

**Quality Control**  
Raventhorpe Farm,  
Holme, Near Scunthorpe  
HMRF 06

|                           |                    |
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|                            |                                  |
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| Date:                      | Date:                            |



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT RAVENTHORPE FARM,  
HOLME,  
NR SCUNTHORPE,  
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE  
(HMRF 06)**

**Work Undertaken For  
Yorkshire Electricity**

January 2007

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

National Grid Reference: SE 936 079  
North Lincolnshire Code: HOAM  
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-22765

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES**



APS Report No. **5/07**

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Raventhorpe Farm, Holme, North Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of a new cable trench.*

*Raventhorpe Farm has been identified as the site of the former medieval (AD 1066-1540) village of Raventhorpe which is first mentioned in the mid 11<sup>th</sup> century. The earthwork remains of the village survive and have been afforded scheduled status. Finds of Mesolithic (10,000-4000 BC), Neolithic (4000-2500 BC) and Bronze Age (2500-800 BC) stone tools are known from the vicinity and Romano-British (AD 43-410) pottery has been retrieved from east of the site.*

*The watching brief identified topsoil and natural deposits. No archaeological remains were identified and no artefacts were recovered.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as “*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.*” (IFA 1999).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Yorkshire Electricity to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a new underground cable at Raventhorpe Farm, Holme, North Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out on the 18<sup>th</sup> December

2006 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1).

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Holme is located 4.5km southeast of Scunthorpe in North Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Raventhorpe Farm is located 1.8km northeast of the centre of Holme at National Grid Reference SE 936 079 (Fig. 2). The cable trench is located to the southwest of Raventhorpe Farm and is situated at a height of c. 40m OD on land that slopes down to the west. The cable trench is located in the lowest part of the field.

Local soils are of the Newport 1 Association, typically sandy and coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984). These soils are developed on a drift geology of blown sands which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Coleby Mudstones (BGS 1982).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Raventhorpe Farm is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. Flints of Mesolithic date are known from close proximity to the site, and Neolithic to Bronze Age stone tools have been recovered from the general vicinity.

Romano-British pottery has been retrieved from an area to the east of Raventhorpe Farm, beyond which lies the important Roman thoroughfare, Ermine Street, that connected Lincoln to the Humber (Margary 1973, 237).

Raventhorpe, a now deserted village in Holme, is first mentioned in 1067. Referred to as *Ragnaldrorp*, the name is derived from the Old Danish and means ‘the secondary settlement (*Porp*) belonging to *Ragn(v)aldr*’ (Cameron 1998, 101). It is first referenced in relation to

granting of the land to Peterborough Abbey.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Raventhorpe was still held by Peterborough Abbey and contained 12 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). In the subsequent Lindsey Survey of c. 1115, the Abbey still held most of the land with a Ranulf Mischin holding a smaller portion (*ibid.*).

The earthworks of the deserted village of Raventhorpe lie immediately north of the cable trench and are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (English Heritage 1996, 29).

Raventhorpe Farm house has its origins in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, although this is concealed by later work (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 388).

### 3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to locate and record archaeological deposits and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

### 4. METHODS

A single borehole, for a new telegraph pole, and a 35m section of a cable trench were excavated by machine to depths required by the development. The sides of the trenches 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 2. A photographic record was compiled and a section was drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation, the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

### 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 was a natural layer of yellow sandy clay (002) that measured in excess of 0.75m thick. This was sealed by the current topsoil comprising a 0.29m thick layer of greyish brown sandy clay (001).

### 6. DISCUSSION

Only natural and topsoil deposits were encountered during the investigation. The lack of archaeological material would suggest that the former village lay to the north and northeast on the notably higher ground.

No finds were recorded or retrieved during the investigation.

### 7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a new cable trench as it lay within the Scheduled area of a deserted medieval village.

However, only topsoil and natural deposits were identified, suggesting that the main focus of the former village lay to the northeast. No finds were retrieved from the investigation.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr S. Gray of Yorkshire Electricity for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly permitted access to the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
 Site Supervisor: Michael Wood  
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, 1982, *Brigg: Drift edition*, 1:50,000 map sheet **89**

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

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

IFA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Margary, ID, 1973 *Roman Roads in Britain* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)

Pevsner, N, and Harris, J, 1989 *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, revised Antram, N.)

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

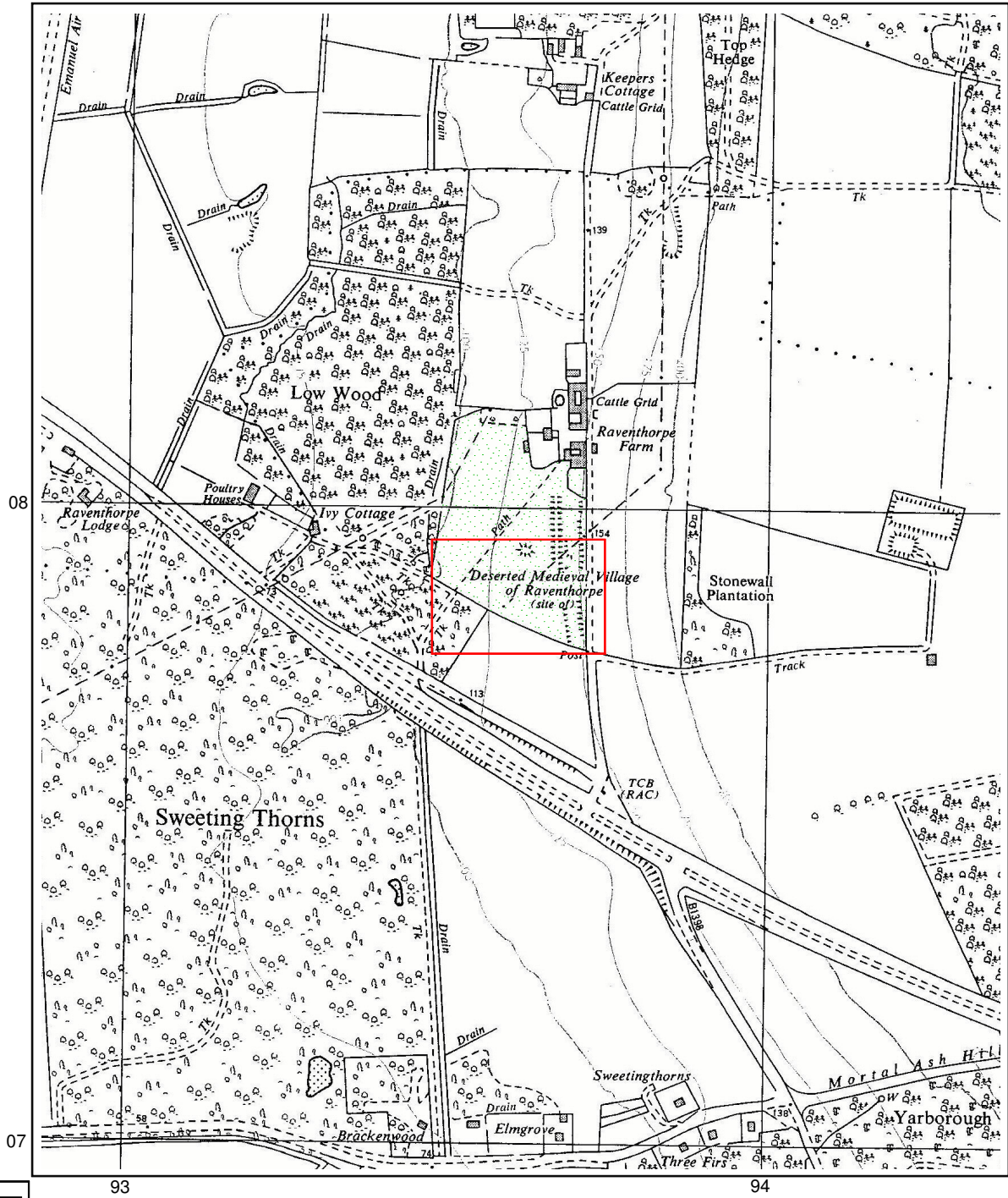
APS Archaeological Project Services  
 BGS British Geological Survey  
 IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists







Figure 1 - General Location Plan





**SE**

-  Area detailed in Figure 3
-  Extent of deserted medieval village

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, (C) Crown Copyright. HTL Ltd Licence No. AL5041A0001




|   |               |                 |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
|  <b>Archaeological Project Services</b> |               |                 |
| Project Name: Ravenhorpe Farm, Holme HMRF06   |               |                 |
| Scale 1:10000   | Drawn by: PCF | Report No: 5/07 |

Figure 2 - Site location plan



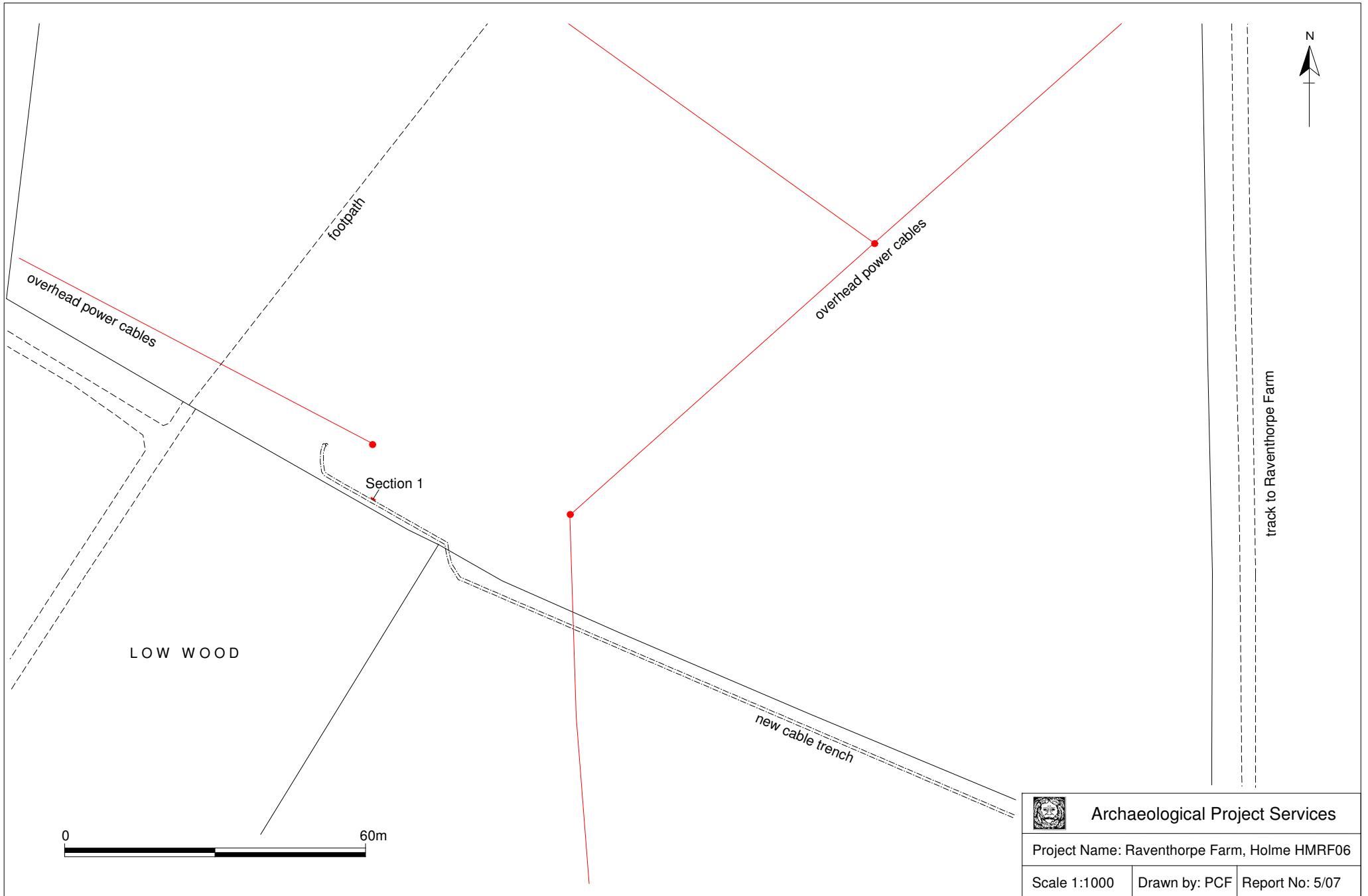
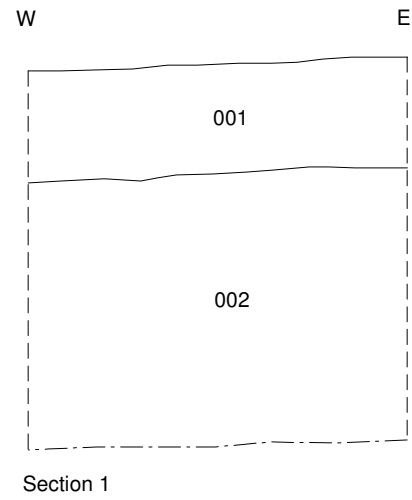


Figure 3 - Plan showing the cable trench and section location






|   |                                 |                 |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|
|  | Archaeological Project Services |                 |
| Project Name: Raventhorpe Farm, Holme HMRF06  |                                 |                 |
| Scale 1:20  | Drawn by: PCF                   | Report No: 5/07 |

Figure 4 - Section 1







Plate 1 - View showing the extent of the cable trench, looking west



Plate 2 - Section 1, looking north

## **Appendix 1**

### **LAND AT RAVENTHORPE FARM, HOLME, NR. SCUNTHORPE, NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

#### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required during work on an electricity line on land at Raventhorpe Farm, Holme, near Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance. Part of the route crosses Raventhorpe deserted medieval village, which is a nationally important scheduled ancient monument.*
- 1.3 *The archaeological work will consist of a watching brief during development works on the site.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the watching brief. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

#### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for archaeological watching brief during works on an electricity line on land at Raventhorpe Farm, Holme, North Lincolnshire.
- 2.2 This document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview.
  - 2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.
  - 2.2.3 List of specialists.
  - 2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

#### **3 SITE LOCATION**

- 3.1 Ravendale Farm is located 5km southeast of the centre of Scunthorpe in Holme parish, North Lincolnshire. The investigation area is about 500m north of the farm at National Grid Reference SE 936 079.

#### **4 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Yorkshire Electricity need to carry out necessary works on electricity lines. Part of the route crosses a scheduled ancient monument. Consent has been granted for the works subject to a condition requiring the undertaking of a watching-brief during groundworks.

#### **5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 5.1 Raventhorpe lies on a prominent west-facing slope at about 40m OD. Local soils are the Newport 1 Association, sandy and coarse loamy soils developed on glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984).

#### **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW**

- 6.1 Raventhorpe Farm lies in the area of Raventhorpe deserted medieval village, a nationally-important scheduled ancient monument, county number 161 (English Heritage 1996, 29). The place-name, Raventhorpe means Ragnald's secondary settlement, from the Old Danish personal name Ragnald. The settlement is first recorded in 1067 and at the time of Domesday Book in 1986, Ravendale was a manor held by Peterborough Abbey.

6.2 It is thought likely that the groundworks may disturb archaeological deposits of medieval date.

## 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:

7.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.

7.1.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:

- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

## 8 SITE OPERATIONS

### 8.1 General considerations

8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.

8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). Archaeological Project Services is IFA registered organisation no. 21.

8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

### 8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

8.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.

8.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

8.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

- the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
- groups of features where their relationship is important

8.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

## **9 POST-EXCAVATION**

### **9.1 Stage 1**

- 9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 9.1.2 All finds recovered during the fieldwork will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

### **9.2 Stage 2**

- 9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

### **9.3 Stage 3**

- 9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 9.3.2 This will consist of:
- A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
  - Description of the topography of the site.
  - Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
  - A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
  - A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
  - Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
  - Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
  - Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
  - Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
  - Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

## **10 REPORT DEPOSITION**

- 10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the Client; English Heritage; and to North Lincolnshire Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

## **11 ARCHIVE**

- 11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to North Lincolnshire Museum, Scunthorpe. This sorting will be undertaken according to the *Guidelines for deposition of Archaeological Archives with North Lincolnshire Museum*.

## **12 PUBLICATION**

- 12.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS). A note on the investigation will be submitted to the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*.
- 12.2 If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

## **13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- 13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with English Heritage and North Lincolnshire Site and Monuments Record. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

## **14 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES**

- 14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 14.2 In the event of the discovery of any unexpected remains of archaeological importance, or of any changed circumstances, it is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to inform the archaeological curator (*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* 1998, Sections 5.7 and 18).
- 14.3 Where important archaeological remains are discovered and deemed to merit further investigation additional resources may be required to provide an appropriate level of investigation, recording and analysis.
- 14.4 Any contingency requirement for additional fieldwork or post-excavation analysis outside the scope of the proposed scheme of works will only be activated following full consultation with the archaeological curator and the client.

## **15 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

- 15.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- 15.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 15.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

## **16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

- 16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors

to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

| <u>Task</u>            | <u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>   |
|------------------------|--|
| Conservation           | Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln   |
| Pottery Analysis       | Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust<br>Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist<br>Post-Roman - J Young, Independent Specialist/A Boyle, APS |
| Non-pottery Artefacts  | J Cowgill, Independent Specialist, or G Taylor, APS  |
| Animal Bones           | J Kitch, APS   |
| Environmental Analysis | J Rackham, Independent Specialist  |
| Human Remains Analysis | J Kitch, APS   |

## **17 INSURANCES**

17.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

## **18 COPYRIGHT**

18.1 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.

18.2 Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.

18.3 In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

18.4 The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

## **19 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

English Heritage, 1996 *County List of Scheduled Monuments, Humberside*

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**

## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| <b>No.</b> | <b>Description</b>                                 | <b>Interpretation</b> |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| 001        | Friable dark greyish brown sandy clay, 0.29m thick | Topsoil               |
| 002        | Friable mid yellow sandy clay, >0.75m thick        | Natural deposit       |

## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Bronze Age</b>     | A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.   |
| <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>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.  |



## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 | Context records                                     |
| 1 | Context record sheets                               |
| 2 | Sheets containing scale drawings (plan and section) |
| 1 | Photographic record sheet                           |

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:

North Lincolnshire Museum  
Oswald Road  
Scunthorpe  
DN15 7BB

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

North Lincolnshire Museum Accession Number: HOAM

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HMRF 06

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.