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An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Screddington, Lincolnshire.

June 1994

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A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
SCREDINGTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
Anglia Water Services Ltd

Report Compiled By
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June 1994

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CONTENTS

List of Figures

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
	2.1 Background	1
	2.2 Topography and Geology	1
	2.3 Archaeological Setting	1
3.	Aims	1
4.	Methods	2
5.	Results	2
6.	Discussion	2
7.	Conclusions	2
8.	Acknowledgements	3
9.	Personnel	3
10.	Bibliography	3
11.	Abbreviations	3

Appendices

1	Context Summary
2	The Archive

List of Figures

Figure 1 . . . General Location Plan

Figure 2 . . . Site Location Plan

Figure 3 . . . Sections 1, 3 and 5

Figure 4 . . . Sections 7, 8 and 9

Plate 1 . . . General View of the Pipetrench

Plate 2 . . . General View of the Pipetrench

Plate 2 . . . General View of the Pipetrench

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a pipe trench during a water mains relay at Screddington, Lincolnshire.

The pipe trench passes through an area of significant archaeological remains. Five medieval moated sites lie in proximity to the village and finds of medieval pottery fragments and other artefacts have been made within these and at other locations. One of the moated sites is a scheduled ancient monument, as is a bridge immediately north of the village. Additionally, an ampulla, probably of Roman origin, has been found south of the village.

Sequences of natural and modern deposits were noted. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

During February 1994 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a pipe trench for a water mains relay at Screddington, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 095 405). Screddington is located in the civil parish of Screddington, North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd and carried out by Archaeological Project Services. In accordance with the specification, due consideration of the close proximity of scheduled monuments to the route of the pipeline was observed.

2.2 Topography and Geology

The village of Screddington is situated approximately 19km west of Grantham,

6km south of Sleaford and 20km north of Bourne (Fig. 2). Surrounding topography is relatively flat with a slight slope down to the north and the village lies at approximately 12m above sea level. Local soils are Rowsham association fine loamy over clayey soils (George *et al.* 1978, 71) and Denchworth association clayey soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 155).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Screddington village is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the Roman to post-medieval periods. Note that all measurements originate from the centre of the village. An ampulla (a small globular vessel used for holding sacred unguents), probably Roman, has been retrieved c. 650m to the southwest (NK54.14).

Medieval activity is principally represented by five moated sites. Two are situated 300m and 750m to the northeast (NK54.02 (site of) and NK54.07) and a further two are located 400m and 500m to the southeast (NK54.03 (site of) and NK54.06). The final moated site lies immediately north of the centre of the village (NK54.01). The latter contains earthworks that have been identified as the remnants of a shrunken medieval village, and is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM259). NK54.06 is also the site of 13th-16th century hall and buildings. Located 480m to the northeast is a medieval packhorse bridge built c. 1250 (NK54.05), a scheduled ancient monument (SAM89), which now rests on modern concrete foundations. An iron spearhead was retrieved 500m to the northeast (NK54.04).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to

identify surviving archaeological deposits and, if present, record them in detail to enable their date, function and origin to be determined.

4. METHODS

A mechanical excavator was used in the construction of the pipe trench, which measured 0.5m wide and averaged 1.25m deep. See Fig. 2 for a plan of the route of the pipe trench and the recorded sections.

The sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains prior to recording the sections. Each archaeological deposit or feature was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at scale 1:20. Additionally, the natural geology was recorded.

5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits and features identified during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. Two phases were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Modern deposits

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Deposits of clay (3, 6, 10, 13, 26, and 29) (Figs. 3 and 4), which occasionally contained silt, were encountered. These were sealed by a layer of silty sand (16, 19 and 22), that contained occasional small stones, this layer was localised along the road north to Northbeck.

Phase 2 Modern Deposits

Sealing the natural deposits was a layer of dark brown silty clay (2, 15, 18, 21 and 28). This has been interpreted as a modern subsoil.

Above the subsoil was a layer of dark grey silt (8), which contained occasional brick fragments. This has been interpreted as a buried topsoil of modern date.

Observed in sections 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9 the present ground surface, sealing the subsoil and the buried soil, was a layer of dark grey silt (1, 7, 14, 17, 20 and 27), which contained small lenses of clay.

In sections 2, 4, and 8 above the natural clay and buried soil were deposits of mixed clay, sand and silt in varying proportions (9, 5, 12, 24 and 25), which contained bricks, breeze blocks and moderate quantities of unworked stone. These deposits have been interpreted as make-up layers for the present road surface. Sealing the make-up layers was the modern road surface (4, 11 and 23).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural layers of clay, (phase 1), probably alluvial in origin, were observed across the area.

The subsoils are considered to have formed naturally. Layers of mixed silt, sand and clay constitute the make-up for the present road surface. Where the pipe trench cut through the grass verge, a buried soil, modern in date, was observed.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigation at Screddington established that natural deposits of clay occur within 0.4m of the present ground surface. Relatively recent usage of the

area is represented by modern layers of debris used as make-up for the present road surface, and a redeposited soil layer used to create or raise the grass verge.

reference numbers used by the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Anglian Water Services Ltd for funding the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Nicola Nuttall, the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Site Assistant: Fiona Walker
Post-excavation Analysts: Paul Cope-Faulkner and Mark Dymond

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

George, H and Robson, J.D., 1978 *Soils in Lincolnshire II*, Soil Survey of England and Wales. Soil Survey Record 51

Hodge, C.A.H. Burton, R.G.O. Corbett, W.M. Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin No. 13

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers which appear in brackets refer to the archaeological deposits and features recorded during the course of the fieldwork.

Numbers prefixed by 'NK' are the

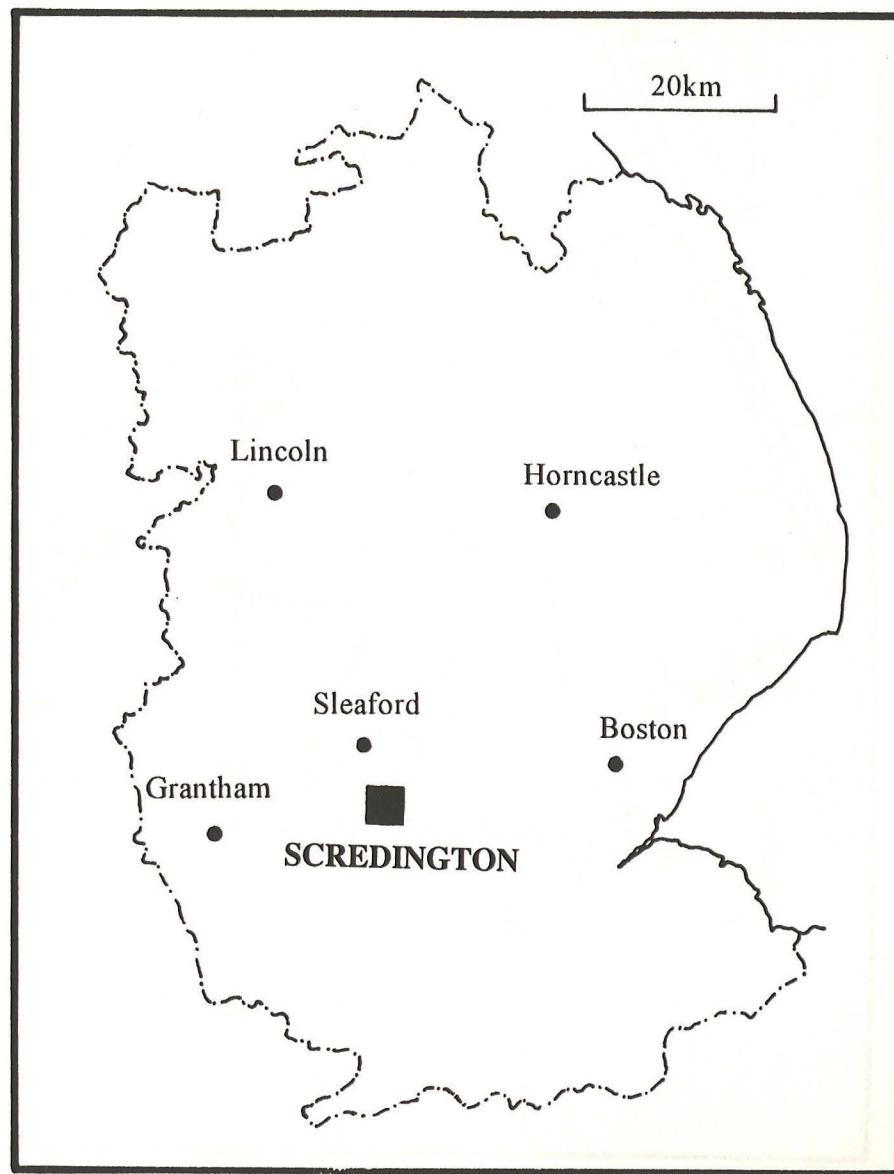
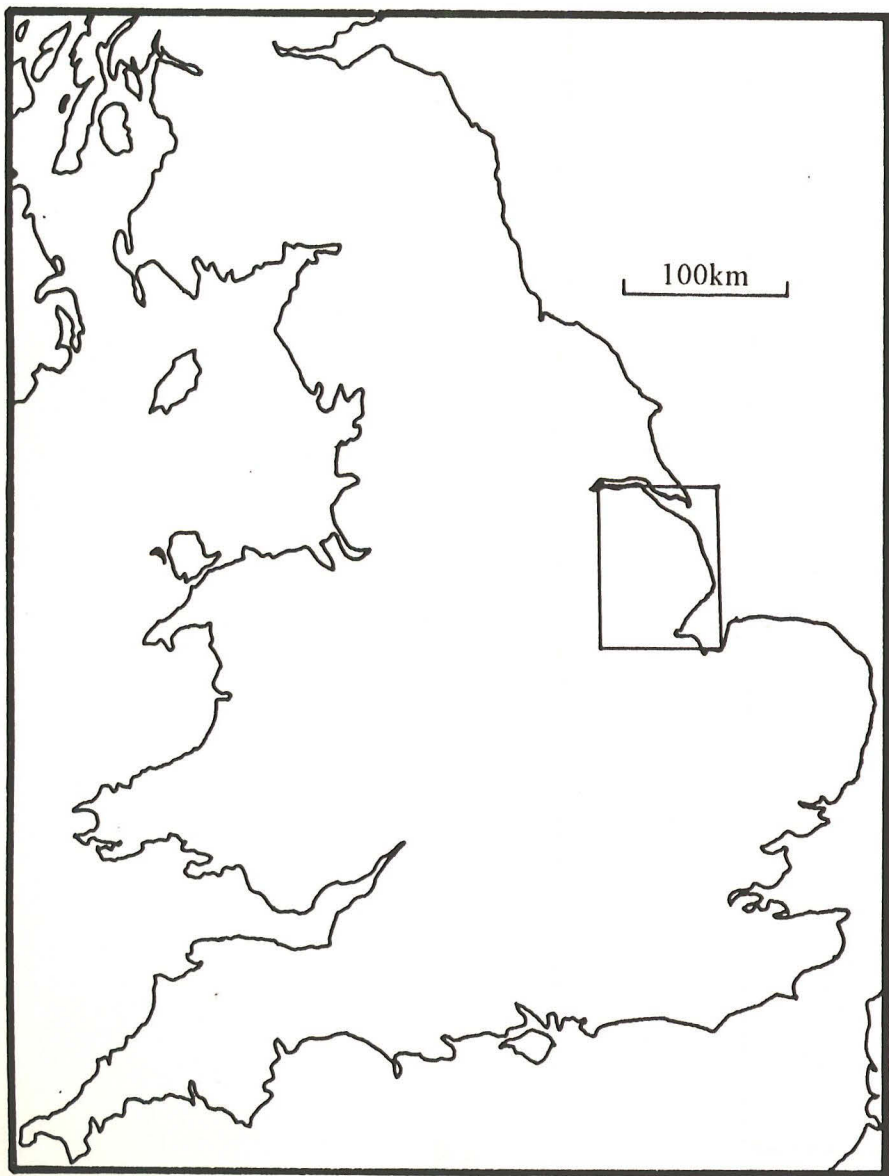
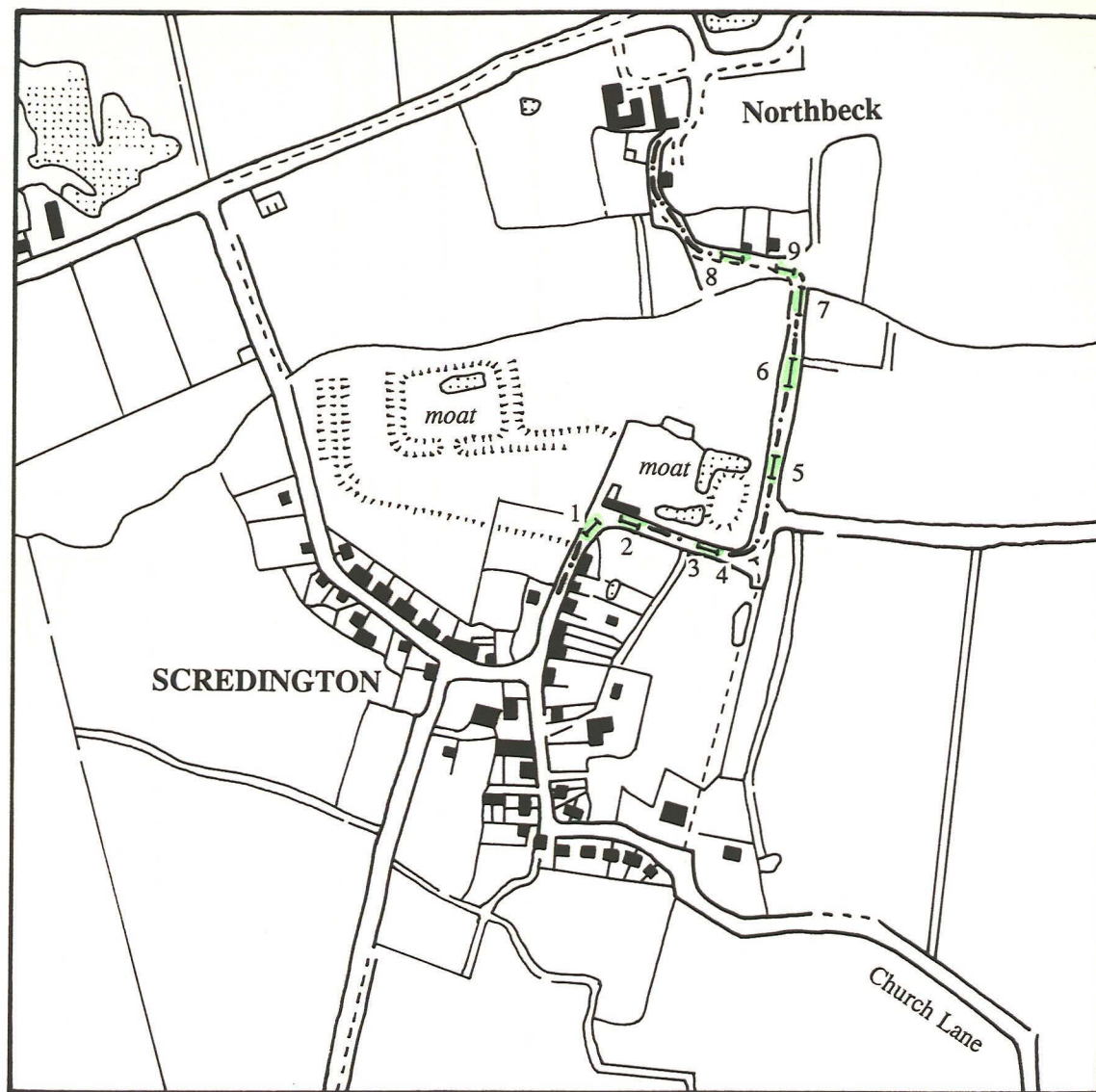




Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig.2 Site Location Plan



-  Route of Pipeline
-  Recorded Section



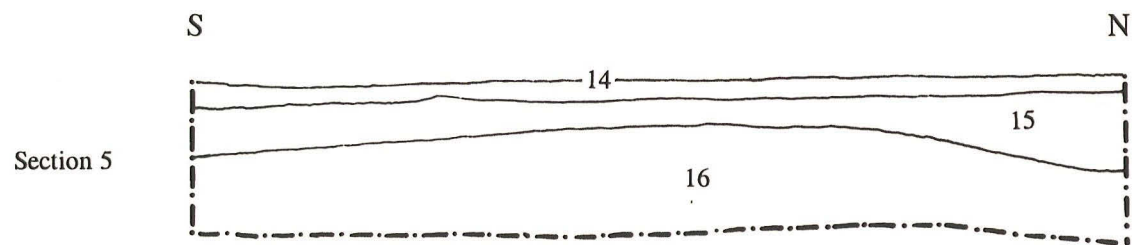
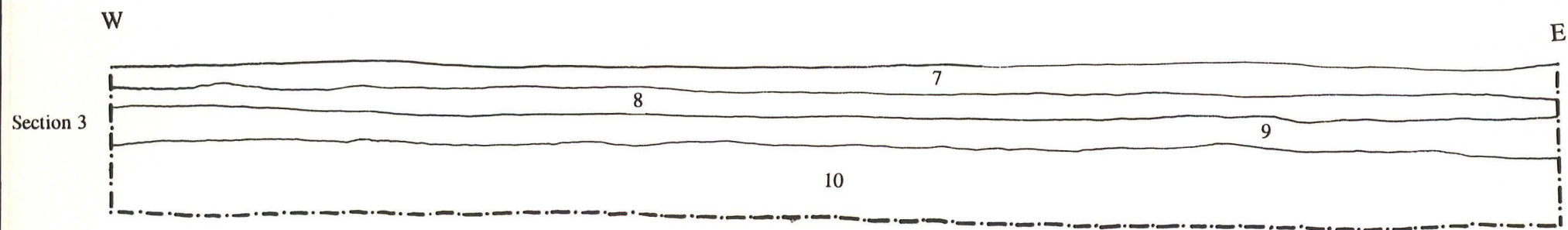
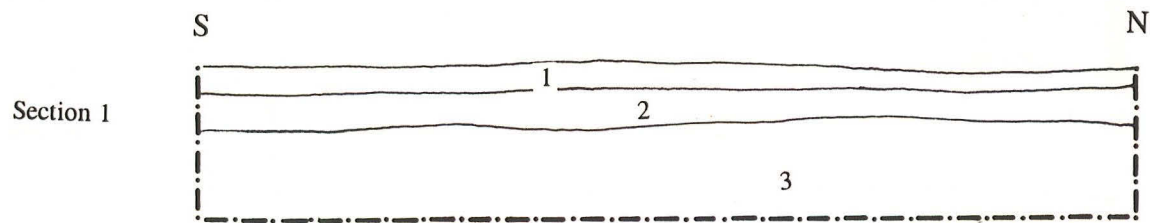
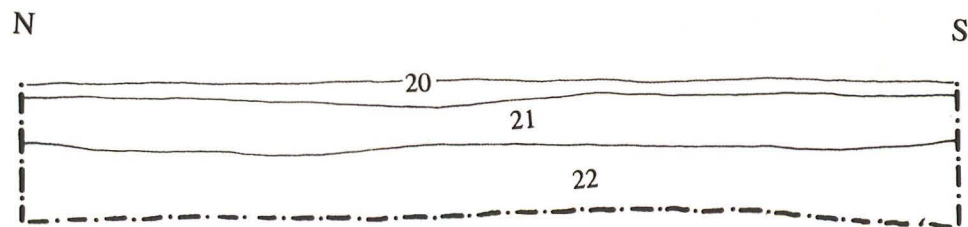
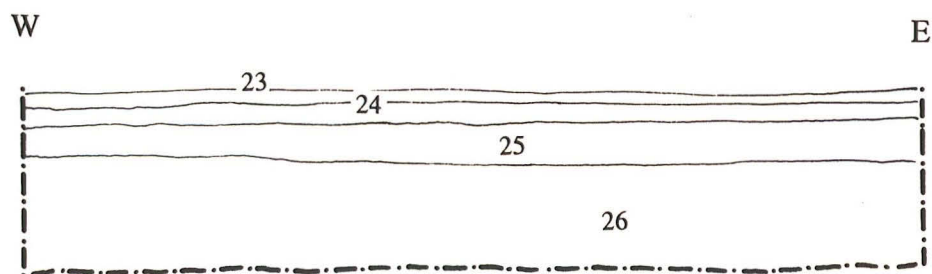


Fig. 3 Sections 1, 3 and 5

Section 7



Section 8



Section 9

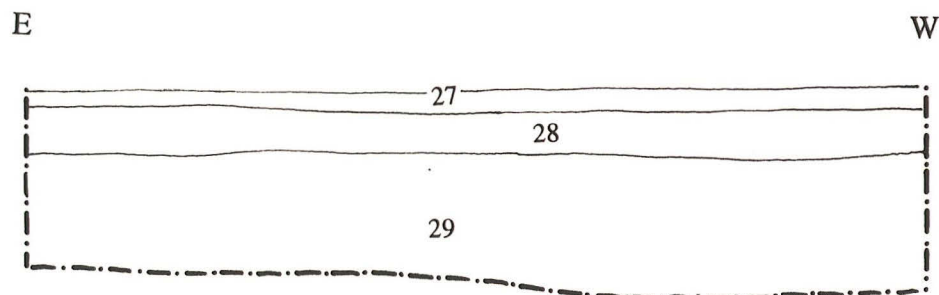
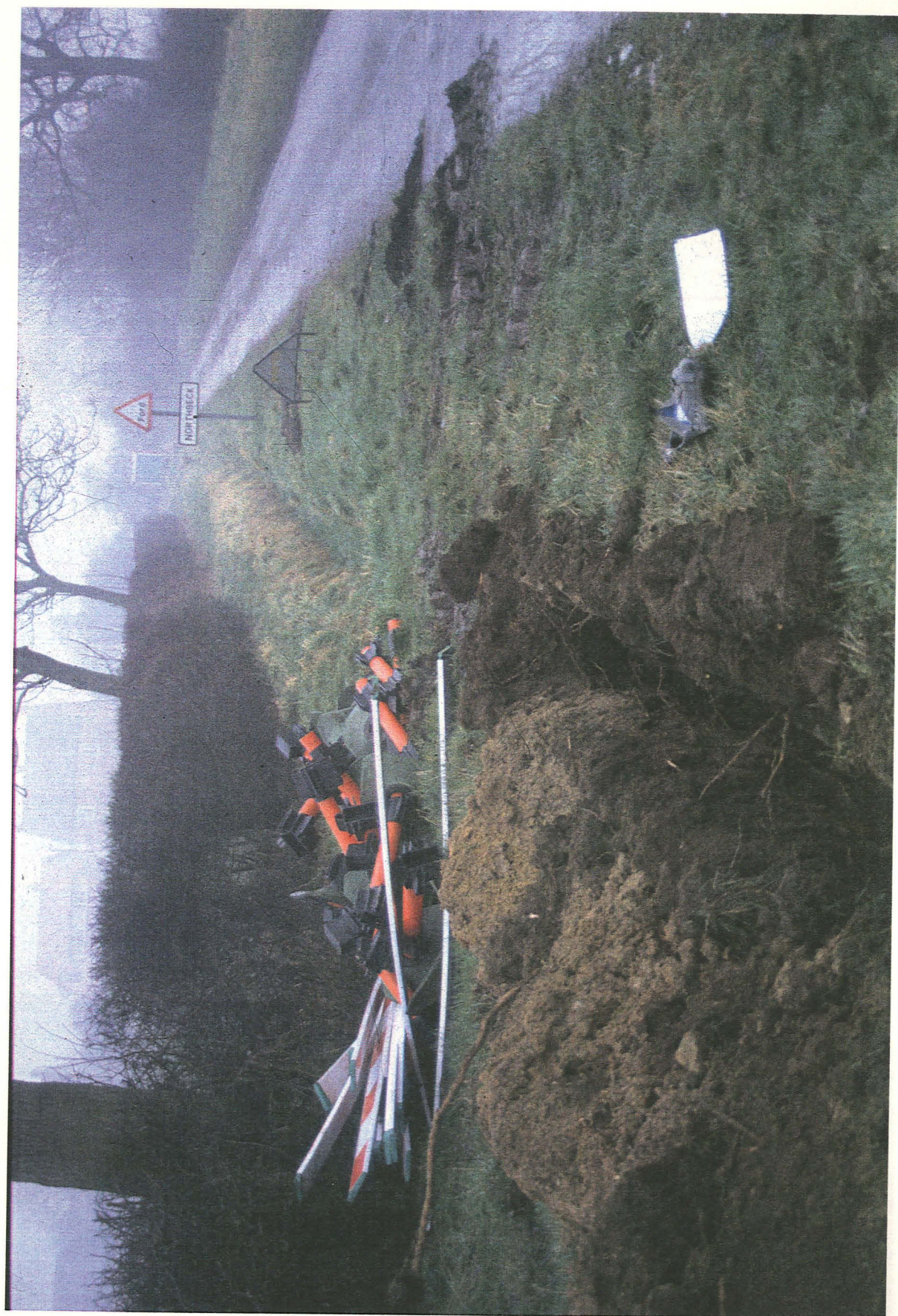


Fig. 4 Sections 7, 8 and 9

PLATES

- | | |
|---------|----------------------------|
| Plate 1 | General View of Pipetrench |
| Plate 2 | General View of Pipetrench |
| Plate 3 | General View of Pipetrench |







APPENDIX 1
Context Summary.

1, 7, 14, 17, 20, 27	Black silt. 0.24m thick	Topsoil
2, 15, 18, 21, 28	Yellow brown clay silt, 0.20m thick	Subsoil
3, 6, 10, 13, 26, 29	Brownish yellow clay	Natural Deposit
4, 11, 23,	Tarmac, 0.1m thick	Modern Road Surface
5, 12, 24, 25,	Clay silt with assorted stone	Modern Road make-up deposit
8	Black silt, with assorted brick and stone fragments	Buried Topsoil
9	Silty clay, 0.3m thick	Surface Levelling Deposit
16, 19, 22	Yellow silty sand	Natural Deposit

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 29 Context records
- 1 Photographic records
- 3 Scale drawings
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

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The Old School
Cameron Street
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City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 29:94