



YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST – WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

SITE ADDRESS	Beningbrough Home Farm, Beningbrough Park, Beningbrough, York		
CLIENT NAME	NEDL, Systems House, Lysander Close, Clifton Moor, York		
YAT PROJECT #	5243	YAT REPORT #	2009/29
MUSEUM ACCESSION #	n/a	GRID REFERENCE	SE 5195 5873
PLANNING REFERENCE #	n/a	AAI OPS NOTICE #	n/a
ARCHIVE LOCATION	YAT		
DATE OF VISIT	1-3/06/2009		

INTRODUCTION

From 1-3 June 2009 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by J. M. McComish on behalf of YAT on a site at Beningbrough Home Farm, Beningbrough Park, Beningbrough, York. The watching brief was to observe the excavation of a new electricity cable trench and access pits, on behalf of the client NEDL.

RESULTS

A cable trench was excavated by machine, together with two rectangular pits. The trench was located to the west, north and east of the farm shop and farm shop car park, and was 1.1m deep and 0.3m wide.

The **first pit** was located at the south-western end of the trench, it was c.2.6 x 0.9m in area; the long axis aligned almost west-east. This was excavated in order to locate the existing cable. The western end of this pit butted up against a modern concrete manhole. The cable trench ran northwards from the north-eastern corner of this pit and was located 0.2-1.3m east of a modern fence. The trench curved round at the northern end to follow a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. To the north-west of the north-western corner of the farm shop car park the cable trench split into two. One branch of the cable trench ran northwards to the **second pit**, which was c.2 x 1.2m in area; the second branch of the trench continued in a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. This trench continued beneath the present access road to the farm shop car park, having been bored through from west to east. The cable trench then continued on the same alignment before curving southwards to follow a north-west to south-east alignment. The total length of cable trench excavated was c.450m.

The observed remains were broadly similar along the entire length of the cable trench and within the pits. The earliest deposits seen were natural deposits which varied from clean pink-brown sandy-clay with a pocket of pale grey clayey-sand which was located c.25m, from the western end of the north-north-west to south-south-east aligned portion of the trench.

Above the natural deposits was a build-up of mid brown clayey-silt which was up to 0.4m thick. This was a very clean deposit containing few artefacts; those seen included a couple of fragments of modern white porcelain, one fragment of modern roof slate, several fragments of 16-18th century slop-moulded bricks, one fragment of late 18th-early 19th century slop moulded brick and a couple of fragments of modern wire. None of this material was retained. There was a pocket of crushed brick within this deposit located c.38-40m from the western end of the north-north-west to south-south-east aligned portion of the trench.

COMPLETED BY	J. M. McComish	CHECKED BY	M. Stockwell	PREPARED	10/07/2009
FINDS	None	SAMPLES	None	PHOTOS	Yes
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Cut through these deposits were a number of modern service pipes and cables. The first of these was an electricity cable in the westernmost pit which was located 0.9m below ground level. The cable was beneath a series of ceramic plates bearing the logo "ELECTRICITY DANGER". A similar cable beneath identical ceramic plates, also at 0.9m below ground level, ran southwards from the second pit. Also observed in the north-north-west to south-south-east aligned portion of the trench were two ceramic field drains, one modern glazed ceramic services-pipe and one blue coloured service pipe. A second glazed ceramic service pipe was seen in the north-west to south-east aligned portion of the cable trench to the east of the farm shop. These various drains and services were at depths of between 0.45-0.8m below ground level. The uppermost deposit observed was the grass and topsoil of the present fields.

Nothing of archaeological interest was observed in the trench; on the basis of this the decision was taken not to observe the excavation of a third pit at the south-eastern end of the cable trench.



Plate 1 *The electricity cable in the south-westernmost pit*

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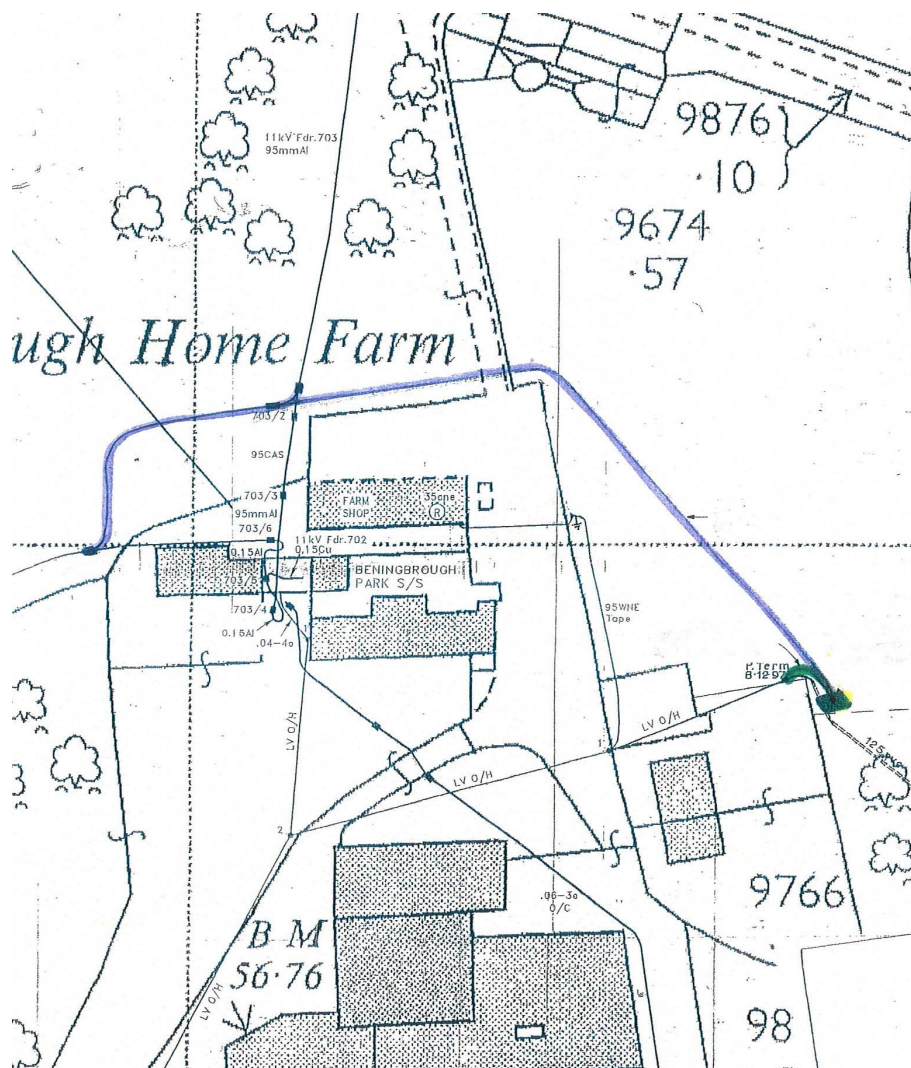


Figure 1 Location of the cable trench
Based on the Ordnance Survey plan supplied by client. Scale 1:1000

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Plate 2 A ceramic plate that capped the existing electricity cable



Plate 3 A modern service pipe in the north-north-west to south-south-east aligned portion of the trench

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Plate 4 A typical cross-section of the observed deposits



Plate 5 The north-north-west to south-south-east aligned portion of the trench

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Plate 6 The north-west to south-east aligned portion of the trench

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