

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:  
TWO TRENCHES AT OLD STREET FARM, HEMSWELL CLIFF,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

NGR: SK 9620 9144  
Planning Ref.: 128940  
PCAS job no. 1033  
Site code: OSFE13  
Archive acc. code: 2013.90

Report prepared for  
RSK on behalf of RWE NPower Renewables Ltd

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Summary	5
1.0 Introduction	6
2.0 Site location and description	7
3.0 Topography and geology .....	7
4.0 Planning background .....	7
5.0 Archaeological and historical background .....	8
6.0 Aims and methodology	8
7.0 Results	9
8.0 Conclusion	9
9.0 Site archive .....	9
10.0 Acknowledgements	9
11.0 References	10
Plates .....	11

## **Figures**

1. Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000. The proposed development site is outlined in red. OS mapping ©Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278
2. Trench Location Plan from GPS positions overlaid on OS mapping (PCAS licence no. 100049278). Scale 1:2000. After RSK. The two 2014 trenches are shown in blue

## **Plates**

1. Trench 16 of the 2013 evaluation, cut 1605 containing wall 1603, looking east
2. The 2014 evaluation site, looking east prior to excavation
3. Trench 1 complete, looking south
4. Trench 2 complete, looking east

## **Summary**

*In 2014, Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) were commissioned by RSK on behalf of RWE NPower Renewables Ltd., to excavate two trial trenches within the proposed relocated compound area of a proposed windfarm site at Hemswell Cliff, Lincolnshire (centred on NGR: SK 9620 9144). The evaluation was conducted as an addendum to a larger scheme of 28 targeted trial trenches excavated by PCAS at the end of 2013.*

*Trench 16 of the 2013 evaluation, located within the footprint of Turbine 5 close to the two additional trenches reported here, contained a steep-sided linear trench incorporating an irregular limestone structure. An adjacent Trench (17), was archaeologically negative. The two new trenches were excavated to examine the archaeological potential of the proposed relocated compound adjacent to Turbine 5.*

*Trenches 1 and 2 of the 2014 evaluation were also devoid of archaeological remains. Therefore the proposed relocated compound adjacent to Turbine 5 will have no adverse impact on any buried archaeological remains.*

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In early 2014, Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) were commissioned by RSK on behalf of RWE NPower Renewables Ltd., to excavate two trial trenches within the proposed relocated compound area of a planned windfarm site at Hemswell Cliff, Lincolnshire (centred on NGR: SK 9620 9144), (**Fig. 1**). The evaluation was conducted as an addendum to a larger scheme of 28 targeted trial trenches that were excavated on the site by PCAS at the end of 2013 (Francis 2013).
- 1.2 Trench 16 of the 2013 evaluation, located within the footprint of Turbine 5 close to the two additional trenches reported here, contained a steep-sided linear feature incorporating an irregular limestone structure. An adjacent Trench (17), was archaeologically negative. The two new trenches were excavated in 2014 to examine the archaeological potential of the proposed relocated compound adjacent to Turbine 5.
- 1.3 The results of the two-trench evaluation presented here, together with the preceding evaluation (Francis 2013) and geophysical survey (RSK 2013), will inform a future planning application for the proposed windfarm.

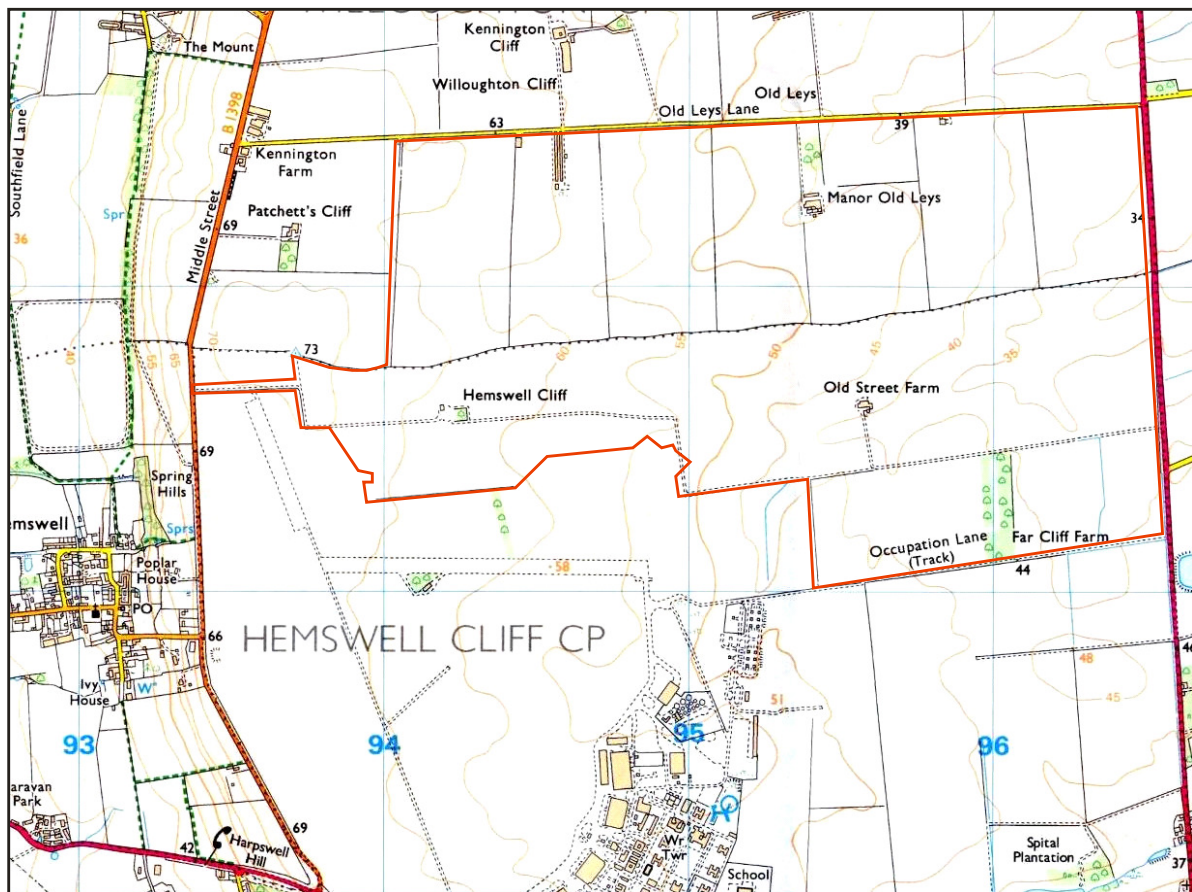


Figure 1: Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000. The proposed development site is outlined in red. OS mapping ©Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278

## **2.0 Site location and description**

- 2.1 The modern Civil Parish of Hemswell Cliff lies in the administrative district of West Lindsey in the County of Lincolnshire, approximately 18km north of Lincoln and 14km east of Gainsborough.
- 2.2 The proposed windfarm site (the 'site') centred on Old Street Farm is located primarily within the north-eastern corner of Hemswell Cliff parish, with the northern extent in the neighbouring parish of Willoughton. The site is located on the top of the Lincoln Edge on land around the 40m OD contour that is bounded by Old Leys Lane to the north, Ermine Street (A15) to the east, Occupation Lane to the south and Middle Street (B1398) to the west. The site is accessed via a rough trackway to the south that connects with another track leading eastwards to the A15 (see **Fig. 1**).

## **3.0 Topography and geology**

- 3.1 Hemswell Cliff parish occupies a rectangular area on the top of the north-to-south aligned Jurassic limestone ridge known as the 'Lincoln Edge', which separates the valleys of the River Trent to the west and the River Ancholme to the east. The parish is defined to the east by the A15 road (the former Roman Ermine Street), where the maximum elevation is c. 45m AOD. The western edge of the parish is defined by Middle Street (the B1398), which runs along the edge of the west-facing scarp at c. 70m AOD, with Hemswell village and civil parish lying below it to the west. The elevation of the site is between c. 35m and 60m AOD (from east to west). Hemswell Cliff village, created from the permanent quarters of the former RAF Hemswell, is situated on the north side of the A631, to the south of the site.
- 3.2 No drift geology is recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development site. The local solid geology is the exposed Lincolnshire Limestone of the Lincoln Edge (BGS, 1999). The site lies on the limestone lowland heath.

## **4.0 Planning background**

- 4.1 In July 2012 RWE NPower Renewables (RWE NRL) submitted a planning application for the Hemswell Cliff Wind Farm, c.14km east of Gainsborough and c.1km to the north of the centre of Hemswell Cliff village (Application no. 128940). The application was for the creation of 10 turbines, a small substation and control building and a permanent wind-monitoring mast to collect wind speed data at the site.
- 4.2 The Historic Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council advised that the proposed development site had the potential to contain previously unknown heritage assets with archaeological interest. In accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012), an evaluation scheme comprising 28 trial trenches was undertaken on the site by PCAS at the end of 2013.
- 4.3 Section 12, paragraph 128 of the NPPF states that, '*128. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation*'.

## 5.0 Archaeological and historical background

- 5.1 An initial search of baseline data held by the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER) confirmed that there are no designated heritage assets located within the site (RSK August 2011, 29). The most relevant findings for the proposed windfarm development site as recorded in RSK's 2011 desk-based assessment of the site, were reiterated in the preceding evaluation report (Francis 2013) and are not reproduced here.
- 5.2 The two trenches (1 and 2) detailed in this report were excavated in response to the results of the previous evaluation within the proposed footprint of Turbine No. 5, where a single 30m-long trench (**T17**); and a 50m-long trench (**T16**) were excavated in 2013 (**Fig. 2**).
- 5.3 2013 evaluation Trench 16 (50m x 2m), was sited within the southern footprint of Turbine 5 and was oriented NW/SE. The trench was placed across an area of potential plough scars (no.66) identified on the geophysical survey. It revealed a minimal sequence of likely post-medieval date: at the north-western end of the trench, both the natural substrate (1602) and subsoil (1601) were cut by a steep-sided linear trench with a square profile [1605] (Plate 1). Within this was an irregular wall or structure [1603] built of limestone fragments laid vertically within the trench, which was then filled with a loamy soil (1604). The feature was approximately 0.40m wide and extended c. northeast/southwest across the 2m width of the trench, extending out both sides. It was sealed by c. 0.30m of mid brown topsoil (1600). Trench 17 (30m x 2m), was oriented c. NE/SW within the northern footprint of Turbine 5 and was positioned within a negative area on the geophysical survey as a control. The trench contained only the natural substrate (1702), subsoil (1701) and topsoil (1700).

## 6.0 Aims and methodology

- 6.1 The written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the original evaluation detailed the methodology and locations for the excavation of 28 trenches, which were agreed with LCC in advance of the work. The same aims and methodology were used for the subsequent two trenches, the results of which are detailed in the current report.
- 6.2 The two trenches (T1 and T2) were excavated in response to the results of the previous evaluation within the proposed footprint of Turbine No. 5, in particular, to examine the western extent of the irregular limestone structure [1603] identified in Trench 16.
- 6.3 The approved Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation (PCAS April 2013) was designed in collaboration with the Historic Environment Officer for Lincolnshire County Council and with Lincolnshire Museums. This report has been prepared in accordance with current best practice and appropriate national guidance including:
- *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*. Department for Communities and Local Government. March 2012;
  - *By-Laws: Code of Conduct*, IFA (1994, Rev. 2012);
  - *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, IFA (1994, Rev. 2009);
  - *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE Rev. 2009);
  - *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (Lincolnshire County Council, 2012).

- 6.4 The results of the evaluation presented here will be combined with the results of the 2013 evaluation and used to form the basis of further discussions between the commissioning body, the archaeological contractor and the Historic Environment Officer for LCC; and to inform the need for, and scope of, any subsequent mitigation strategy.
- 6.5 Before field work commenced, an OASIS online record (No.153615) was initiated (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). This has now been completed and was submitted to the LHER as part of the preceding report (PCAS 2013). A unique Lincolnshire Museums accession number was also assigned (2013.90); and arrangements were made with the developers and Lincolnshire museum, 'The Collection', for the future deposition of the archive.
- 6.6 All archaeological deposits and features, including those exposed by machine were manually cleaned and recorded and were then sample excavated by hand in accordance with the approved WSI. All context information was recorded on standard PCAS Context sheets. Archaeological plans and sections were drawn to appropriate scales (1:100, 1:50 1:20 and 1:10). Photography was conducted in 35mm format supplemented by colour digital.

## **7.0 Results**

- 7.1 Two trenches (T1 and T2) were excavated to the west of the Turbine 5 footprint and to the north and west of 2013 trenches 16 and 17 (see **Fig. 2** and Plate 2). The coordinates for the trenches were:
- Trench 1: A (north end) 496193/391466; B (south end) 496202/391397
  - Trench 2: A (west end) 496196/391458; B (east end) 496246/391464.
- 7.2 Both trenches were found to be archaeologically negative. Trench 1 (50m x 2m), oriented approximately NNW/SSE contained 0.40m of mid brownish-grey friable fine sandy-clay topsoil (100), lying directly above the natural limestone brash substrate (101), (Plate 3). Trench 2 (50m x 2m), was oriented approximately WSW/ENE and contained 0.40m of mid brownish-grey friable to slightly plastic fine sandy-clay topsoil (200), also stratified directly above the natural limestone brash substrate (201), (Plate 4).

## **8.0 Conclusion**

- 8.1 The 2014 evaluation found that Trenches 1 and 2 were devoid of archaeological remains. The proposed relocated compound adjacent to Turbine 5 will therefore have no adverse impact on any buried archaeological remains.

## **9.0 Site archive**

- 9.1 The paper archive for this site is currently at the office of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd., in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition. No material archive was generated during the work. In accordance with the approved specification, it will be deposited with North Lincolnshire Museum within six months of the end of this project under the PCAS Site code OSFE13 and unique Lincolnshire accession number 2013.90.

## **10.0 Acknowledgements**

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd., are grateful to RSK and RWE NPower Renewables Ltd., for this commission; and to Karen Waite, the Historic Environment Officer for LCC, for her guidance throughout the project.



## 11.0 References

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## Plates



1. Trench 16 of the 2013 evaluation, cut 1605 containing wall 1603, looking east



2. The 2014 evaluation site, looking east prior to excavation



3. Trench 1 complete, looking south



4. Trench 2 complete, looking east