

ERECTION OF A WIND TURBINE,
SKEFFLING VILLAGE HALL, HUMBER LANE,
SKEFFLING, EAST YORKSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION,
INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING

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On behalf of

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Skeffling Parish Council
c/o Burstall Garth
Skeffling
East Yorkshire HU12 0UX

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING,
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2006, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr J Robinson, on behalf of Skeffling Parish Council, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the erection of a wind turbine adjacent to Skeffling Village Hall, Humber Lane, Skeffling, East Yorkshire (NGR SE3715 1918). The watching brief was made a condition of planning permission granted on 8th November 2006.

Despite the development site having some potential, the watching brief produced nothing of archaeological interest, and no archaeological deposits or artefacts of note were uncovered. It should be noted that large parts of the site had previously been disturbed by differing land uses and the installation of various underground services.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2006, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Mr J Robinson, on behalf of Skeffling Parish Council, to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (a watching brief) during groundworks associated with the erection of a wind turbine adjacent to Skeffling Village Hall, Humber Lane, Skeffling, East Yorkshire (NGR SE3715 1918). The watching brief was made a condition of full planning permission (application DC/06/07150/PLF/EASTSE - condition 2), granted on 8th November 2006.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 Skeffling Village Hall lies on the south side of Winsetts Road, close to its junction with Humber Lane and Church Road, to the south of the B1445 Patrington to Easington road (NGR SE37151918) (see figure 1). St Helens church lies to the south. The turbine was to be erected to the south-west of the village hall, close to a newly re-positioned fence bounding an adjacent pasture to the south. The old fence, i.e. that which is shown on the Ordnance Survey maps, follows the curving line of a former drainage ditch, running approximately east-west, but the new fence has a straight alignment, taking in a small part of the pasture at its east end and releasing a small area of village hall land to the west.

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief work was defined by an EDAS methods statement (see Appendix 2), which was approved in advance of any work on site by the local archaeological curators, the Humber Archaeology Partnership. The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundworks associated with the erection of the new wind turbine, to recover any information relating to any archaeological features or deposits which might be uncovered or disturbed.
- 3.2 The watching brief was undertaken in difficult conditions, in severe wind and heavy rain, on 18th January 2007. A 360 degree tracked mechanical excavator with a wide toothless bucket was used to excavate a pit measuring 1.60m by 1.50m and 1.12m deep to accommodate the turbine's anchor block (Trench 1). A narrow toothless bucket was then used to excavate a trench measuring 3.10m by 3.0m and 1.28m deep for the turbine's foundation (Trench 2). A further 0.5m wide by 0.5m deep and 21.0m long connecting trench (Trench 3) was excavated from the hall to the foundation; the section nearest the hall was dug by hand and then by mechanical excavator to the east of a manhole. The south-east section of this trench (c.12m long) passed through ground previously disturbed by Yorkshire Water, and a length of sewer pipe was broken during the work.
- 3.3 Following standard archaeological procedures, each discrete stratigraphic entity (e.g. a cut, fill or layer) was assigned an individual context number and detailed information was recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. A total of seven archaeological contexts were recorded; these are all described in the following text as three digit numbers (e.g. 005) (see also Appendix 1). In-house recording and quality control procedures ensured that all recorded information was cross-referenced as appropriate. The positions of all monitored groundworks were marked on a general site plan at 1:100 scale, but more detailed section drawings were not considered to be necessary. A photographic record was maintained using 35mm colour prints and digital images.

- 3.4 With the agreement of the developer, the project archive, comprising written and photographic elements, has been deposited with the East Riding of Yorkshire Museum Service (site code HLS 07; accession number 2007.18). No artefacts were recovered from the watching brief.

4 OUTLINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The village of Skeffling probably originated in the Anglian period, as the name is likely to be derived from an Old English personal name. The village is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, but it first appears in the documentary record in 1150-76 (Smith 1937, 20). In the early Middle Ages the church and parish were sometimes called Burstall, and it is not known whether this was an alternative name for Skeffling or whether Burstall was a separate hamlet. A small Benedictine priory was established at Burstall in c.1115 and was probably closed by 1400; it evidently stood near the Humber, to the south-west of the village, and was washed away in the 18th century. Near the river, further to the east, was Winsetts, the “houses exposed by the wind”, which was mentioned in the 12th century (Allison 1984, 127-128).
- 4.2 A map of 1721 shows that the houses in Skeffling mostly lay around two small commons, known as West and East (or Cross) greens. When the greens were enclosed in 1765, the main road and the north-south village street were set out on their current alignments. The buildings in the village predominantly date from the 18th century onwards, while the isolated St Helens church mostly dates to the 1460s, although it was restored by Brodrick in 1901 (Allison 1984, 129; Pevsner & Neave 1995, 683).
- 4.3 The site of the proposed development lies at the south end of the historic village, at the south end of Cross Green common. A building is shown in this general position on the 1721 plan of the village, although it had apparently gone by the time of the enclosure map of 1765, when Humber Lane (formerly Church Road) and Winsetts Road had been laid out (see figure 2). The 1855 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6” map (sheet 257) shows that there was a building on the south side of Winsetts Road, with what are probably gardens in the adjacent enclosures (see figure 3). This building appears to be on the site of the later village hall, but it had gone by the time of the 1892 Ordnance Survey map (sheet 257SW).
- 4.4 A prefabricated village hall had been built in 1921 on the north side of Winsetts Road (Allison 1984, 129), but the existing structure on the site was built in the 1980s (James Robinson, *pers. comm.*). The site had previously been used as an orchard and allotments until the 1950s, various service pipes had been dug through the area in the 1960s and 1980s, and the east side of the site had been stripped and then built up with clay in c.2000 to form a working compound for Yorkshire Water (James Robinson, *pers. comm.*).

5 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS (see figure 4)

- 5.1 Trench 1 revealed only a part of the former fence line on the south side of the site, and part of the infill of the former drainage ditch (006) which crossed this area, a friable dark brown loam containing 19th /20th century pottery and metal debris. This was overlain by a friable mid-brown gritty loam (007), c.0.22m thick, above which was a rough firm black-brown loam containing gravel, hardcore and tarmac fragments (001) forming the car park surface (see plate 1).

- 5.2 Trench 2, cutting through land which was until recently a part of the pasture, revealed nothing of archaeological interest. The deposits uncovered at the south end of the trench, beneath a depth of c.0.25m of topsoil with turf (002), were a clean light brown firm silty soil (003) with occasional rounded cobbles which was interpreted as the natural subsoil. At the north end of the trench, beneath the car park surface (001) was a creamy/yellow sticky clay with chalky gravel layer (005), 0.20m thick; this was presumably the levelling deposit used for the Yorkshire Water site compound (see above) and it was laid on a geotextile mat (see plate 2). Below this was a dirty darker brown loamy deposit (004) containing much modern debris, presumably the infill deposited after work on the sewerage connections. This deposit could also be a part of the infill of the former drainage ditch, which was known to have run approximately through this position, although the cut could not be distinguished in the section of Trench 2.
- 5.3 Trench 3, which measured 0.50m wide and 0.50m deep, revealed only modern deposits beneath the car-park surface (001), namely the mid-brown gritty loam (007) and the darker brown loam (004). These deposits were cut by modern service pipes and occasional sherds of post-medieval and modern pottery were noted.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Despite the area in question having some potential, the watching brief during the erection of the wind turbine at Skeffling village hall produced nothing of archaeological interest, and no archaeological deposits or artefacts of note were uncovered. It should be noted that large parts of the site had previously been disturbed, to unknown depths, by differing land uses and the installation of various underground services.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Pevsner, N & Neave, D 1995 *The Buildings of England – Yorkshire: York and the East Riding*

Smith, A H 1937 *The Place-names of the East Riding of Yorkshire and York*. English Place-name Society vol 14

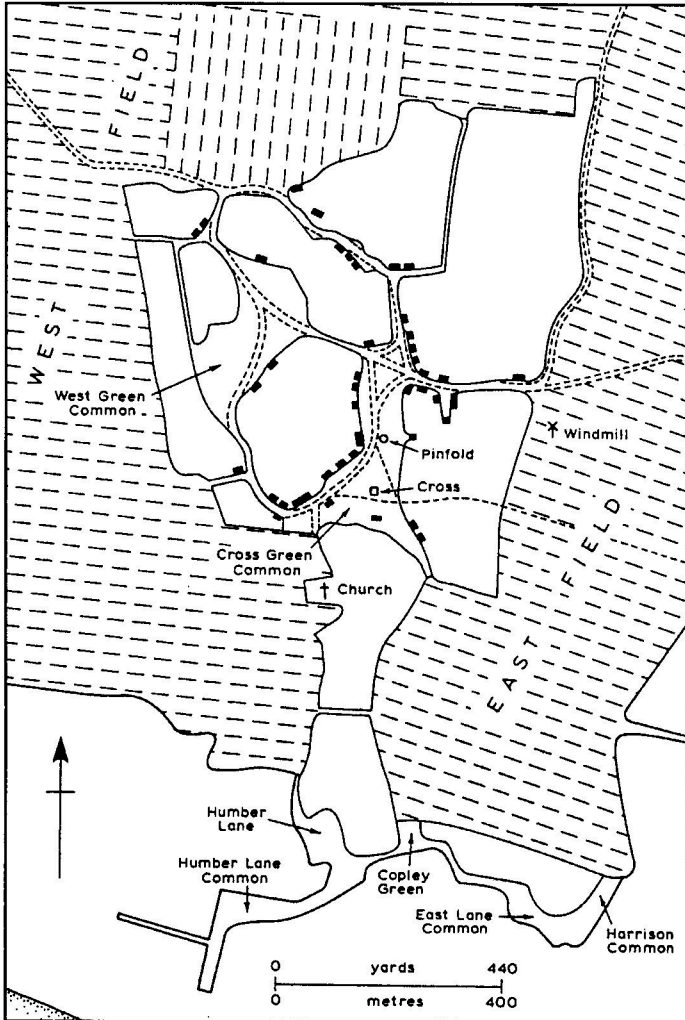
8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 The archaeological watching brief at Skeffling village hall was commissioned and funded by the Parish Council, and EDAS would like to thank them, and their representative Mr J Robinson, for their co-operation in carrying out the work.
- 8.2 The site recording was undertaken by Kate Dennett and Rod Mackey on behalf of EDAS, and Kate Dennett produced the fieldwork records. Ed Dennison produced the final report and drawings, and the responsibility for any errors or inconsistencies remains with him.

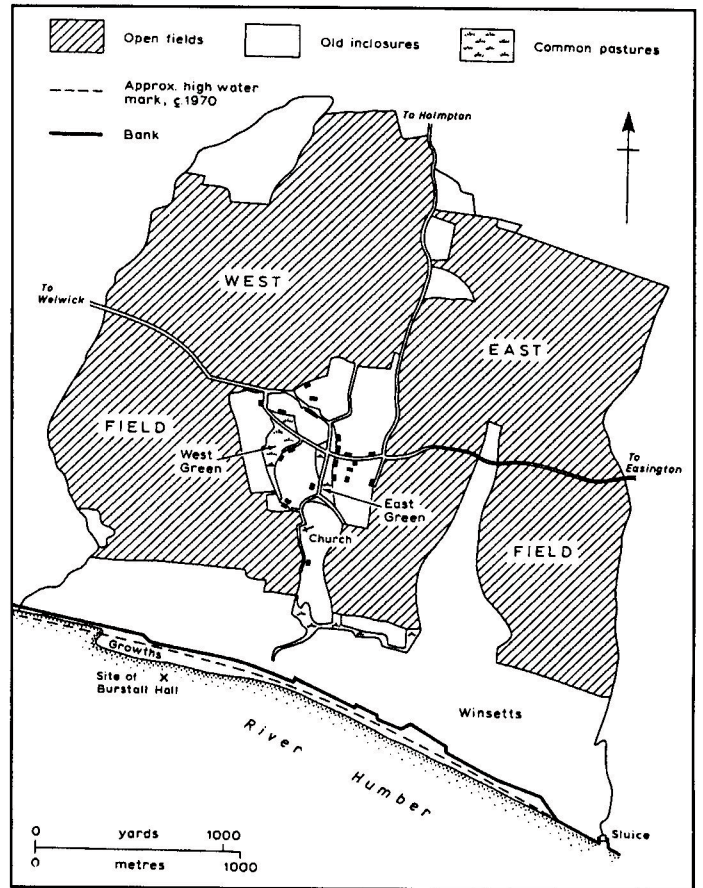


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PROJECT		SKEFFLING VILLAGE HALL	
TITLE		GENERAL LOCATION	
SCALE	DATE	NTS	FEB 2007
EDAS		FIGURE	1

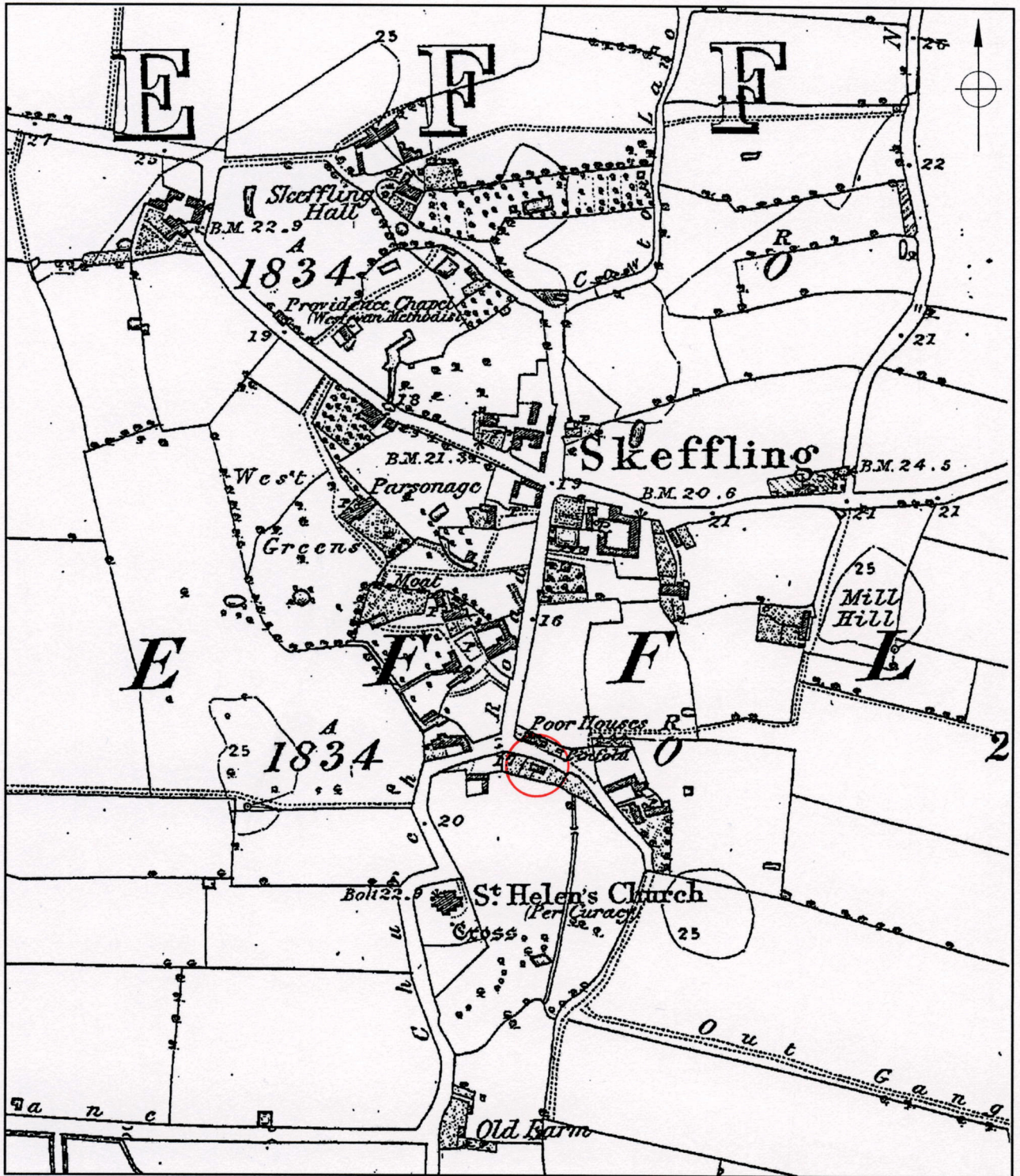


Skeffling village in 1721.
 (Source: Allison 1984, 128-129).



Skeffling parish before enclosure in 1765.

PROJECT		SKEFFLING VILLAGE HALL	
TITLE		HISTORIC MAPS	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	FEB 2007
EDAS		FIGURE	2



Source: Ordnance Survey 1855 6" map (sheet 257).

PROJECT		SKEFFLING VILLAGE HALL	
TITLE		1855 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP	
SCALE	NTS	DATE	FEB 2007
EDAS		FIGURE	3

PROJECT	SKEFFLING VILLAGE HALL		
TITLE	WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	FEB 2007
	EDAS	FIGURE	4

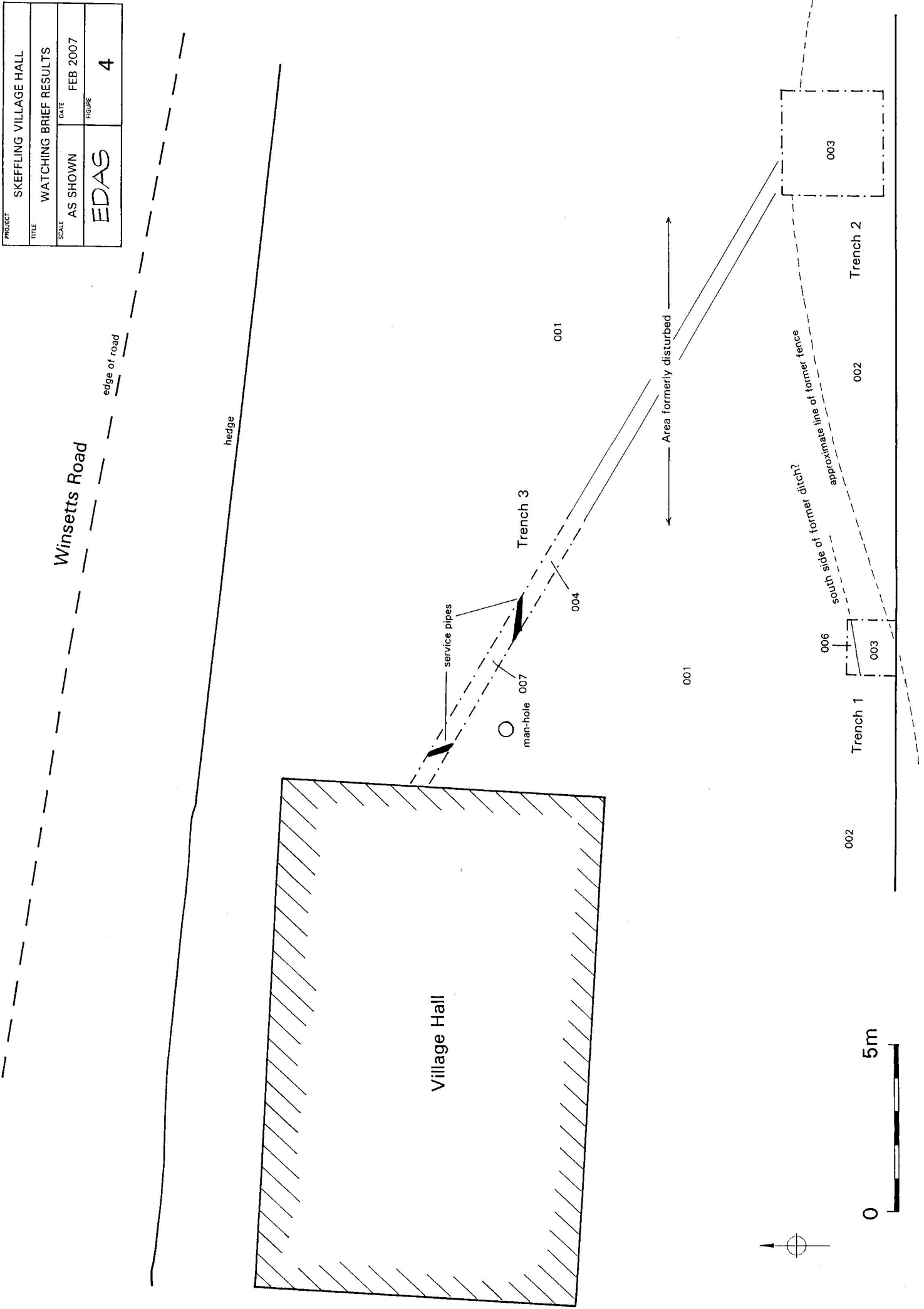




Plate 1: South and west sides of Trench 1, looking SSW.

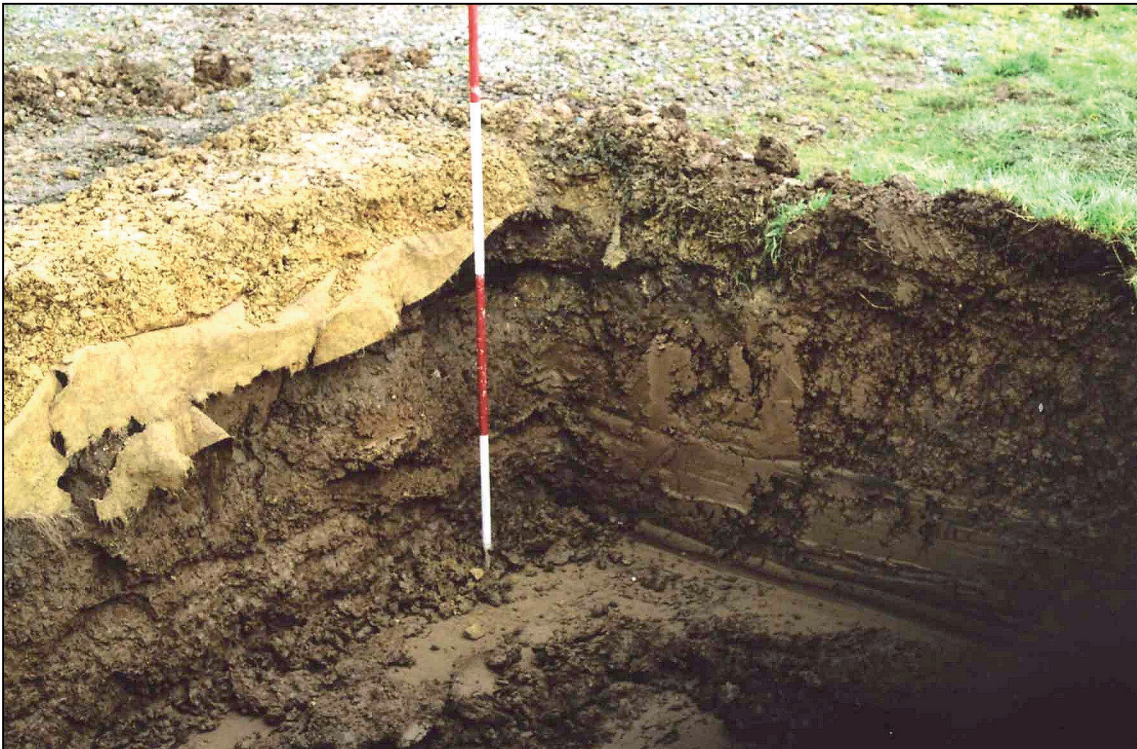


Plate 2: North and east sides of Trench 2, showing modern deposits (001/005) and geotextile mat, looking NE.

APPENDIX 1

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

- 001 Firm black/brown loam with gravel, hardcore and tarmac fragments, 0.08m thick – car park surface.
- 002 Dark brown friable loam topsoil with turf, <0.25m thick.
- 003 Firm brown silt with occasional cobbles – natural subsoil.
- 004 Dirty dark brown loam with much modern debris, 0.80m thick - infill material?
- 005 Firm creamy yellow sticky clay with gravel, 0.2m thick resting on geotextile mat – modern levelling material.
- 006 Dark brown loam with occasional brick fragments, 19/20th century pot, stones and metal debris, >0.82m thick – infill of former drain?
- 007 Dirty mid-brown gritty loam with occasional small stones and brick fragments c.0.22m thick.

APPENDIX 2

APPENDIX 2: EDAS METHODS STATEMENT

PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION AND RECORDING DURING THE ERECTION OF A 6KV WIND TURBINE, AT THE VILLAGE HALL, HUMBER LANE, SKEFFLING, EAST YORKSHIRE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This methods statement details the work required to undertake a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording to be carried out during groundworks associated with the erection of a 6kw wind turbine, at the Village Hall, Humber Lane, Skeffling, East Yorkshire.
- 1.2 This statement has been produced by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS), at the request of Mr James Robinson of Skeffling Parish Council. The contents of this statement have been discussed and agreed with the Humber Archaeology Partnership, and it forms the "programme of archaeological work" stipulated in condition 2 of the approved planning permission (application DC/06/07150/PLF/EASTSE).

2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 Skeffling village hall lies at the junction of Church Road, Winsetts Road and Humber Lane, to the south of the B1445 road and north of the church (NGR SE367192 centred).

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Full planning permission for the development was granted by East Riding of Yorkshire Council in November 2006, with a condition which is relevant to the archaeological recording (application DC/06/07150/PLF/EASTSE).
- 3.2 Condition 2 states that: "No development shall take place on the site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority".

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Information from the Humber Archaeology Partnership states that the site of the proposed development lies at the south-east end of the historic village, close by a triangular area which later became the East Green. Buildings in this position are shown on a plan of the village dating from 1721, fronting onto a road which follows the same course as the modern Winsetts Road. The latter is clearly shown on an enclosure map of 1765, but by then the buildings along this part of the road have gone, and the East Green had been created. It would therefore appear that the development site would have formed part of the medieval buildings, but that buildings in this area passed out of use sometime between 1721 and 1765.
- 4.2 It is therefore considered likely that any below-ground works associated with development in this area would encounter archaeological deposits relating to the occupation of the site in the medieval and later periods.

5 PROPOSED WORKS

- 5.1 As noted above, the proposals for the site involve the erection of a wind turbine to the south-west of the existing village hall. The turbine itself will require a foundation, formed by a concrete cube measuring 3.0m square by 1.2m deep. An anchor block for a winching point will also be required, again formed by a concrete block 1.5m square by 1.0m deep. The excavations for these foundations will therefore be slightly bigger than these dimensions. In addition, a cable trench will be dug, connecting the turbine to the village hall – this trench will be c.30m long by 0.45m wide and 0.5m deep.

6 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The aim of the archaeological recording work is to record and recover information relating to the nature, date, depth, and significance of any archaeological features and deposits which might be present on the site and which will be affected by the current proposals.
- 6.2 The archaeological work will be achieved through the archaeological monitoring and recording of the below-ground excavations associated with the foundations for the turbine and associated trenches. All these development works will be undertaken under strict and direct archaeological supervision, to ensure the proper identification and recording of any archaeological and architectural material that might be uncovered.
- 6.3 The recording work should not unduly delay the overall programme of site works, and much can be achieved through liaison and co-operation with the building contractor/developer. However, the contractor should ensure that EDAS have sufficient time and resources to ensure compliance with all elements of this specification. It is likely that the recording work will be accomplished through a number of separate site visits, the number and duration of which will be determined by the speed of the development. Access to the site should therefore be afforded to EDAS at all reasonable times.
- 6.4 All archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the contractor's proposed timetable, unless agreed otherwise. Reasonable prior notice (minimum one week) of the commencement of development will be given EDAS, who will then inform the Humber Archaeological Partnership, so that they may attend or monitor if they so wish.
- 6.5 EDAS will view the groundworks as they are being excavated. Where mechanical excavation equipment is to be used (e.g. JCB or mini-digger), the contractor will use a toothless bucket, wherever possible. Where structures, features or finds of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed, EDAS will be allowed time to clean, assess, and quickly hand excavate, sample and record the archaeological remains as necessary and appropriate. Heavy plant or excavators will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of any archaeological remains until those remains have been recorded and the archaeologist has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.
- 6.6 If it becomes clear during the monitoring work that little of archaeological is likely to survive in specific parts of the site, the recording work may be halted in that part of the site, in consultation with the Humber Archaeology Partnership.
- 6.7 The actual areas of ground disturbance, and any features of archaeological interest identified within these areas, will be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by a combination of photographs (35mm black/white and colour prints as appropriate), scale drawings (plans and sections at 1:100, 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate), and written descriptions as judged adequate by the archaeologist on site, using appropriate proforma record sheets and standard archaeological recording systems.

7 UNEXPECTED SIGNIFICANT OR COMPLEX DISCOVERIES

- 7.1 If, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries are made that warrant more recording than is covered by this specification, immediate contact will be made with the developer and the Humber Archaeology Partnership. This will allow appropriate amendments to be made to the scope of the recording work, in agreement with all parties concerned. The possibility of temporarily halting work for unexpected discoveries has already been discussed with the developer.
- 7.2 Any human remains which might be revealed must initially be left *in situ* but, if their removal is considered to be necessary, such removal must comply with the relevant Department of Constitutional Affairs (formerly Home Office) regulations, as appropriate.
- 7.3 The terms of the Treasure Act (1996) will be followed with regard to any finds which might fall within its purview. Any such finds will be removed to a safe place, and reported to the local

coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the Code of Practice. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. A finds recovery and conservation strategy will also be discussed and agreed with the developer in advance of the project commencing.

8 REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

8.1 EDAS will obtain the consent of the landowner for the deposition of any finds resulting from the project in the local registered museum (East Riding of Museum Service). EDAS would contact the museum at the start of the project to determine their requirements for the transfer and deposition of the project archive, and the name of the recipient museum will be included in the project report. EDAS will also adhere to any specific conservation, transfer and deposition requirements which the museum might impose; these are likely to include charges for the storage and long-term curation of the site archive.

8.2 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples taken will be processed and all finds cleaned, identified, assessed, spot dated, marked (if appropriate) and properly packaged and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. The level of post-excavation analysis would be appropriate to the quality and quantity of the finds recovered, and specialists would be consulted as necessary.

8.3 A fully indexed field archive would be prepared, following the guidance produced by English Heritage. The archive will comprise primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs, and an index to the archive would also be prepared. Subject to the agreement of the landowner, the site archive will be deposited with any finds in the appropriate registered museum. A copy of the index to the site archive will also be sent to the Humber Archaeology Partnership SMR.

8.4 Within six weeks of the completion of the work (or longer if agreed with the Humber Archaeology Partnership), a report detailing the recording work will be produced by EDAS. The final report will include the following (as appropriate):

- A non-technical summary;
- Site code/project number;
- Planning reference number and SMR casework number;
- Dates for fieldwork visits;
- Grid reference;
- A location plan, with scale;
- A plan of the developer's plan showing the areas monitored and indicating the position of archaeological features in relation to the foundations etc;
- Sections and plan drawings (where archaeological deposits are exposed either above or below ground) with ground level, Ordnance Datum and vertical and horizontal scales;
- General site photographs, as well as photographs of any significant archaeological deposits or artefacts that are encountered;
- A written description and analysis of the methods and results of the watching brief, in the context of the known archaeology of the area;
- Specialist artefact and environmental reports, as necessary.

8.5 Three copies of the final report will be supplied, for distribution to the client, the Local Planning Authority and the Humber Archaeology Partnership SMR. A copy of the final report will also be included within the site archive. The Humber Archaeology Partnership SMR will also receive an electronic version of the report in line with their current guidance, as a pdf file.

8.6 Depending on the results of the recording work, a summary report of an appropriate length, accompanied by illustrations, will be prepared and submitted for publication in an appropriate local journal.

9 MONITORING

9.1 The archaeological recording work may be monitored by the Humber Archaeology Partnership, and appropriate site meetings and liaison will be arranged as necessary.

10 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 10.1 All archaeological work on site will be carried out with due regard for all Health and Safety considerations, and Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters. As the watching brief will be carried out at the same time as the contractor's work, EDAS will also have regard for any constraints or restrictions imposed by the building contractor.
- 10.2 EDAS would comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act of 1974 while undertaking the work. A full copy of their Health and Safety Policy is available on request. The site is privately owned and EDAS would indemnify the landowner in respect of their legal liability for physical injury to persons or damage to property arising on site in connection with the recording brief, to the extent of EDAS's Public Liability Insurance Cover (£5,000,000).

Ed Dennison, EDAS
21st November 2006