

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



Archaeological Observation
Investigation and Recording
on the
Scunthorpe-High Santon
Overhead Line Refurbishment Scheme
North Lincolnshire

Site Code: WB2013.044

National Grid Reference: SE 9600 1370 north-east

SE 9421 1328 north-west

SE 9492 1262 south-west

SE 9555 1262 south-east

Northern Powergrid Reference: YP15274

Museum Reference: APAP

for

Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) plc

Watching Brief Report Number: 1447

August 2015

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D. P. Rawson, August 2015

Summary

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the refurbishment of overhead lines and cable trenches excavation in the High Santon area, North Lincolnshire.

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), on behalf of Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) plc during groundwork associated with the refurbishment of overhead lines and cable trench excavation in the High Santon area, North Lincolnshire (Figure 1).

Site Code:	WB2013.044
National Grid References:	SE 9600 1370 north-east SE 9421 1328 north-west SE 9492 1262 south-west SE 9555 1262 south-east
Northern Powergrid Reference:	YP15374
Museum Reference:	APAP

2. Planning Background

Northern Powergrid consulted with North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record Office (NLHER) over their proposal to refurbish the overhead lines in this area and NLHER recommended that a programme of archaeological observation, assessment and recording be maintained during the work to enable the proper recording of any archaeological features, deposits or artefacts that may be disturbed.

HFA was appointed by Northern Powergrid to undertake this work in accordance with NLHER's standard brief for archaeological observation assessment and recording and a written scheme of investigation produced by HFA, date: 4th November 2015.

3. Archaeological Background

The overhead lines refurbishment runs through a major archaeological landscape containing heritage assets dating from the prehistoric, Roman and later periods.

Prehistoric features include a Bronze Age barrow to the west of Leethwaite (NLHER85) and ring ditch to the north of Mill Farm (NLHER22643) and the site of three possible Bronze Age to the east of Sand House (NLHER84), though these may in fact have been earthworks relating to Thornholme Augustinian Priory, found in c.1150, which lies further to the southeast.

The works cross and run alongside Ermine Street (NLHER100), a major Roman Road running from Lincoln to the Humber at Winteringham. Excavations in the 1930's showed the road to have been constructed with up to three courses of limestone blocks with the stones at the sides laid on edge to form a 'kerb' (Walshaw & Baker 1937). Numerous settlements are known to lie on either side of this road and enclosures and trackways have been identified as cropmarks, on aerial photographs in the fields in the surrounding area (NLHER22642, 20834) around Mill Farm and (NLHER20835,

22609 and 22610) in the area around Carrside Farm. The site of a possible Roman pottery kiln (NLHER96) lies less than 1km to the west of Ermine Street

Heritage assets relating to the medieval Thornholme Priory (NLHER78) have been recorded to the east of Sand House. These consist of earthworks and cropmarks (NLHER82) of a track to the Priory and a stone corbel of a bishop's head (NLHER17296).

Post-medieval and modern heritage assets in the area consist of a mine entrance (NLHER9456), cropmarks (NLHER20836) possible connected with the mine or the mill, cropmarks of field boundaries (NLHER20843), Appleby Mill (NLHER18495), Appleby Signal box (NLHER9195)

4. Methodology

The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of pole replacement along various alignments and the excavation of a cable trench. Eight site visits were undertaken between the 27th May and the 1st August 2015.

With regard to the cable trench and where possible pole holes and any associated ground works, any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits. Where appropriate the route of the line was walked to collect any archaeological finds brought to the surface by recent disturbance of the soil. In the event of field-walking not being possible, the examining of spoil brought to the surface by auguring assumed greater importance.

5. Results

Field 1

This was in pasture so field-walking was not possible (Figure 1, Plate 1).

The spoil from the auguring of replacement poles was, however, inspected. The pole holes were generally around 2m deep and with the exception of one pole hole (discussed below) yielded only a yellow to mid-brown sand (1002) (Plate 2), above which there was a dark brown sandy topsoil (1001). Unless otherwise stated this was the nature of the spoil observed for other holes in other fields within the project area. The easternmost pole hole yielded a good deal of limestone fragments within a sandy yellow matrix – largely between a depth of 1m and 2m (1003) (Figure 1, Plate 3).

Field 2

This was in pasture so field-walking was not possible (Figure 1, Plate 4).

At one of the pole holes the auguring damaged a water pipe and a larger area had to be excavated by a back actor to facilitate the repair of the pipe (*ibid*, Plate 5). The excavated area measured around 3m from east to west and 2m from north to south

(6m²) and was 1m deep. No archaeological features were observed and the base of the excavation contained a layer of yellow sand (1002) that was almost entirely free of inclusions and which was at least 0.40m thick. Above it the (1001) was 0.60m thick.

Field 3

This was in pasture so field-walking was not possible (Figure 1, Plate 6).

A cable trench was excavated running along the north and west sides of Mill Farm for a distance of around 150m (*ibid*). The trench was 0.40m wide and was generally 1.20m deep. No archaeological features were observed in the trench, throughout whose base there was a layer of (1002) at least 0.70m thick and here comprising sand that was more usually of an orange-brown colour rather than yellow (Plate 7).

Field 4

A cable trench was excavated for a distance of around 200m along the south side of the field but had unfortunately been backfilled prior to attendance (Figure 1, Plate 8). The line of the trench was walked for finds. The trench also extended for a distance of around 260m along the east side of the field but again had been almost entirely backfilled prior to attendance. Two small sections measuring 2m x 1m had been left open though and no archaeological features were visible. The stratigraphy consisted of a layer at least 0.70m thick of (1002) in the base of the excavations, the sand here being predominantly of a mid-brown to orange-brown colour, with a 0.30m thick layer of (1001) above. In the northern part of the field poles were also replaced (Plate 9) and the trench/pole alignment was walked though no finds were collected.

Field 5

This was covered in turf so field-walking was not possible (Figure 1, Plate 10).

Field 6

The pole alignment was within the grassed verge of the lane so field-walking was not possible (*ibid*, Plate 11).

Field 7

Though the field was in crop, it was low and it was possible to at least in part walk it (*ibid*, Plate 12). No finds were collected.

Field 8

This was covered in turf whilst the pole alignment was within a grassed and wooded fringe at its southern edge so field-walking was not possible (*ibid*, Plate 13).

6. Discussion

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).

It was unfortunate that the time of year that the works were carried out very largely precluded field-walking the line rebuilding works – an activity that may have yielded archaeological finds.

7. Acknowledgements

Thanks are accorded to Northern Powergrid for help and co-operation during the course of this project.

The work was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by HFA. The report was edited by David Atkinson and administrative support was provided by Georgina Richardson.

8. References

Atkinson, D. 2013. Scunthorpe-High Santon Overhead Line Refurbishment North Lincolnshire: Written scheme of investigation for archaeological observation investigation and recording

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.

North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record Office (NLHER). 2015. Brief For Archaeological Observation, Assessment and Recording

9. Appendices

Appendix 1

Context list

- (1001) Dark brown sandy topsoil up to 0.60m thick
- (1002) Yellow, mid-brown or orange-brown sand largely free of inclusions, at least 0.70m thick
- (1003) Broken limestone in a yellow sand matrix of unknown thickness

Appendix 2 Archive

Project Details: Scunthorpe-High Santon Overhead Line Refurbishment, North Lincolnshire

Site Code: WB2013.044

National Grid Reference: SE 9600 1370 north-east; SE 9421 1328 north-west
SE 9492 1262 south-west; SE 9555 1262 south-east

Northern Powergrid Reference: YP15374

Accession Number or Museum Reference: APAP

Author: D. P. Rawson **Date of fieldwork:** 27.05.15 – 01.08.15

Report Number. Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number: 1447
August 2015

Quantity

1 x A4 ring binder contains 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 refurbishment of overhead lines and cable trench excavation in the High Santon area, North Lincolnshire.

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

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- 2.1 Staff site visit log

3 The Photographic Record:

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- 3.2 Contact Sheets
- 3.3 Reference Prints

4. Final Report:

Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording on the Scunthorpe-High Santon Overhead Line Refurbishment, North Lincolnshire. Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 1447, August 2015

Appendix 3
Oasis form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: humberfi2-222970

Project details

Project name	Scunthorpe - High Santon OHL
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork associated with the refurbishment of overhead lines and cable trenches excavation in the High Santon area, North Lincolnshire. No archaeological features were observed and no finds were collected during the programme of works.
Project dates	Start: 27-05-2015 End: 01-08-2015
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WB2013.044 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	APAP - Museum accession ID
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	NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE APPLEBY Schunthorpe - High Santon
Postcode	DN15 0BZ
Study area	1 Kilometres
Site coordinates	SE 9600 1370 53.610802237158 -0.54877372223 53 36 38 N 000 32 55 W Polygon

Site coordinates SE 9421 1328 53.607353295832 -0.57595079215 53 36 26 N 000 34 33 W
Polygon

Site coordinates SE 9492 1262 53.601293904383 -0.565423370083 53 36 04 N 000 33 55 W
Polygon

Site coordinates SE 9555 1262 53.601179263896 -0.55590515371 53 36 04 N 000 33 21 W
Polygon

Height OD /
Depth Min: 11m Max: 18m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Humber Field Archaeology

Project brief originator Unitary Authority Archaeologist

Project design originator Humber Field Archaeology

Project director/manager David Atkinson

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 WB2013.044

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "Database","Images vector","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient North Lincolnshire Museum Service

Paper Archive ID APAP

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Map","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Unpublished Text","Unspecified Archive"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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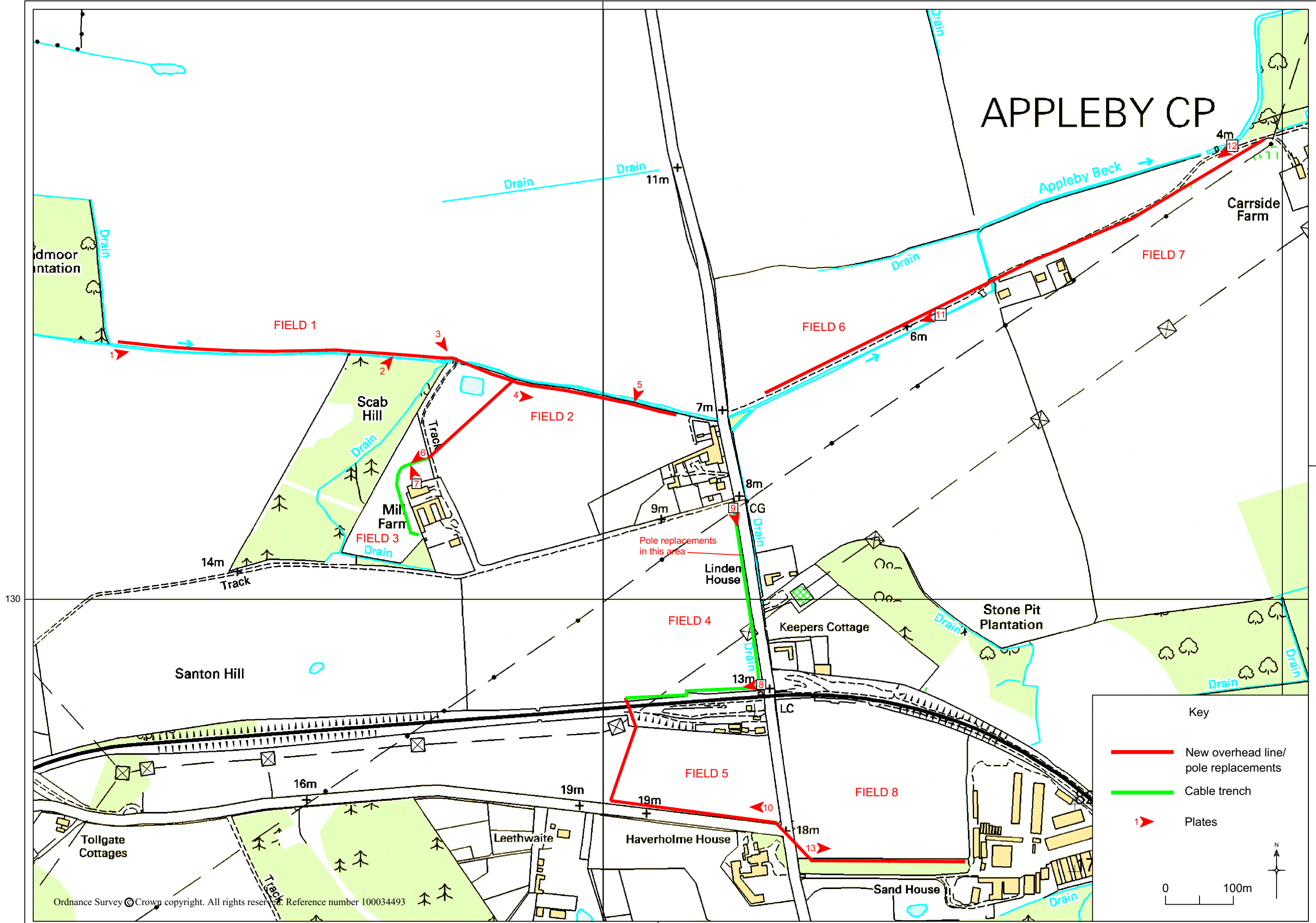
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Figure 1 Plan of overhead line works and cable trenches



Plate 1 Field 1 viewed from the west



Plate 2 Typical spoil from pole hole (field 1) showing mix of topsoil (1001) and sand (1002)



Plate 3 Spoil from pole hole at south-east corner of field 1 showing mix of broken limestone (1003) and sand (1002)



Plate 4 Field 2 viewed from the west



Plate 5 3m x 2m trench excavated at one of the field 2 pole holes to facilitate repair to damaged water pipe. Contexts 1001 and 1002 visible



Plate 6 Field 3 cable trench viewed from the north-east



Plate 7 Contexts (1001) and (1002) in the field 3 cable trench



Plate 8 Back filled cable trench running along the south side of field 4, viewed from the east



Plate 9 Pole replacement in progress along the eastern edge of field 4, viewed from the north



Plate 10 Field 5 viewed from the east



Plate 11 Field 6 viewed from the north-east



Plate 12 Field 7 viewed from the north-east



Plate 13 Field 8 viewed from the west

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

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