
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF ELECTRICITY CABLE REPLACEMENT WORKS
AT SPRINGTHORPE,
(BLYTON-HARPSWELL ELECTRICITY LINE)
LINCOLNSHIRE
(BHEL 06)**

**Work Undertaken For
Yorkshire Electricity Distribution
Services Limited**

March 2008

Report Compiled by
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City and County Museum Accession No: 2006.256
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APS Report No. **28/08**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during excavations at Springthorpe, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of new trenches for electricity cable poles as part of a scheme extending between Blyton and Harpswell.

The site lies east of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) village which is best represented by the 11th century church of St Lawrence and St George. Earthworks indicating the former extent of the village and of ridge and furrow have also been recorded. Prehistoric and Romano-British (AD 43-410) artefacts have also been identified in the vicinity of the village.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were retrieved during the investigation.

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 Distribution Services Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new overhead electricity pylons between Harpswell and Springthorpe, Lincolnshire, part of a much wider scheme between

Harpswell and Blyton. The watching brief was carried out on the 26th and 27th October 2006 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1) and approved by the Principal Archaeologist, Lincolnshire County Council.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Springthorpe is located 24km west of Market Rasen and 21km northwest of Lincoln in the administrative district of West Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The monitored pits are located 500m to the east of the centre of Springthorpe as defined by the parish church of St Lawrence and St George at National Grid Reference SK 8820 9047 (Fig. 2). The site lies to the north of Church Farm at a height of c. 23m OD on a slight slope down to the west.

Local soils are of the Beccles 1 Association, typical stagnogley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984). These soils are developed on a drift geology of glacial till which seals a solid geology of Jurassic Scunthorpe Mudstone Formation (BGS 1992).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Springthorpe is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Neolithic period to the present day. Neolithic stone axes are known from south of the site and Bronze Age stone tools are also known from the vicinity.

Romano-British pottery has been found close to the village and immediately north of the site and, along with the presence of a quern, suggests a settlement in the vicinity.

Springthorpe is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Springetorp* the name is derived from the Old English *spring* and the Old Danish

Thorpe and means the subsidiary settlement with a spring (Cameron 1998, 115). At the time of Domesday, the village was held by the King and was subordinate to Corringham (Foster and Longley 1976). Although a church and priest are recorded in the Domesday Survey, recent work has suggested that these were based in Corringham, even though the tower of St Lawrence and St George's church dates to the Norman period (Stocker and Everson 2006, 257).

Around the village are some fragments of earthworks representing crofts of the former village and areas of ridge and furrow of the medieval field system.

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

Trenches for the new overhead cable poles were excavated by machine to depths required by the development (*c.* 2m below the current ground surface). A total of five trenches were monitored. Due to the depth of the trenches, observations were made from the side of each trench. 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 sections were 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.

Trench 4

The earliest deposit encountered in this trench was a natural layer of brownish blue clay (1001). This measured in excess of 1.2m thick.

This was sealed by a 0.34m thick subsoil comprising yellowish brown clay with gravel (1002). Overlying the subsoil was the current topsoil of dark brown silty clay (1003). This was 0.3m thick.

Trench 5

Natural layers were recorded as bluish grey clay (1004) and reddish brown clay (1005).

Overlying the natural was a subsoil deposit of yellowish brown clay (1006). This was 0.3m thick and was subsequently overlain by the current topsoil of brown silty clay (1007).

Remaining trenches were also examined and had identical soil profiles as those recorded in detail.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural layers comprise clays of the underlying drift geology of glacial till. Developed upon these was a subsoil, which may imply the site had been under an agricultural regime in the past.

No archaeological deposits were identified and no artefacts retrieved.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Springthorpe as the site lay close to the medieval core of the village and in an area where prehistoric and Romano-British remains have previously been found.

However, no archaeological deposits were encountered. The watching brief recording only a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil layers. No finds were collected during the watching brief.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr G Parr of Yorkshire Electricity Distribution Services Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was initially coordinated by Mark Williams and then Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor, Mark Williams

Site Supervisors: Rachael Hall, Katie Murphy

Finds processing:

Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth

Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner

Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Cameron, K, 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*, English Place-

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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**

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

Stocker, D and Everson, P, 2006 *Summoning St Michael. Early Romanesque Towers in Lincolnshire*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan

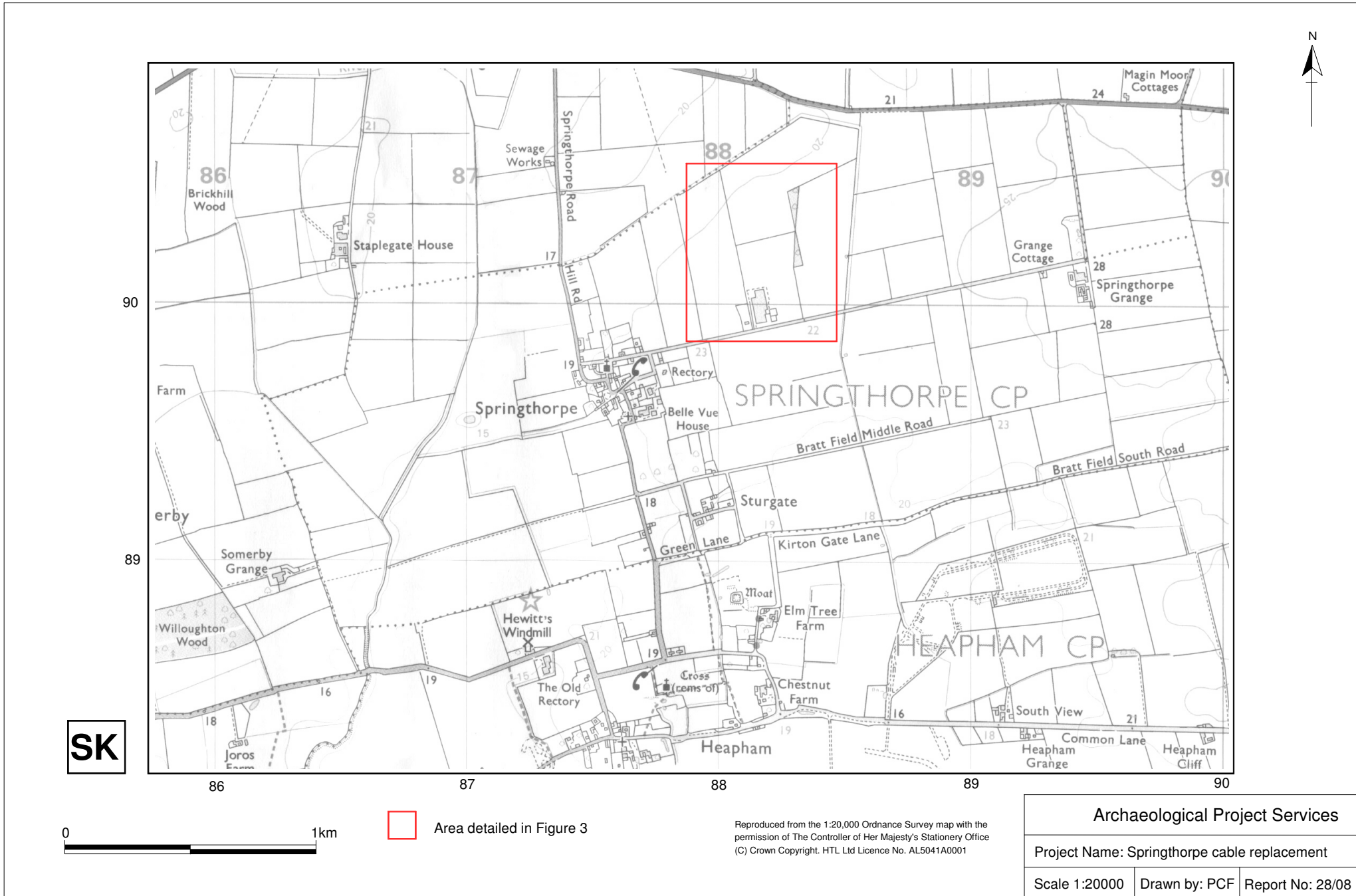
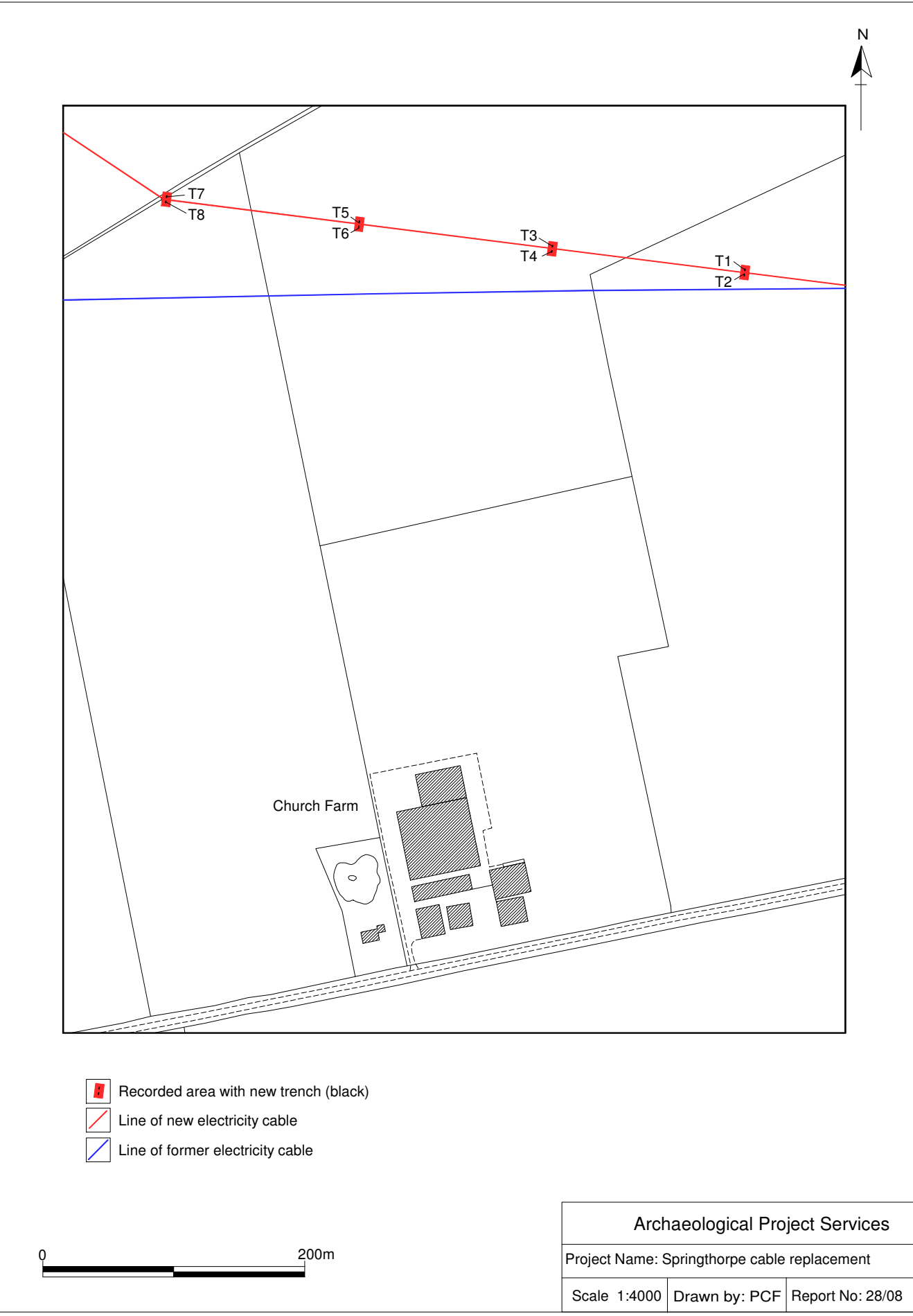





Figure 2 - Site location plan

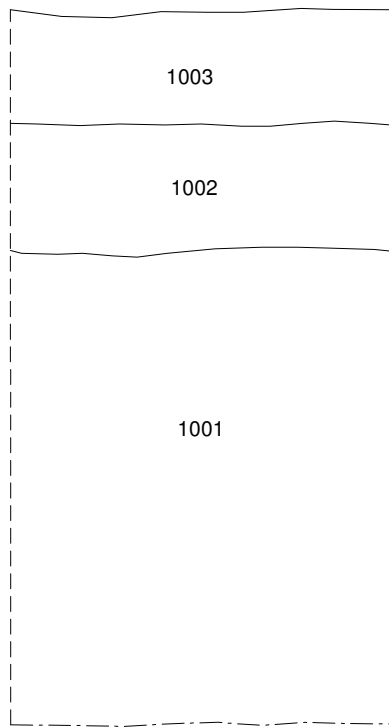


-  Recorded area with new trench (black)
-  Line of new electricity cable
-  Line of former electricity cable

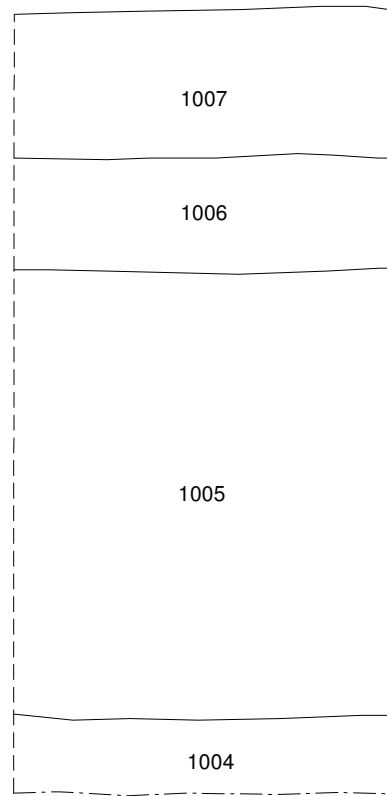
0 200m

Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Springthorpe cable replacement		
Scale 1:4000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 28/08

Figure 3 - Plan showing location of monitored trenches



Section 1
Representative Section Trench 4



Section 2
Representative Section Trench 5



Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Springthorpe cable replacement		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 28/08

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 – General view along the length of the works, looking east



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking east



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking east



Plate 4 – View of Trench 1, looking east

Appendix 1

OVERHEAD ELECTRICITY CABLE BLYTON TO HARPSWELL - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *A watching brief is required the groundworks for the erection of two electricity cable supports between Blyton and Harpswell, West Lindsey, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site is within an area of archaeological potential with prehistoric cropmarks identified in the immediate area.*
- 1.3 *The watching brief will be undertaken during all phases of earthmoving undertaken as part of the project which may impact on buried archaeological remains.*
- 1.4 *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during for the erection of supports two for an overhead electricity cable, and the removal of supports from the previous power line, the route lies between Blyton and Harpswell, West Lindsey District, 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 The overhead cable runs from Harpswell to Blyton in the district of West Lindsey. The location of the two cable support bases to be excavated (ID 70 and 71) and the current supports (to be removed) which are the focus of this programme, are south of Harpswell Grange at NGR 49152,39001

4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A requirement for an archaeological watching brief was identified by the Principal Archaeologist, Historic Environment Team.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 5.1 The location of the two cable supports is within an area of dense prehistoric cropmarks. This programme of works has the potential to help identify date and nature of these cropmarks.

6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
 - 6.1.1 To record and interpret the deposits and any archaeological features exposed during the groundwork for the scheme.

- 6.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
- 6.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 6.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
 - 6.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
 - 6.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

7 **SITE OPERATIONS**

7.1 General considerations

- 7.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 7.1.2 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.
- 7.1.3 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.

7.2 Methodology

- 7.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the excavation of holes for the erection of 2 overhead cable supports. Each of these bases consists of the excavation of two holes and the insertion of two poles. The size of the holes measures upto 1m square and 1.75m deep.
- 7.2.2 Excavated 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 excavations will be recorded at a scale of 1:10, or more appropriate scale if necessary. 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.
- 7.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 7.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - 7.2.4.1 the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the area.
 - 7.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important
- 7.2.5 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and only excavated if absolutely necessary. Should removal be required the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before the exhumation of the remains. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department, coroner and the police will be informed, where appropriate.

8 **POST-EXCAVATION**

8.1 Stage 1

- 8.1.1 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.

- 8.1.2 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.

8.2 Stage 2

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

8.3 Stage 3

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

9 **REPORT DEPOSITION**

- 9.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client and the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

10 **ARCHIVE**

- 10.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to The Collection, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long-term storage and curation.

11 PUBLICATION

- 11.1 Details of the investigation will be input to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS).
- 11.2 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.

12 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 12.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Principal Archaeologist, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

13 VARIATIONS AND CONTINGENCIES

- 13.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.
- 13.2 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).
- 13.3 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.
- 13.4 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.

14 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- 14.3 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.

15 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- 15.1 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

Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist
Anglo-Saxon –medieval - J Young, Independent Specialist/A Boyle,
APS
Post-medieval and later - G Taylor/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 Dr R Gowland, Independent Specialist

16 **INSURANCES**

16.1 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.

17 **COPYRIGHT**

17.1 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.

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

17.3 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.

17.4 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.

18 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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**

Specification: Version 1, 25th October 2006

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Pit	Description	Interpretation
1001	TP4	Stiff mid brownish blue clay, >1.26m thick	Natural deposit
1002	TP4	Firm mid yellowish brown clay with gravel, 0.34m thick	Subsoil
1003	TP4	Firm mid to dark brown silty clay, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
1004	TP5	Stiff dark bluish grey clay, >0.2m thick	Natural deposit
1005	TP5	Stiff mid reddish brown clay, 1.2m thick	Natural deposit
1006	TP5	Stiff mid to light yellowish brown clay, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
1007	TP5	Firm dark brown silty clay, 0.4m thick	Topsoil

Appendix 3

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	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).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
Prehistoric	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 st century AD.
Romano-British	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 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

7	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
2	Sheets of scale drawings
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: 2006.256

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: BHEL 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.