

---

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND  
RECORDING AT  
WASHINGBOROUGH ROAD,  
CANWICK,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(CAWR 12)**

---

**Work Undertaken For  
Western Power Distribution  
(East Midlands) PLC**

November 2012

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 0039 7042 –  
TF 0082 7007  
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC: 2012.108  
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-137390

APS Report No. 87/12

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**





## Table of Contents

### List of Figures

### List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY .....	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.2	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.....	1
2.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING .....	1
3.	AIMS .....	2
4.	METHODS .....	2
5.	RESULTS .....	2
6.	DISCUSSION .....	3
7.	CONCLUSION .....	3
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	3
9.	PERSONNEL .....	4
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	4
11.	ABBREVIATIONS .....	4

### Appendices

1. Context descriptions
2. The Finds *by Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor*
3. Glossary
4. The Archive
5. OASIS Summary Sheet

## **List of Figures**

Figure 1	General location plan
Figure 2	Site location plan
Figure 3	Plan of the cable trench route showing section locations
Figure 4	Sections 1 to 4
Figure 5	Sections 5 to 9

## **List of Plates**

Plate 1	View looking southeast along the cable trench
Plate 2	Section 1
Plate 3	Section 2
Plate 4	Section 3
Plate 5	Section 4 with ditch (005)
Plate 6	Section 5 (east part)
Plate 7	Section 5 (west part)
Plate 8	Section 6
Plate 9	Section 7
Plate 10	Section 8

## 1. SUMMARY

*A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on land to the south of Washingborough Road, Canwick, Lincolnshire. The investigations monitored the excavation of a new electric cable trench.*

*The site lies close to findspots of flint tools of Mesolithic (8000-4000 BC), Neolithic (4000-2250 BC) and Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) date. Bronze Age barrows are also known closer to the River Witham. Finds of Iron Age (800 BC-AD 43) and Romano-British (AD 43-410) date have also been recovered in the general vicinity. Immediately west of the site, an archaeological evaluation revealed a Late Saxon (AD 850-1066) settlement. During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540) the site lay within the lands of a monastic grange, called Sheepwash, belonging to the Cistercian abbey of Kirkstead.*

*The investigations revealed a sequence of natural geology, colluvium and topsoil across the site. In addition, a ditch was revealed which may relate to the boundary of the medieval Sheepwash Grange. Other deposits relate to a post-medieval track leading north from the later site of the post-medieval Sheepwash Grange.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Western Power Distribution (East Midlands) PLC to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with a new electric cable trench at Washingborough Road, Canwick, Lincolnshire. The investigations were carried out between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and

approved by the Planning Archaeologist, Lincolnshire County Council.

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Canwick is located 2km southeast of Lincoln and 25km north of Sleaford in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The area of new cabling works is located 1.94km northeast of the centre of Canwick. The new cable trench extended from National Grid Reference TF 0039 7042 to TF 0082 7007 (Fig. 2). The cable trench is located on a north facing escarpment, overlooking the Witham valley. Heights range from c. 38m OD to 18m OD.

Local soils are of the Elmton 1 Association, typically well drained brashy calcareous fine loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179). These soils are developed on a solid geology of Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone, comprising the Upper Series, Crossi Beds and Lower Series, towards the southeast and Upper Lias and Lower Estuarine Beds towards the northwest (GSGB 1973).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

The site lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic to present day. Numerous flint tools of Mesolithic and Neolithic date have been recovered during fieldwork in advance of the proposed Lincoln eastern bypass, the route of which lies west of the site.

During the Bronze Age the valley floor became a focus of a barrow cemetery, though few survive in their original form due to ploughing. The cemetery extends north of the river where it also incorporates a Neolithic long barrow. Bronze Age flints have also been found in the general vicinity as have finds of Iron Age and Romano-British date.

Evaluation undertaken immediately west of the site revealed extensive remains of Late Saxon date, primarily ditches and pits of the 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> centuries (Mellor 2009, 13). Saxon metalwork, including a coin, has been found during metal-detecting close to the River Witham.

Canwick is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Canewic*, the name is derived from the Old English and means ‘the dwelling or dairy farm (*wīc*) belonging to *Cana*’ (Cameron 1998, 28). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was held by the Bishop of Bayeux, Bishop Geoffrey of Coutance, the Bishop of Lincoln, Roger of Poitou, Norman Crassus and Colegrim and contained over 150 acres of meadow and a number of fisheries (Foster and Longley 1976).

A grange, Sheepwash Grange, of Kirkstead Abbey was established to the north of the site by 1184. The grange contained a number of buildings around a courtyard which lay within a circuit of walls and ditches. Adjacent areas of agricultural land were also given to the abbey (Mills and Mills 1998, 47). The site lay within the fields associated with the grange and there is evidence that the abbey had stone quarries in the vicinity (G Coppack, *pers. comm.*). The current Sheepwash Grange, located south of the site dates from after 1787. To the north of the medieval grange there was a wharf named *Calscroft*, from which tolls were collected by the Bailiffs of Lincoln (Mills and Mills 1998, 50-1).

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

### 4. METHODS

A single trench was excavated by machine to a depth of 1m below the current ground level. Following excavation, selected portions of the sides of the trench were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation finds were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). The records were also checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them and supplemented by artefact dating.

### 5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered at the southeast end of the cable trench was a layer of yellowish brown limestone fragments with silt (004). Identified as the natural geology, this measured in excess of 0.78m thick (Fig. 4, Sections 1-4; Fig. 5, Section 5; Plate 2-7). This was overlain by reddish brown silt and limestone (003) only evident in the first 9m from the southeast end of the trench. This was sealed by a layer of greyish brown silt (002), with a similar restricted extent (Fig. 4, Sections 1 and 2; Plates 3 and 4).

In the northwest part of the cable trench, natural geological deposits comprised yellowish white and yellow limestone fragments (012), yellowish white limestone (013), yellow limestone in clayey sand (014), bluish grey sandy clay (015), yellowish white limestone and clayey sand (016) and orange to yellow limestone and ironstone in clayey sand (017).

Located 245m from the southeast end of the trench was an east-west aligned ditch (005). This measured 2.3m wide and 0.75m deep (Fig. 4, Section 4; Plate 5) and contained a single fill of orange brown clayey silt with limestone fragments (006).

A section beneath the north-south track leading north from Sheepwash Grange, identified a layer of greyish brown sandy silt (009) overlying the natural geology. Measuring 0.18m thick (Fig. 5, Section 5; Plates 6 and 7), it was overlain by greyish brown sandy silt with limestone fragments (008) of a former trackway. This was in turn sealed by orange brown sandy silt (007).

Deposits in the eastern part of the cable trench were overlain by the current topsoil of brownish grey silt (001). This measured up to 0.33m thick.

Within the western part of the trench, where the natural slope was more pronounced, a layer of colluvium had formed over the natural geology. Comprising brownish orange clayey sand with frequent small limestone fragments (011) it measured 0.2m thick (Fig. 5, Sections 6-9; Plates 8 – 10). Topsoil in this area consisted of greyish brown clayey sand (010).

## 6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits relate to the underlying solid geology of Lincolnshire Limestone, Upper Lias clays and shales and the Lower

Estuarine Series. Only in one instance was the difference between two of the geological strata noted, that between the Upper Lias and Lower Estuarine formations towards the northwest of the cable trench.

An east-west ditch corresponds to a boundary marked on the 1787 enclosure award (LAO Canwick Parish Council Deposit). Furthermore, this boundary also marks the extent of the lands belonging to the medieval Sheepwash Grange. This boundary had disappeared by the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (OS 1890).

Other deposits encountered relate to a track of probable post-medieval date, and colluvial deposits in the northwestern part of the cable trench.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Washingborough Road, Canwick, as the site lay in an area of known archaeological remains of prehistoric, Saxon and medieval date.

However, only a single ditch was revealed which may have its origins in the medieval period as it formed the boundary to the lands of Sheepwash Grange. Deposits relating to a post-medieval track were also revealed along with the natural geology and colluvium, the latter located along the northwest part of the trench.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr RG Beech of Western Power Distribution (East Midlands) PLC for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the Senior

Historic Environment Officer for North Kesteven District Council, kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

OS, 1890 *Lincolnshire Sheet LXX. S.E.*, 6” map

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
 Site Supervisors: Alex Beeby, Chris Moulis  
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services  
 GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain  
 LAO Lincolnshire Archive Office  
 OS Ordnance Survey

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cameron, K, 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*, English Place-Name Society Popular Series Vol. **1**

Foster, CW and Longley, T (eds), 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society **19**

GSGB, 1973 *Lincoln, Solid and Drift geology*, 1:50 000 map sheet **114**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

LAO Canwick Parish Council Deposit, *Canwick Enclosure Award and Plan*, 1788

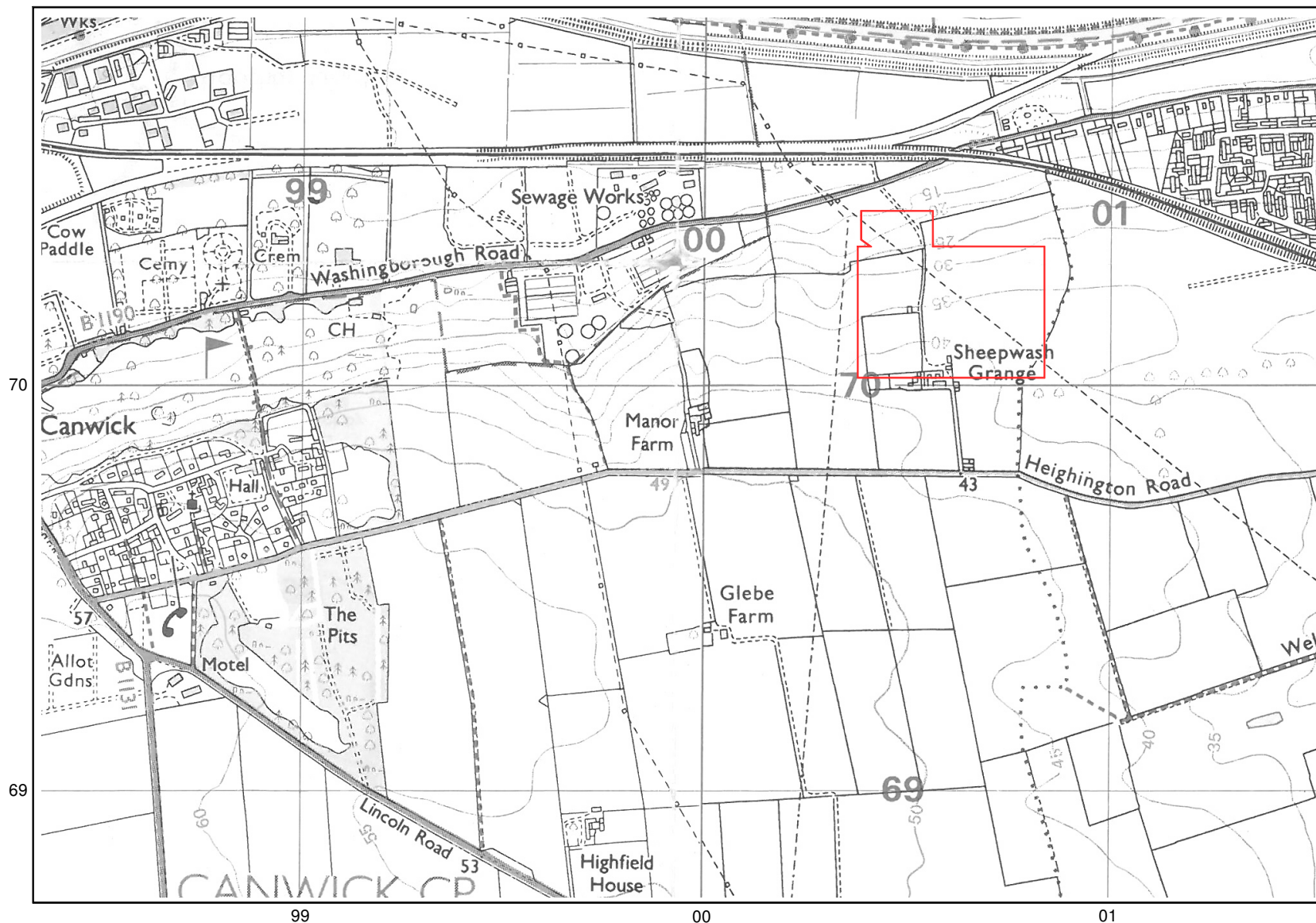
Mellor, V, 2009 *Trial trenching on the proposed route of the Lincoln eastern bypass*, *Lincolnshire: Post-fieldwork report (LNEB 08)*, unpublished APS report **18/09**

Mills, J and Mills, D, 1998 ‘A Case Study at Canwick of the Enduring Influence of Monastic Houses’, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* **33**






Figure 1 - General location plan



Crown Copyright © 2000. All rights reserved.  
Licence number AL5041A0001



 Area detailed in Figure 3


 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Washingborough Road, Canwick		
Scale 1:15000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 87/12

Figure 2 - Site location plan

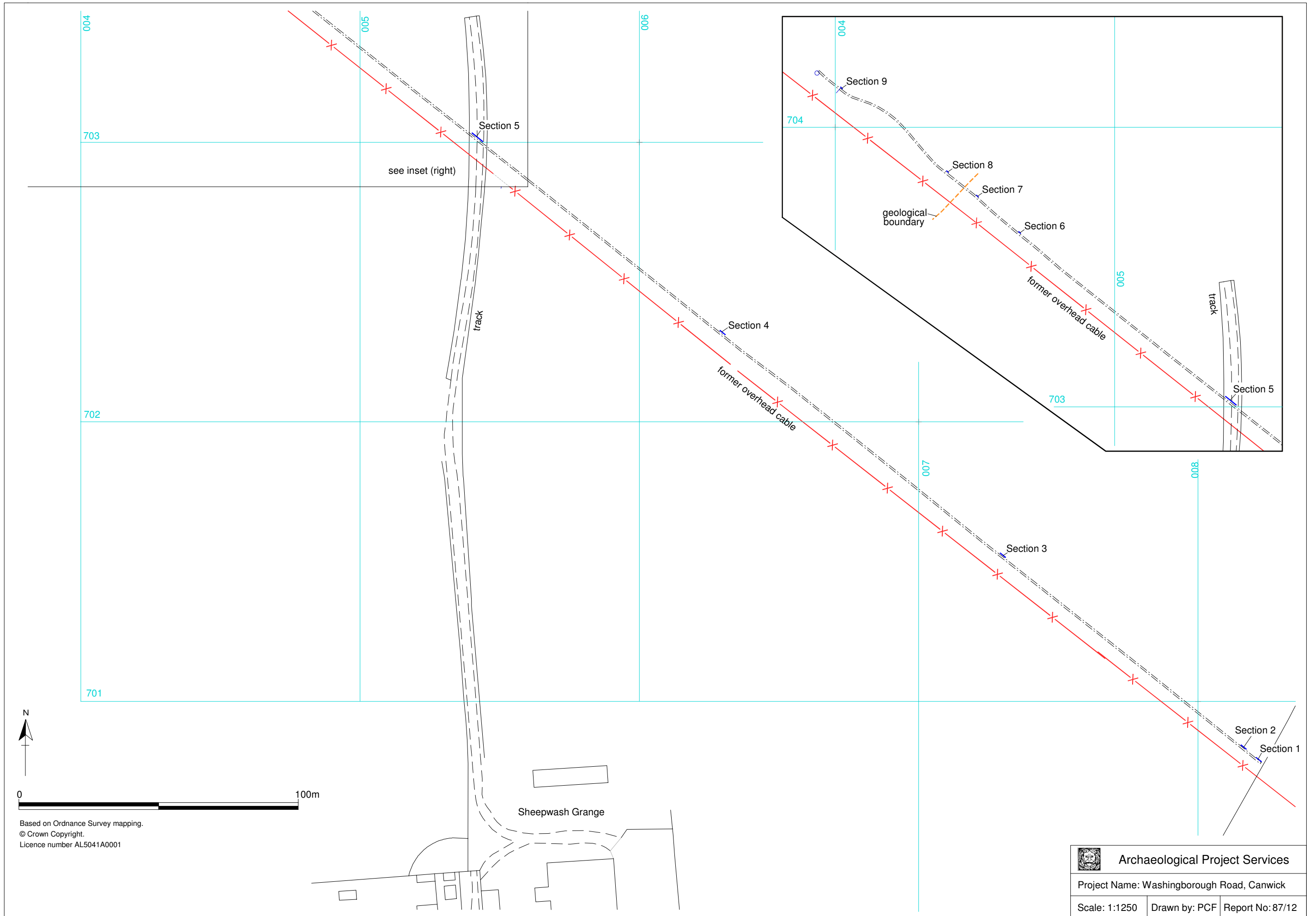
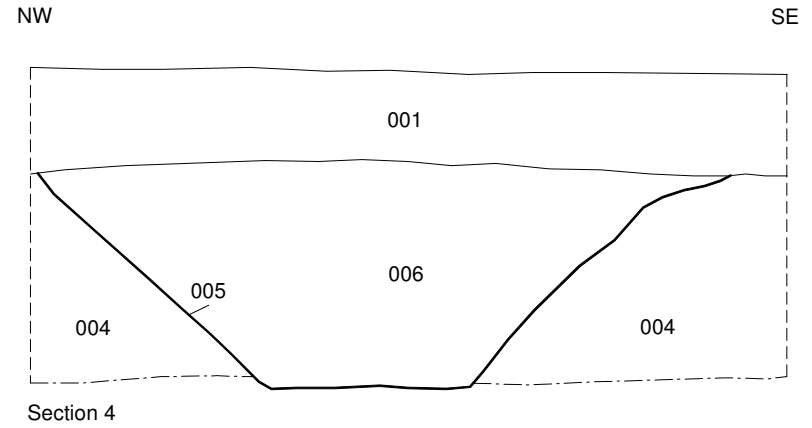
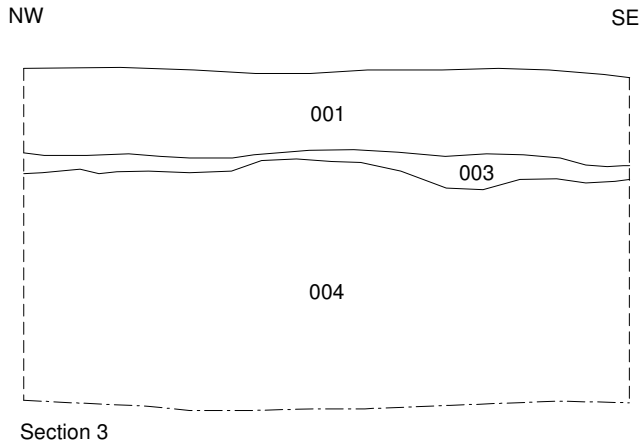
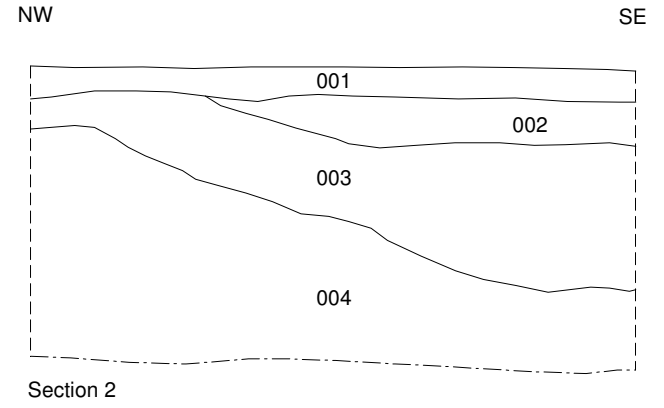
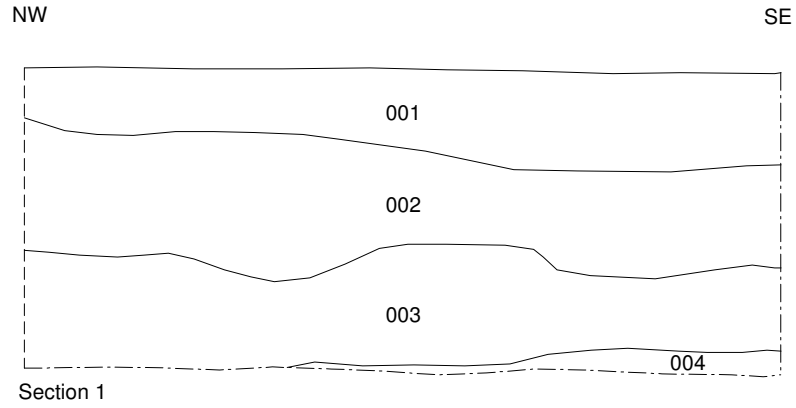


Figure 3 - Plan of the cable trench route showing section locations




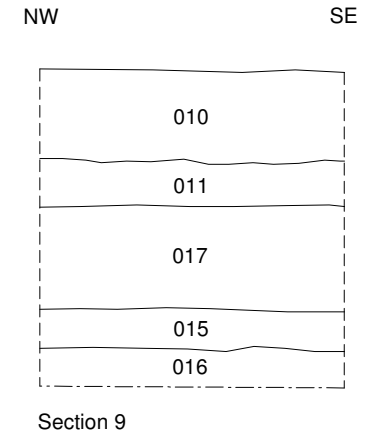
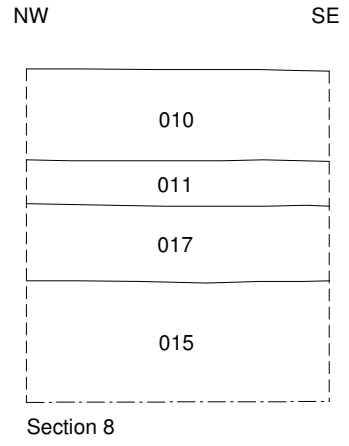
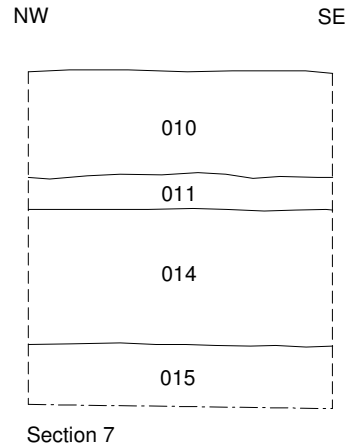
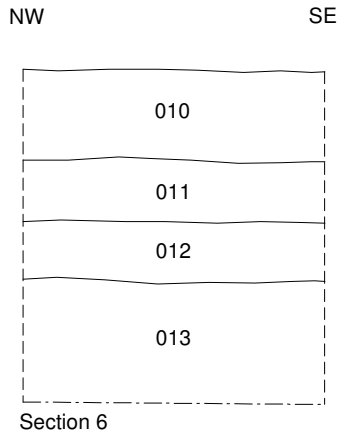
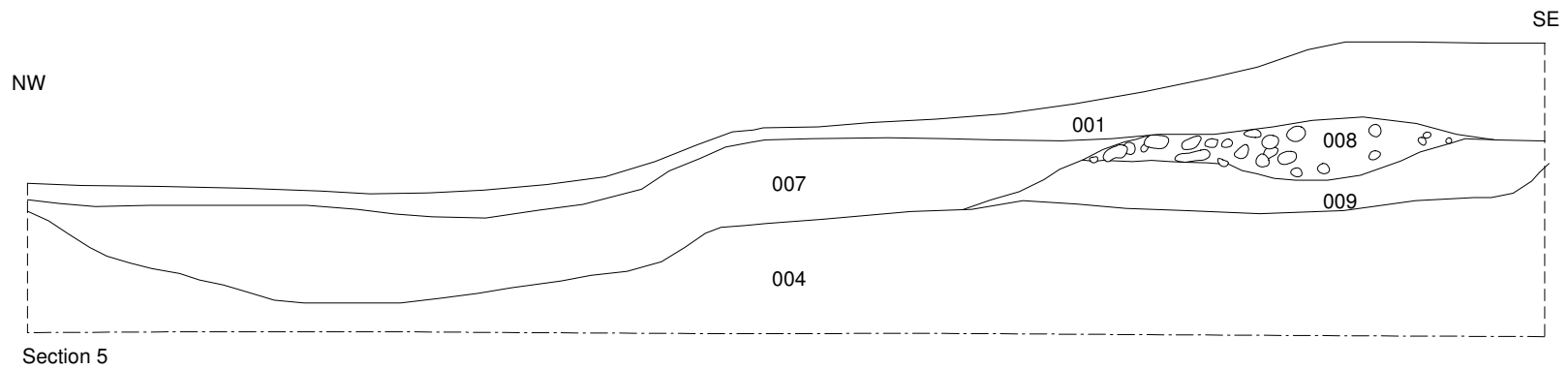
 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Washingborough Road, Canwick		
Scale 1:25	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 87/12

Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 4




 <b>Archaeological Project Services</b>		
Project Name: Washingborough Road, Canwick		
Scale 1:25	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 87/12

Figure 5 - Sections 5 to 9



Plate 1 – View looking southeast along the cable route



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking northeast



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking northeast



Plate 4 – Section 3, looking northeast



Plate 5 – Section 4 with ditch (005), looking northeast



Plate 6 – Section 5 (east part), looking northeast



Plate 7 – Section 5 (west part), looking northeast



Plate 8 – Section 6, looking east



Plate 9 – Section 7, looking northwest





Plate 10 – Section 8, looking northwest

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft dark brownish grey silt, 0.33m thick	Topsoil
002	Loose to soft mid to dark greyish brown silt, 0.48m thick	Natural deposit
003	Loose mid reddish brown silt and limestone, 0.47m thick	Natural deposit
004	Loose mid to light yellowish brown limestone fragments and silt, >0.83m thick	Natural deposit
005	Linear feature, aligned east-west, 2.3m wide by 0.75m deep, steep sides and flat base	Ditch
006	Soft mid orange brown clayey silt with frequent limestone fragments	Fill of (005)
007	Friable mid orange brown sandy silt, 0.3m deep	?subsoil
008	Loose dark greyish brown sandy silt and limestone, 0.2m thick	Former trackway
009	Loose mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt, 0.2m thick	Make-up for (009)
010	Soft dark greyish brown clayey sand, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
011	Firm mid brownish orange clayey sand with frequent small limestone fragments, 0.2m thick	Colluvium
012	Loose light yellowish white and mid yellow limestone fragments in clayey sand, 0.2m thick	Natural deposit
013	Compact light yellowish white limestone, >0.4m thick	Natural deposit
014	Loose light yellow limestone fragments in clayey sand, 0.45m thick	Natural deposit
015	Firm light bluish grey sandy clay, >0.4m thick	Natural deposit
016	Loose light yellowish white limestone and clayey sand, >0.13m thick	Natural deposit
017	Loose mid orange yellow to mid yellow limestone and ironstone with clayey sand, 0.35m thick	Natural deposit

## Appendix 2

### GLOSSARY

<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
<b>Colluvium</b>	weathered material that has been transported downslope by gravitational forces and deposited at the base of the slope.
<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Dumped deposits</b>	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
<b>Fill</b>	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Grange</b>	A monastic farm complex at some distance from the abbey, generally supervised by a monk and staffed by lay brethren, created to cultivate one of the abbey's estates.
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Mesolithic</b>	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 8200-4500 BC.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 <sup>st</sup> century AD.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

**Saxon**

Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

## Appendix 3

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

17	Context records
4	Daily record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
10	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Plan record sheet
1	Section record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection  
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire  
Danes Terrace  
Lincoln  
LN2 1LP

Accession Number:

LCNCC: 2012.108

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

CAWR 12

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

## Appendix 4

### OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

OASIS ID: [archaeol1-137390](#)

#### Project details

Project name	Washingborough Road, Canwick
Short description of the project	Watching brief of new electric cable trench revealed an undated ditch, possibly the boundary ditch of Sheepwash Grange, a grange of Kirkstead Abbey
Project dates	Start: 24-09-2012 End: 27-09-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CAWR12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2012.108 - 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	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	N/A None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH KESTEVEN CANWICK Washingborough Road
Study area	128.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 0039 7042 53 0 53 13 15 N 000 29 46 W Line
Site coordinates	TF 0082 7007 53 0 53 13 04 N 000 29 23 W Line

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Project Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Gary Taylor
Project director/manager	Gary Taylor
Project supervisor	Alex Beeby, Chris Moulis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Electricity Authority/Company

#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
--------------------------	----

Digital Archive recipient	Archaeological Project Services
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC:2012.108
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological monitoring and recording at Washingborough Road, Canwick, Lincolnshire (CAWR 12)
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cope-Faulkner, P.
Other bibliographic details	87/12
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Archaeological Project Services
Place of issue or publication	Heckington, Sleaford
Description	A4 comb-bound