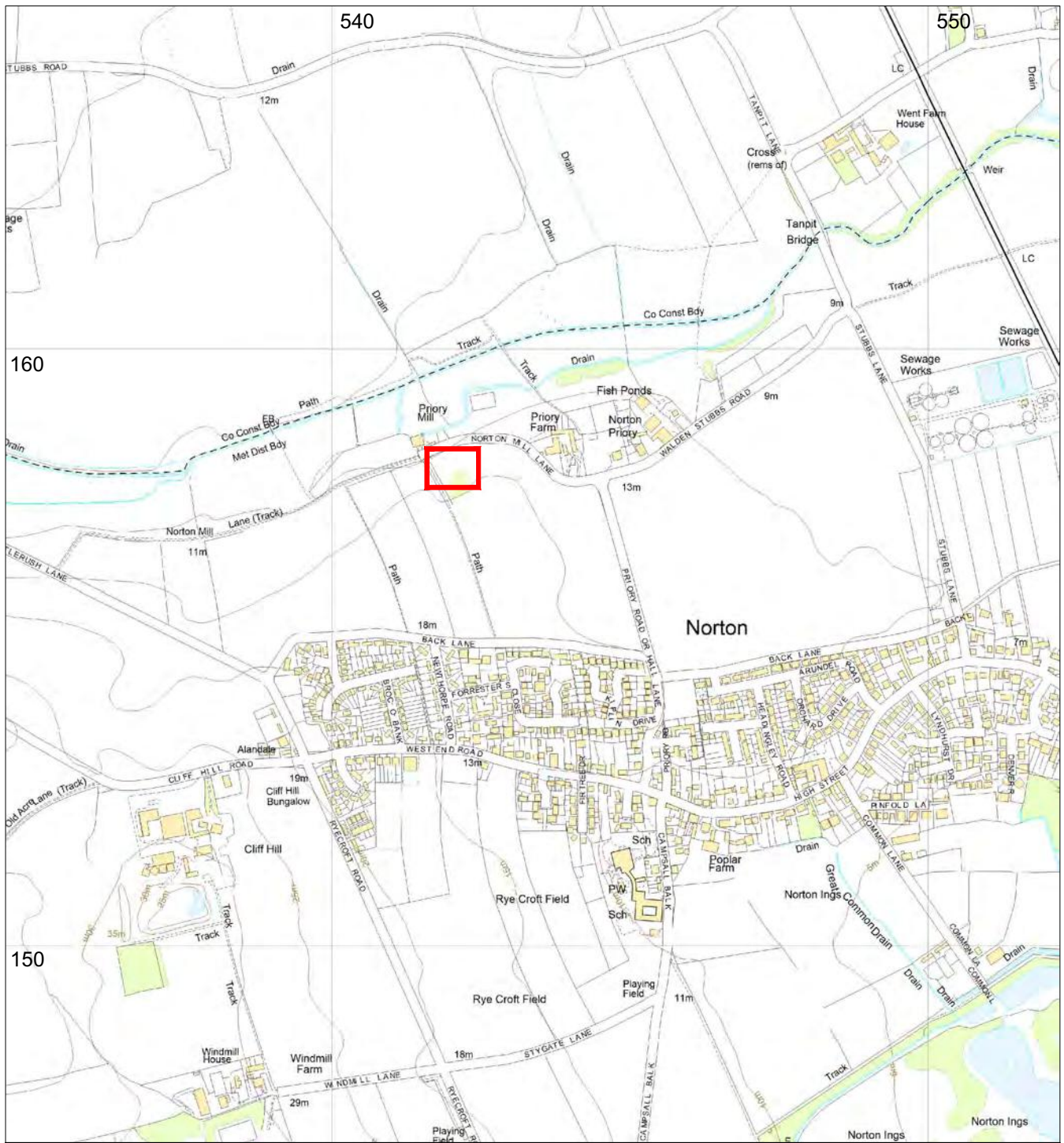
18 December 2014

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), [email](#) Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page



Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Reference number 100034493

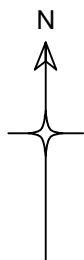


Figure 1 Site location plan

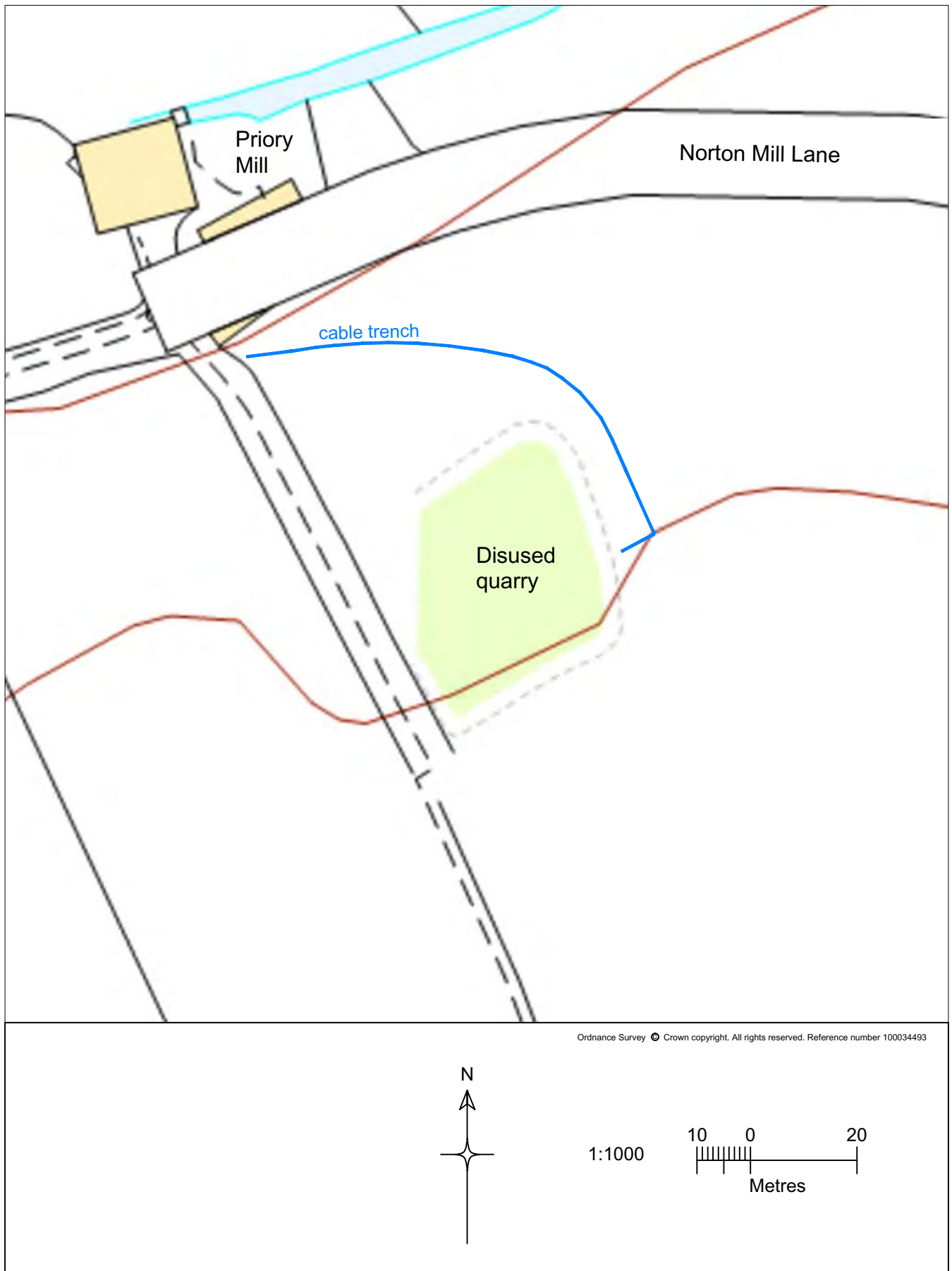


Figure 2 Plan showing the location of the cable trench



Plate 1 General view of the site from the south-east



Plate 2 The most westerly part of the trench viewed from the west



Plate 3 Contexts (1001)-(1003) in the eastern part of the trench



Plate 4 The central part of the trench viewed from the west



Plate 5 Contexts (1001)-(1003) in the central part of the trench



Plate 6 The bulk of the trench viewed from the south-east



Plate 7 Contexts (1001)-(1003) in the southern part of the trench

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors

The Old School, Northumberland Avenue,
KINGSTON UPON HULL, HU2 0LN

Telephone (01482) 310600 Fax (01482) 310601

Email hfa@hullcc.gov.uk

WEB. www.humberfieldarchaeology.co.uk



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