
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING OF GROUNDWORK AT LAND
ADJACENT TO WILLOW END, THE CHASE,
HORBLING,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(HOWE10)**

**Work Undertaken For
Central Networks**

August 2010

Report Compiled by
Ross Kendall, BA (Hons.), MA, PIFA

National Grid Reference: TF 1169 3513
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC: 2010.107
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-80782

APS Report No. **75/10**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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Horbling, Lincolnshire
(HOWE10)**

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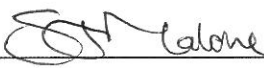
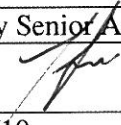
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Date: 10/09/10	Date: 10/09/10

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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks at land adjacent to Willow End, The Chase, Horbling, Lincolnshire. The programme monitored the excavation of a cable trench in the immediate vicinity of surviving ridge and furrow earthworks.

The investigation revealed a sequence of natural clay, subsoil, and topsoil deposits. No archaeological features were encountered and no evidence of continuation of the ridge and furrow system to the south of the extant earthworks was discovered. The earthworks remained undisturbed throughout the investigation.

Finds retrieved during the investigation were limited to the topsoil and include 16th to 19th pottery and one modern iron fragment, likely from agricultural equipment.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Central Networks to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during cable trenching at land adjacent to the Willow End, The Chase, Horbling, Lincolnshire. The work was undertaken according to a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section and the Historic Environment Advisor, Natural England. The monitoring and recording was carried out between the 2nd and 6th of August, 2010.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Horbling is located 11km southeast of Sleaford and 22km southwest of Boston in

the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located approximately 200m to the west of the parish church of St. Andrew, and lies at a height of 10m OD on fairly flat land to the west of Billingborough Road (B1177) and to the rear of The Chase, at National Grid Reference TF 1169 3513 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are of the Denchworth Association, fine loamy over clayey (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 155). These soils overlie a drift geology of glacially derived till, which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (GSGB 1972).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Horbling is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age to the present day. South of the village are two early Bronze Age barrows, both of which are scheduled ancient monuments.

Sandygate Lane on the east side of the village is thought to have originated as a Roman Road connecting Donington to Horbling and beyond, to the Roman settlement at Sapperton.

The village is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086. Referred to as *Orbelinge*, the name is derived from the Old English and means the ‘*Billingas* by the mud (*horh*)’, the *Billingas* being a group or tribal name that gave its name to the nearby village of Billingborough (Cameron 1998, 65). At the time of Domesday the land was held by the Archbishop of York, Count Alan, Colsuain, Guy of Craon and Waldin the Breton and contained a church and at least 57 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St. Andrew, which

largely dates to the 11th century with additions of 13th – 14th century date (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 392). A desk-based assessment identified ridge and furrow of the medieval field system surviving within the village (Ripper 2002, 17).

3. AIMS

The aims of the investigation were to protect the ridge and furrow earthworks (Plate 1) from damage during the groundworks and to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during trenching should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Access to the site was available through an arable field to west (Fig. 4, plate 2), thus eliminating the need for vehicular access via the ridge and furrow field. Excavation of a single trench measuring *c.* 100m long by 0.30m wide was undertaken by mechanical excavator to depths of 1.0m – 1.20m below the current ground level (Figs. 3 and 4, plate 3). Once excavated, selected areas 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 base of the cable trench was a layer of greyish to yellowish red silty clay (003) that measured in excess of 0.65m thick.

This was overlain by a subsoil deposit comprising light reddish yellow clayey silt (002). This measured between 0.30m and 0.55m thick.

Sealing the subsoil was the current 0.30m thick topsoil (001) comprised of mid grey silt (Fig. 5, Sections 1 and 2, Plates 4 and 5). The topsoil contained fragments of pottery of 16th-19th century date and a small iron piece of probable agricultural equipment.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of clay relate to the underlying drift geology of glacially derived till.

Subsoil had developed over the natural and gradually increased in thickness towards the east of the site.

Finds were confined to the topsoil and comprised post medieval to early modern pottery and a piece of probable modern iron agricultural equipment.

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at land adjacent to Willow End, The Chase, Horbling, in order to ensure minimal damage to the extant medieval ridge and furrow earthworks and to record archaeological features exposed during the cable trench excavation.

The investigation revealed a sequence of natural, subsoil and topsoil deposits. There was no evidence of continuation of the ridge and furrow system south of the current tree-lined field boundary and no archaeological features were encountered. This lack of continuation suggests that the extant tree line probably represents the original medieval boundary of the ridge and furrow field to the immediate north. The ridge and furrow earthworks were undamaged by the groundworks.

Finds retrieved from the investigation comprised post-medieval to early modern pottery and a fragment of modern iron, all of which were recovered from the topsoil.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr M. Jameson of Central Networks for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone, 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: Steve Malone
 Site Supervisors: Ross Kendall
 Finds processing: Denise Buckley
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Ross Kendall

Post-excavation analysis: Ross Kendall

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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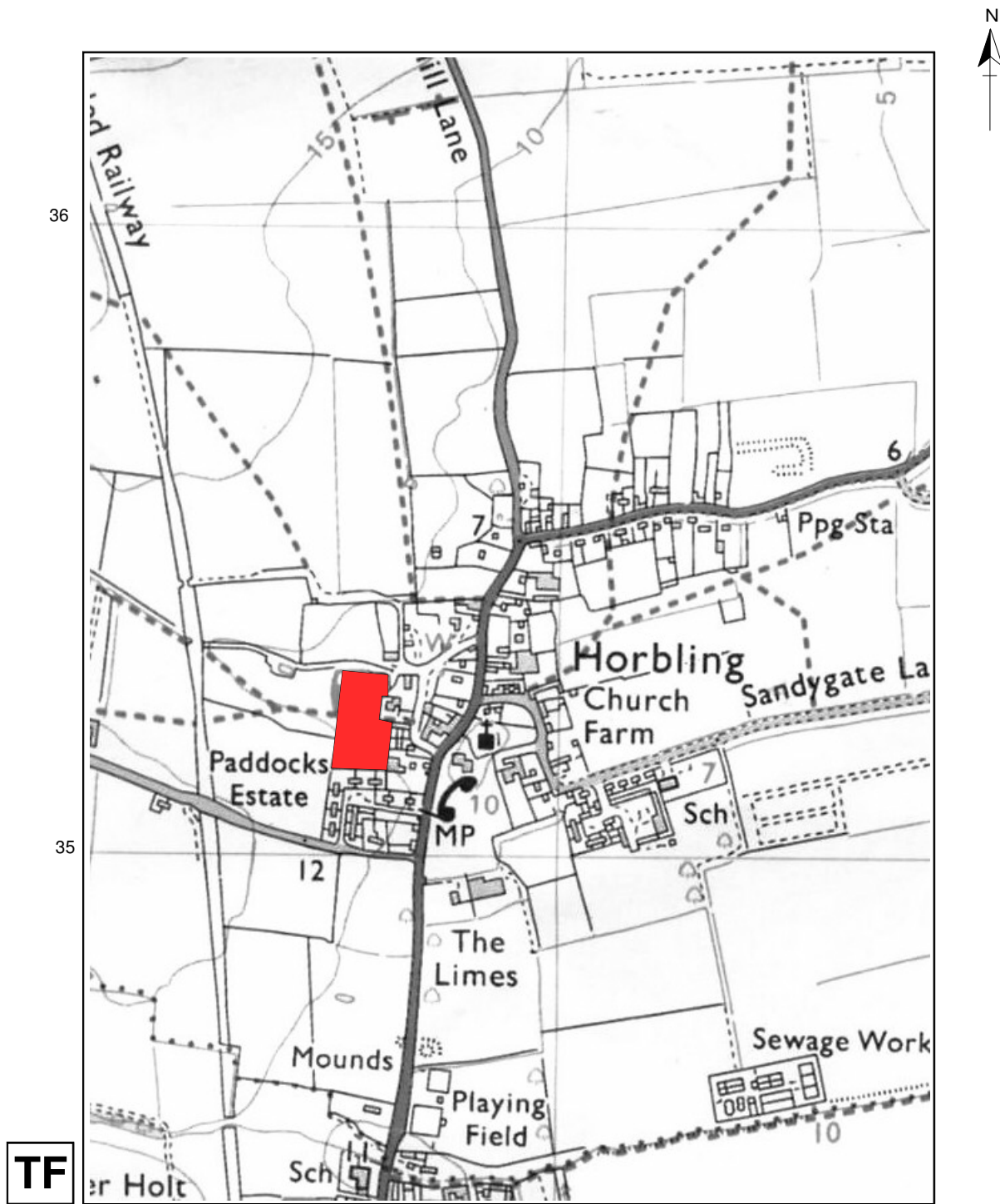
Ripper, S, 2002 *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment for land at Old Post Office Farm, Church Farm and land to the north of Church Farm, Horbling, Lincolnshire (TF 11 35)*, unpublished ULAS report **2002-050**

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services
 CBM Ceramic building material
 GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain



Figure 1 - General location plan



TF

12



Site location

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Scale 1:10000	Drawn by: RK	Report No: 75/10

Figure 2 - Site location plan

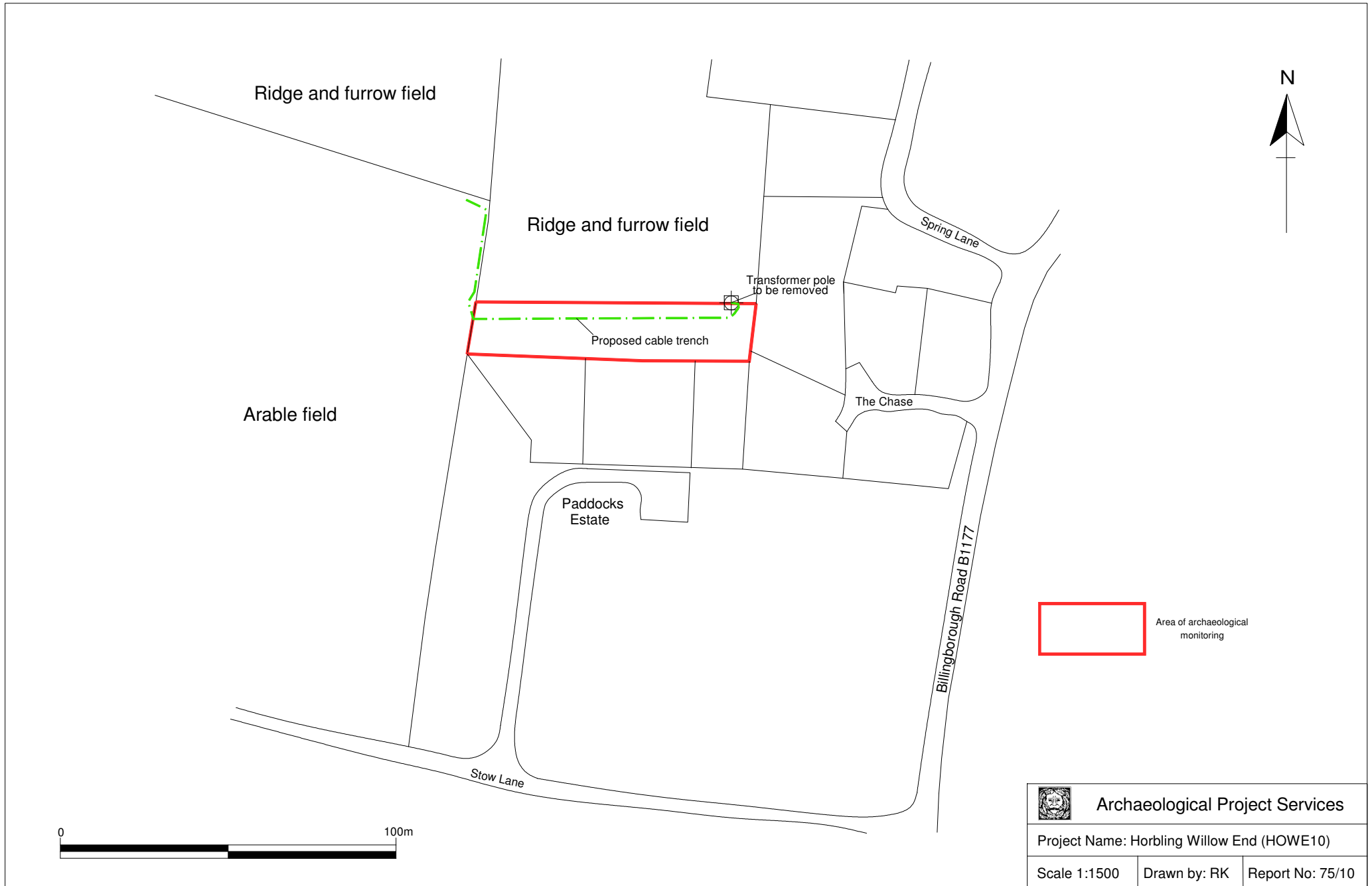


Figure 3 - Area of archaeological monitoring

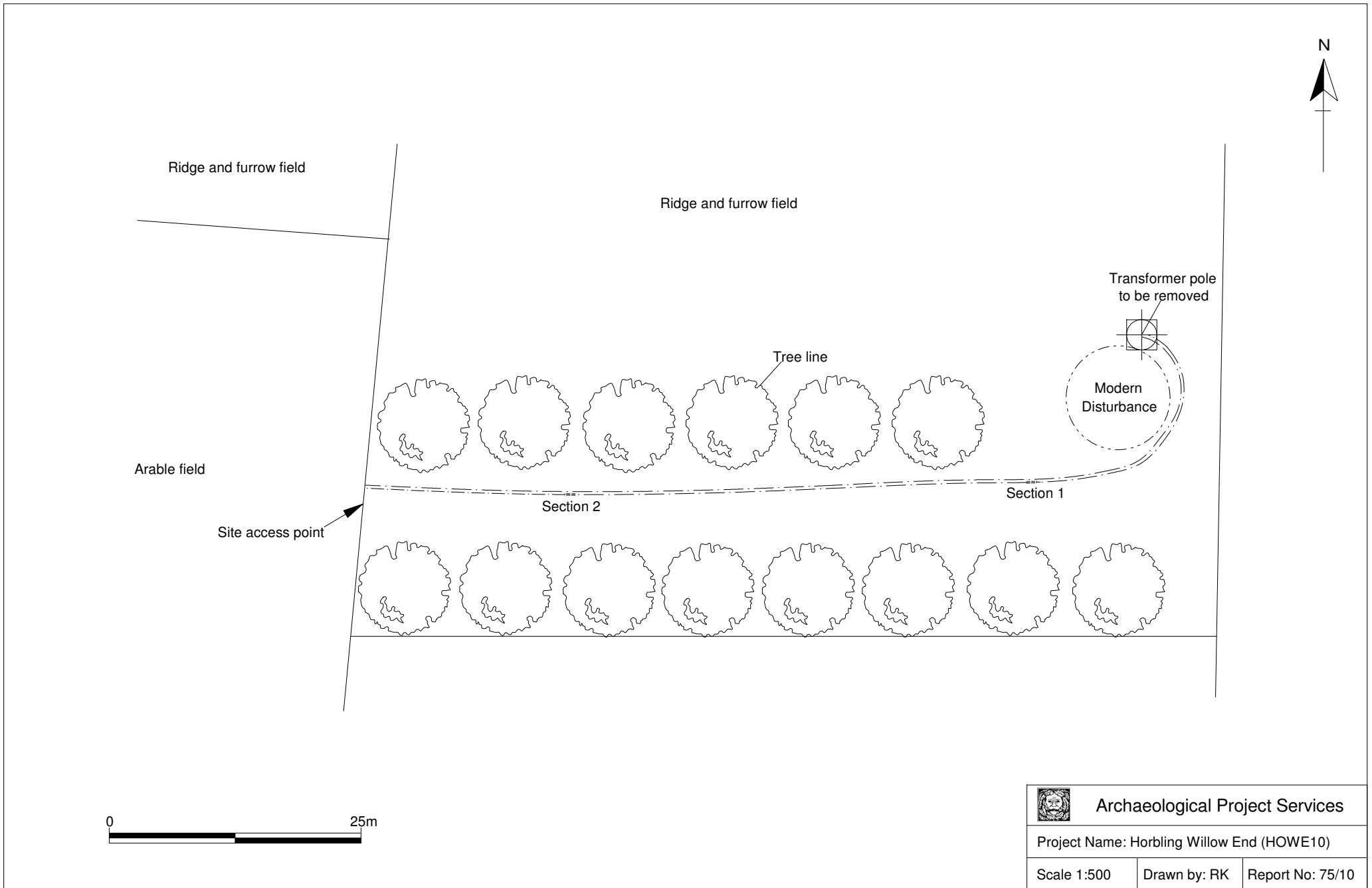

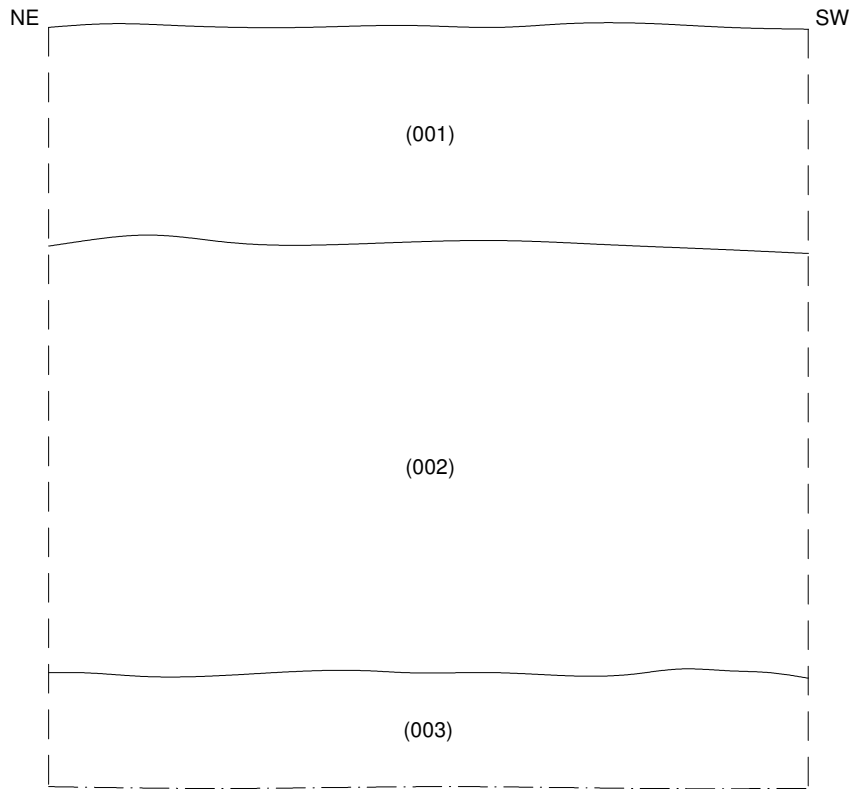


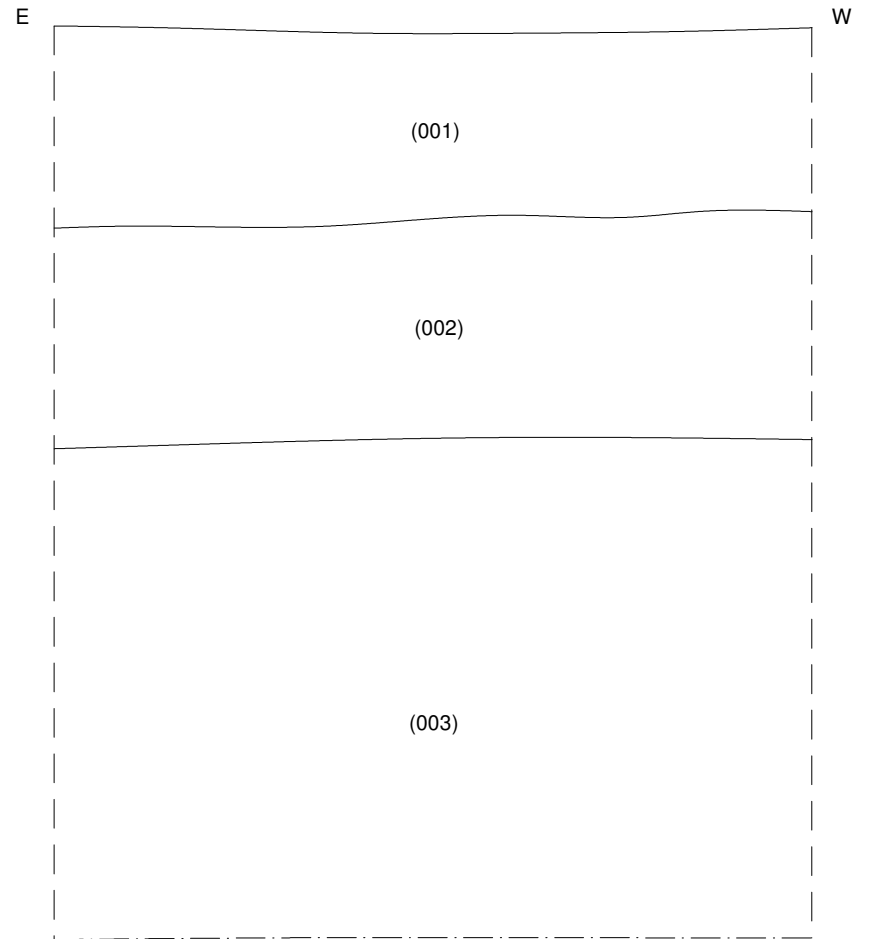
Figure 4 - location of cable trench and sections

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Section 1



Section 2



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Scale 1:10

Drawn by: RK

Report No: 75/10

Figure 5 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - Ridge and furrow earthworks north of tree line, looking southwest



Plate 2 - Area of monitoring south of tree line, looking west towards site access point

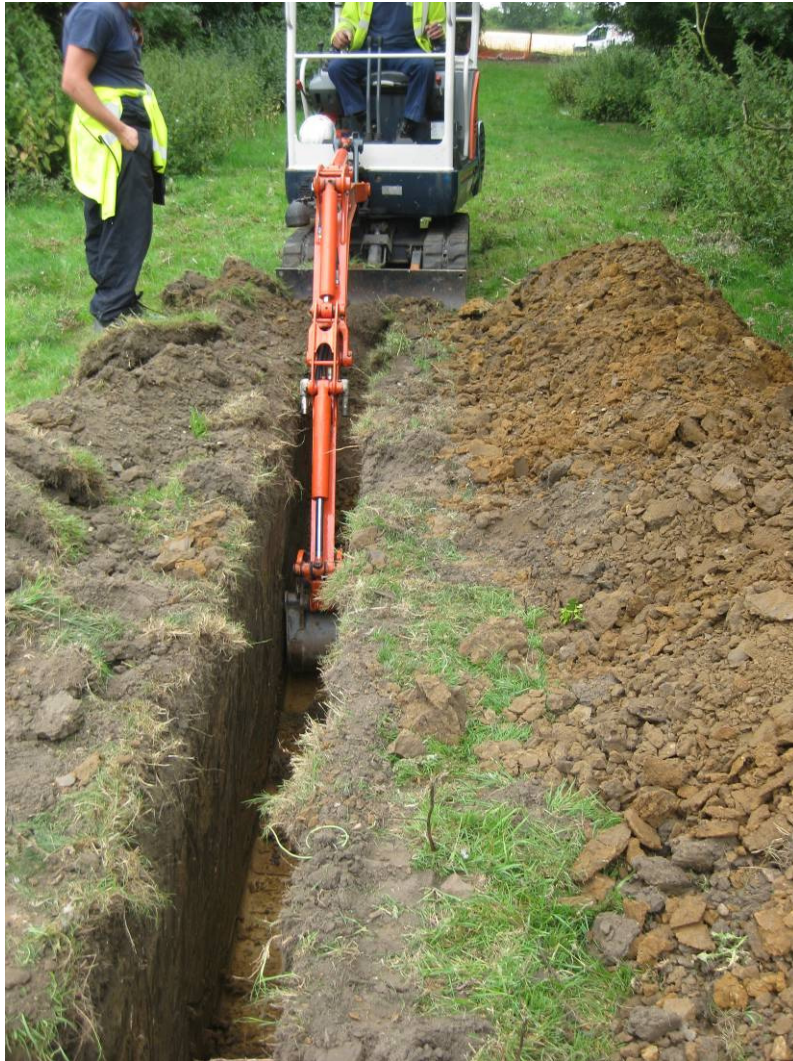


Plate 3 - Machine excavation of cable trench, looking west



Plate 4 - Section 1, looking southwest



Plate 5 - Section 2, looking south

APPENDIX 1

Context Summary

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Moderately soft, friable, mid grey silt with occasional CBM fragments, charcoal flecks, and small to large sub-angular limestone pieces. Maximum 0.30m thick.	Topsoil
002	Firm light reddish yellow clayey silt with occasional small-mid sub-angular gravel and limestone pieces. Maximum 0.55m thick	Subsoil
003	Moderately firm mid greyish/yellowish red silty clay with occasional chalky patches and small sub-angular gravel stones. At least 0.65m thick.	Natural

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Alex Beeby and Anne Boyle

Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001) and to conform to Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook*. The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005). A total of 3 sherds from 3 vessels, weighing 57 grams were recovered from the site.

Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Table 1 below. The pottery ranges in date from the post medieval to the early modern period.

Condition

The pottery is in a very poor condition. All of the material is fragmentary and two of the sherds are very abraded.

Results

Table 1, Post Roman Pottery Archive

Context	Cname	Form	Decoration	Part	Description	Date	NoS	NoV	W(g)
001	BERTH	Jar or Bowl		BS	Leached; V abraded; clay pells	17th-18th	1	1	11
001	BONE	Tea Cup	Blue transfer print	Handle		18th-19th	1	1	2
001	GRE	Bowl		Rim	V abraded	16th-18th	1	1	44
Total							3	3	57

Provenance

All of the pottery was recovered from the topsoil (001).

Range

There are three sherds from vessels in very common post medieval and early modern types. These are Brown earthenware (BERTH), glazed red earthenware (GRE) and bone china (BONE).

Potential

There is little potential for further work. All of the material is suitable to be discarded.

Summary

Three sherds of post medieval and early modern pottery were recovered from the topsoil.

OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

Introduction

A single piece of iron weighing 492g was recovered.

Condition

The other find is in good condition, but corroded.

Results

Table 2, Other Materials

Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
001	iron	Machinery part	1	492	Late post-medieval

Provenance

The other find was recovered from the topsoil.

Range

A single piece of iron, a probable machinery part, was retrieved.

Potential

As a single item of late post-medieval date, the other artefact is of limited potential.

SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 3 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 3, Spot dates

Cxt	Date	Comments
001	18th-19th	Topsoil

ABBREVIATIONS

- BS Body sherd
- CXT Context
- NoF Number of Fragments
- NoS Number of sherds
- NoV Number of vessels
- W (g) Weight (grams)

REFERENCES

~ 2003, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* [internet]. Available at <<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/section.asp?catId=3155>>

Slowikowski, A. M., Nenk, B., and Pearce, J., 2001, *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*, Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Young, J., Vince, A.G. and Nailor, V., 2005, *A Corpus of Saxon and Medieval Pottery from Lincoln* (Oxford)

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 interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term used 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
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Ridge and Furrow	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 4

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

3	Context record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet
5	Daily record sheets
1	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

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: 2010.107

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HOWE10

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.

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