

# Humber Field Archaeology

*Archaeological Consultants and Contractors*



## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING**

**11 KV UNDERGROUNDING  
THIXENDALE  
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2019**

**Humber Field Archaeology Report no. 2123**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING  
11KV UNDERGROUNDING  
THIXENDALE  
NORTH YORKSHIRE  
November-December 2019**

*Work carried out for Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc*

Site Code: WB2019.011  
National Grid Reference: SE 8419 6103 – SE 8409 6109

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**January 2020**

**Humber Field Archaeology Report no. 2123**

<b>REPORT DETAILS</b>	
<i>Report title:</i>	Archaeological Observation, Investigation and Recording, 11KV Undergrounding, Thixendale, North Yorkshire
<i>Document Type:</i>	Watching brief report
<i>Report Number</i>	2123
<i>Client Name:</i>	Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc
<i>Site Code:</i>	WB2019.018
<i>National Grid Reference:</i>	SE 8419 6103 – SE 8409 6109
<i>Version:</i>	1
<i>Date:</i>	10.01.20
<i>Author(s):</i>	D. P. Rawson
<i>Position(s):</i>	Historic Building and Landscape Survey Officer
<i>Checked by:</i>	D. Atkinson
<i>Position:</i>	Project Manager
<i>Approved by:</i>	D. Atkinson
<i>Position:</i>	Project Manager

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## **1 SUMMARY**

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) in November and December 2019 at Thixendale, North Yorkshire during the excavation of a trench for an 11KV electricity cable.

No archaeological features were observed along the route of the trench save in a field containing earthworks immediately to the south of the village, where a small backfilled ditch was recorded to the east of a low earth bank. This bank and its associated ditch were most probably part of a medieval property boundary.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Circumstances of the fieldwork**

The report presents the results of a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording undertaken between the 4th November and the 9th December 2019 during the excavation of trenches to accommodate 11KV cables at Thixendale, North Yorkshire (Figure 1).

As the work clearly involved potential damage to any underlying archaeological resource, Northern Powergrid (Yorkshire) Plc consulted the North Yorkshire County Council Historic Environment Record (NYCCHER) over their proposal to refurbish the lines in this area. The NYCCHER recommended that a programme of archaeological monitoring be maintained during the work to enable the proper recording of any archaeological features, deposits or artefacts that might be disturbed during all works associated with the under-grounding of cables.

### **2.2 Archaeological background**

Thixendale is located in a small dry valley on the Yorkshire Wolds, the route of the cable trench lying partially within an area characterised as enclosed land and pasture (HNY21798) in the Historic Landscape Character: North Yorkshire, York and the Lower Tees Valley (Toase 2010).

The cable trench runs through an area containing the remains of the early medieval settlement with earthworks representing plot boundaries (MNY6214) on the south side of the current village.

The Church, St Mary's, a Grade II\* listed building (MNY6216, NHLE1316014) was built in 1868-70 with the vestry added in 1875. There was also the possibility of human remains, either purposefully buried outside the churchyard or as a result of contraction of its boundary.

In the wider area there is ample evidence for Bronze Age through to Roman settlement and burial activity. Key features of the area include linear dykes, round and square barrows and ladder settlements, though none are known in the immediate vicinity of the works.

### **2.3 Methodology**

The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from HFA, in accordance with the specification for a written scheme of investigation for archaeological observation, investigation and recording produced by HFA, dated 12th September 2019.

The work was also carried out with reference to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 (a) Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation and (b) Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation.

The scheme of works comprised the monitoring of the excavation of the cable trenches. Eighteen visits were made to the site between the 4th November and the 9th December 2019.

Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits. The excavated dimensions of the 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.

## **2.4 Results**

Taken together, the cable trenches had a length of a little over 1km (Figure 2), being generally around 1m deep and 0.40m wide. Save for where the trenches were excavated in the road and generally not monitored, the excavation were confined to three fields (*ibid*).

### **Field A**

The trench in field A ran for around 300m from the transmitter tower, then along the northern edge of the field before crossing the road (*ibid*, Plates 1, 3 and 5). No archaeological features were observed within the trench. The part of the trench to the west of the transmitter tower was around 0.90m deep, there being in the base of the trench a layer at least 0.40m thick of a chalk brash within a yellow-brown clayey silt matrix (1003) (Plate 2). Above this there was a 0.30m thick layer of dark red-brown sandy silt clay containing occasional chalk fragments (1002), and a 0.20m thick layer of very dark grey-brown topsoil (1001).

The part of the trench running along the northern edge of field A was around 1m deep, there being a layer at least 0.50m thick of (1003) in its base (Plate 4). Above this there was a 0.20m thick layer of (1002) and a 0.30m thick layer of (1001).

### **Field B**

The trench in field B ran for a little over 200m (*ibid*, Plate 6). No archaeological features were observed within the trench. The trench was generally 1m deep, there being a layer of (1003) at least 0.70m thick in the base of the trench (Plate 7). The layer (1002) clearly observed in field A was virtually absent here, though the upper part of the clayey silt matrix of the 1002 was nearer to red-brown in colour. The 1003 was topped by a 0.30m thick layer of (1001).

### **The trench within the road**

This was outside the remit of the recording programme though it is noted here that it was excavated in the northern edge of the road for around 150m, before crossing over and continuing in the southern edge for another 170m (*ibid*, Plates 8, and 15). It is worthy of note that chalk bedrock predominated in the final 20m or so of the road trench prior to its carrying on in field C (Plate 16).

### **Field C**

The trench in field C ran for around 150m (Figure 3, Plates 9, 11, 12 and 14). The trench was generally 1m deep, there being a layer of (1003) at least 0.60m thick in the base of the trench (Plate 10). Above this there was a 0.20m thick layer of (1002) and a 0.20m thick layer of (1001).

The central part of the trench cut through a low earth bank around 2m wide and up to 0.50m high that ran on a roughly north-east to south-west orientation from the north-east boundary

of the field (Figure 3, Plate 12). Immediately to the east of where the trench cut the bank a ditch cut could be seen in the 1003. The cut [1004] was up to 0.60m wide, 0.55m high and of unknown length, with concave sides merging imperceptibly into a concave base (Plate 13). The fill of 1004 consisted of a very dark grey-brown clayey silt containing occasional chalk fragments (1005).

### **3 DISCUSSION**

The following is solely the opinion of HFA, and may not reflect that of the North Yorkshire County Council Historic Environment Record (NYCCHER), archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.

The ditch 1004 was very likely of medieval date, forming part of the property division indicated by the presence of the earth bank immediately to its west.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks are accorded to O'Connor Utilities for their help and co-operation during the course of this project.

The site recording was undertaken by Stephen Kennedy and David Rawson with the report being produced by David Rawson and edited by David Atkinson. Administrative support was provided by Georgina Richardson.

### **REFERENCES**

Atkinson, D. 2019

*Thixendale, North Yorkshire: 11KV Undergrounding*  
*Written scheme of investigation for archaeological observation, investigation and recording*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a

*Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, December 2014

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014b

*Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* December 2014

Toase, S. 2010

*The North Yorkshire & Lower Tees Valley Historic Landscape Characterisation*  
North Yorkshire County Council & English Heritage



## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix 1**

#### Context list

- (1001) Very dark grey-brown topsoil, up to 0.30m thick
- (1002) Dark red-brown sandy silt clay containing occasional chalk fragments, up to 0.30m thick
- (1003) Chalk brash within a yellow-brown clayey silt matrix, at least 0.60m thick
- [1004] Ditch cut above 1003. Up to 0.60m wide, 0.55m high and of unknown length, with concave sides merging imperceptibly into a concave base
- (1005) Fill of 1004. Very dark grey-brown clayey silt containing occasional chalk fragments

## Appendix 2

### Archive

**Project Details:** A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording during 11KV undergrounding at Thixendale, North Yorkshire

**Site Code:** WB2019.018

**National Grid Reference:** SE 8419 6103 – SE 8409 6109

**Author:** D. P. Rawson

**Date of fieldwork:** 04.11.19 – 09.12.19

**Report Number:** Humber Field Archaeology Report Number 2123

#### Quantity:

There were no finds

4x A4 plastic sleeves contain the paper archive which is stored in a document wallet

The digital archive is stored on Hull City Council servers

#### Summary of work:

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology (HFA) in November and December 2019 at Thixendale, North Yorkshire during the excavation of a trench for an 11KV electricity cable.

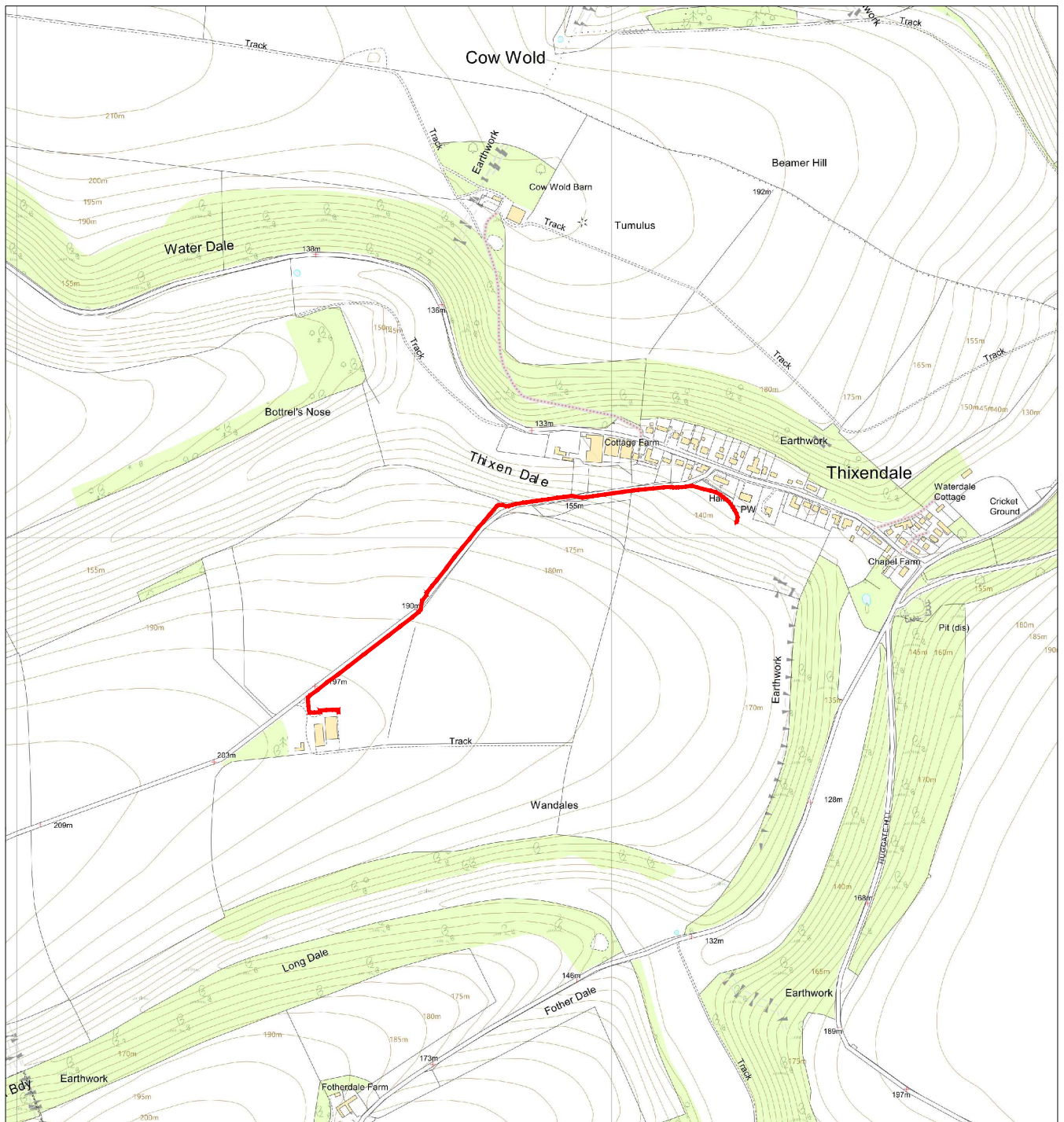
No archaeological features were observed along the route of the trench save in a field containing earthworks immediately to the south of the village, where a small backfilled ditch was recorded to the east of a low earth bank. This bank and its associated ditch were most probably part of a medieval property boundary.

1 – 6 Documentary Archive Record			
Archive component	Hard Copy	Digital Copy	Notes
1.1 Site Summary/ Abstract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
1.2 Archive Index	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
1.3 Guide to Elements of the Archaeological Archive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Project Planning			
2.1 Planning Documentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.2 Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design/ Project Specification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2.3 Risk Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.4 Correspondence (date order)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.5 Miscellaneous documentation (flow charts, bills, receipts, administration, staffing etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Initial Survey and Documentary Research			
3.1 HER Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.2 Historic Maps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.3 Documentary Research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.4 Desk-Based Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.5 Geophysical Survey Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

3.6 Aerial Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.7 Other Survey material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<b>4 Site Fieldwork Data</b>			
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4.2 Context Index and Context Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.3 Level Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.4 Plan Index and Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.5 Section Index and Section Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.6 Survey and Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>5 Photographic Record:</b>			
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5.2 Photographic Concordance Table (database printout)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5.3 Contact Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.4 Negatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.5 Colour Transparencies (slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.6 Prints	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.7 Digital Images (computer printout)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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<b>6 Post-excavation Fieldwork Data:</b>			
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6.2 AutoCAD Site Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.3 Site Structural Report Draft	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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7.2 Contents of digital archive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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7.5 Metadata for Digital Record (data about data, eg what the codes mean)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<b>8 Material Archive Record</b>			
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8.2 Recorded Finds Index and Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.3 Context Finds Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.4 Bulk Finds Sheets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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8.6 Recorded Finds Database Copy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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8.9 Bulk finds Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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8.18 Finds Digital Images (computer printout)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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8.20 Material Archive Rationalisation Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8.21 Finds Archive Contents Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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9.2 X-rays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.3 Conservation Record Sheets for Individual Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9.4 Further conservation Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<b>11-13 Dissemination</b>			
11. Publicity: Press releases, paper cuttings, recordings of interviews both on the radio and T.V.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Final Assessment Report: The complete Assessment Report. Including illustrations and plates, as sent to the client and Historic Environment Record	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Additional Reports: Interim Statements, watching brief report copy, papers and articles written for journals or other publications.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HFA Report 2123
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>14 Watching Brief Archive</b>			
14. Watching Brief Archive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Publication Archive</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Did this site proceed to publication after assessment?		



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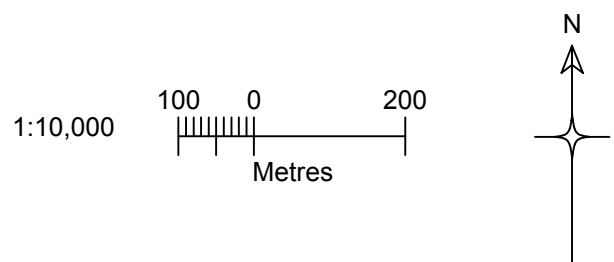


Figure 1 Site location (in red)

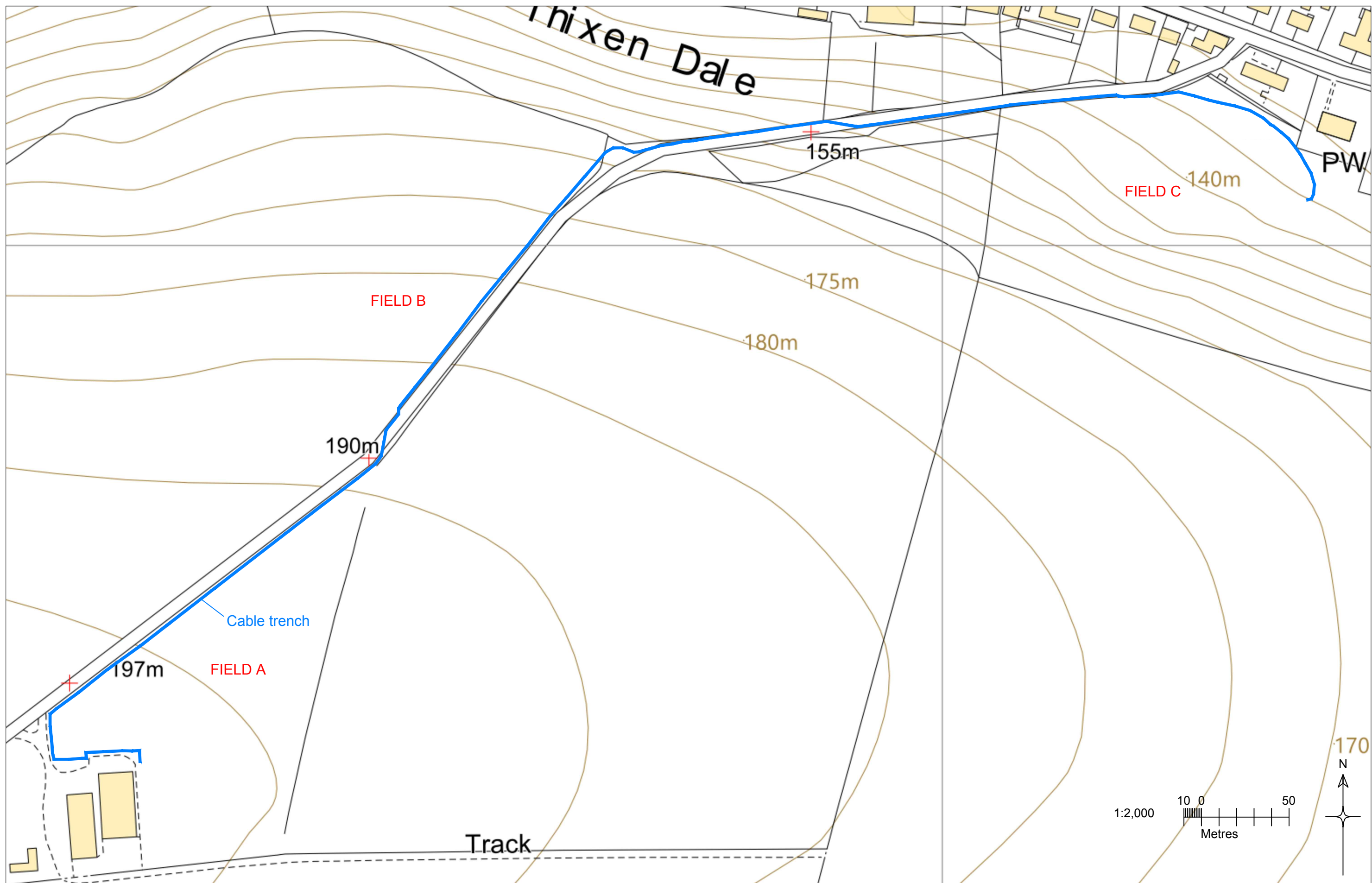


Figure 2 Cable trench route

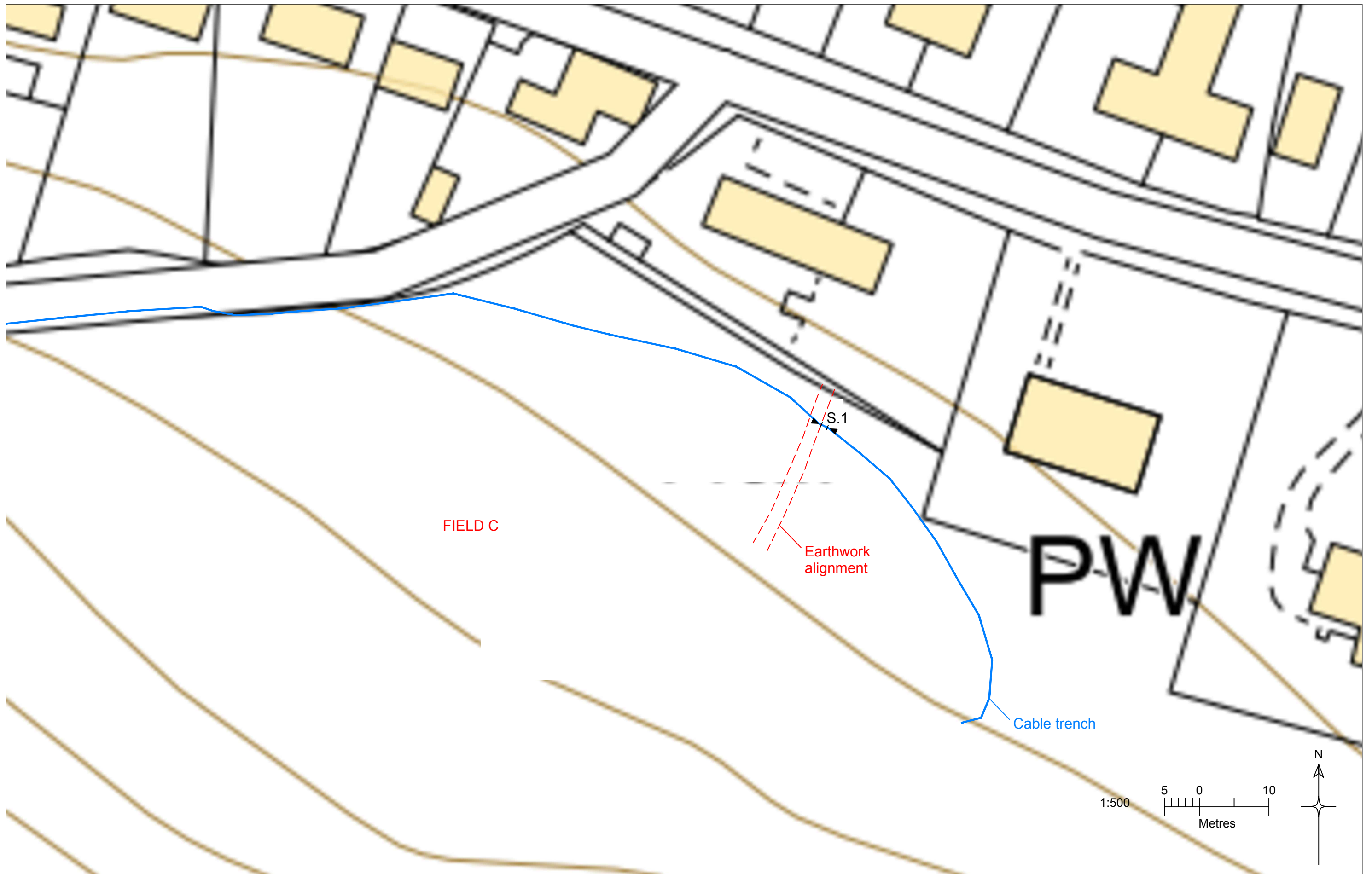


Figure 3 Detail of cable trench in field C



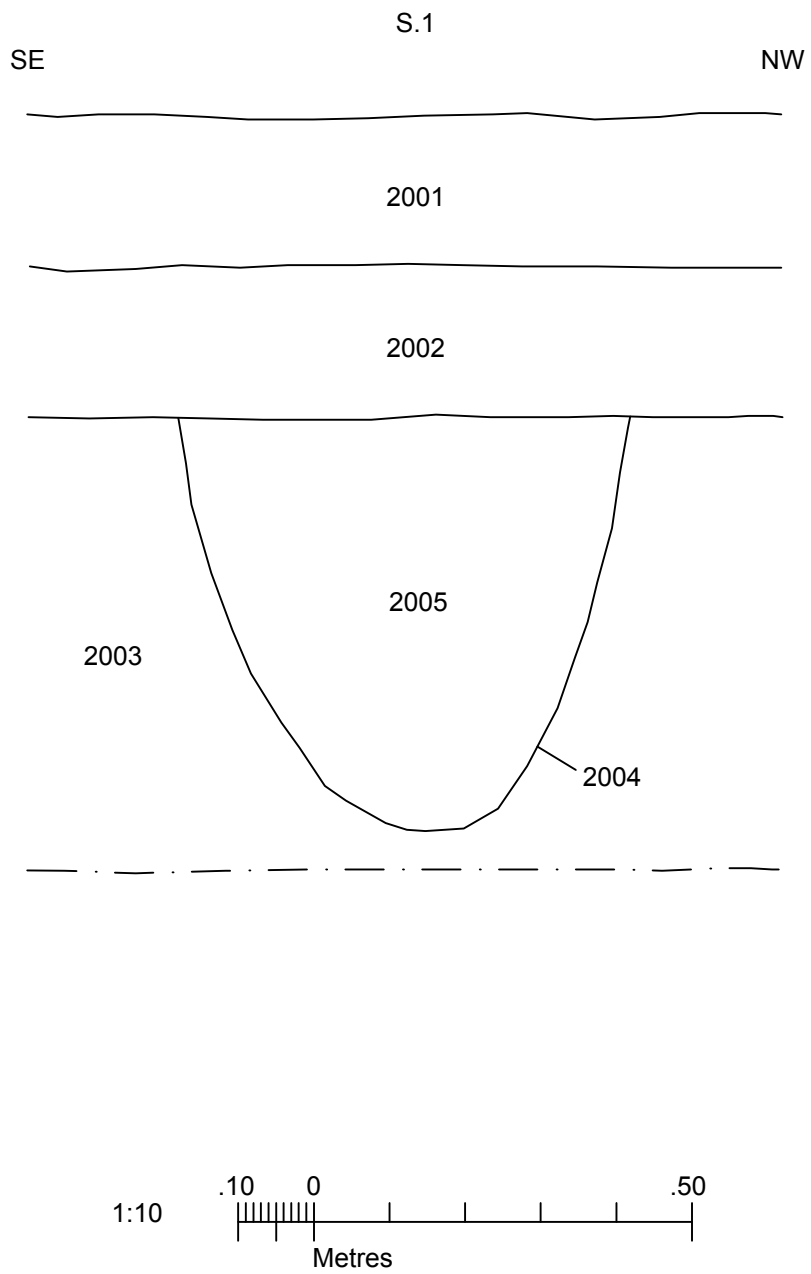


Figure 4 Recorded feature in section



Plate 1 Cable trench to the west of the transmitter tower, looking east



Plate 2 Contexts (1001)-(1003) in trench to west of transmitter tower (1m scale)



Plate 3 Trench running along the northern edge of field A, looking north-east



Plate 4 Contexts (1001)-(1003) in trench along northern edge of field A (1m scale)



Plate 5 Trench crossing road between fields A and B, looking north-east



Plate 6 Trench running along the southern edge of field B, looking north-east



Plate 7 Contexts (1001)-(1003) in trench running along southern edge of field B (1m scale)



Plate 8 Trench being excavated in the north side of the road running down into Thixendale, looking east



Plate 9 The eastern end of the trench in field C, looking south-east



Plate 10 Contexts (1001)-(1003) in the eastern end of the trench in field C (1m scale)



Plate 11 Excavation of the trench continuing to the west in field C, looking north-west



Plate 12 The trench crossing the earth bank, looking south-west. The 1m scale marks the position of the associated ditch [1004]



Plate 13 The backfilled ditch [1004] (1m scale)



Plate 14 The field C trench running along the north side of the field, looking north-east





Plate 15 Trench on the south side of the road running down into Thixendale, looking west



Plate 16 Chalk beneath road in trench immediately to the west of the junction with the trench excavated in field C



## 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

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: humberfi2-396128**

### Project details

Project name	Thixendale
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken in November and December 2019 at Thixendale, North Yorkshire during the excavation of a trench for an 11KV electricity cable. No archaeological features were observed along the route of the trench save in a field containing earthworks immediately to the south of the village, where a small backfilled ditch was recorded to the east of a low earth bank. This bank and its associated ditch were most probably part of a medieval property boundary.
Project dates	Start: 04-11-2019 End: 09-12-2019
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WB2019.011 - 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	EARTHWORK Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Electricity Act 1989 Section 36

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTH YORKSHIRE RYEDALE THIXENDALE Thixendale
Postcode	YO17 9TG
Study area	1 Kilometres
Site coordinates	SE 8419 6103 54.038177613855 -0.714293681529 54 02 17 N 000 42 51 W Point
Site coordinates	SE 8409 6109 54.038733128328 -0.715803785485 54 02 19 N 000 42 56 W Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Humber Field Archaeology
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design	Humber Field Archaeology

originator  
 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 WB2019.011  
 Digital Contents "none"  
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"  
 Digital Archive notes The archive is stored on Hull City Council servers  
 Paper Archive recipient Humber Field Archaeology  
 Paper Archive ID WB2019.011  
 Paper Contents "none"  
 Paper Media available "Correspondence","Drawing","Map","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Archaeological observation, investigation and recording. 11KV Undergrounding, Thixendale, North Yorkshire  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) D. P. Rawson  
 Other bibliographic details HFA report number 2123  
 Date 2020  
 Issuer or publisher HFA  
 Place of issue or publication Hull  
 Description A4 and digital pdf  
 Entered by David Atkinson (dave.atkinson@hullcc.gov.uk)  
 Entered on 9 June 2020

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