

EVENT 412209
SARCE 46901

**Archaeological Watching Brief
at
Westborough
Lincolnshire
by
Heritage Lincolnshire**

**on behalf of
Anglian Water Services Ltd.**

Report compiled by G. Trimble

SUMMARY

SK 85 44

Between the 13th April and 6th May, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a water-pipe through the village of Westborough, Lincolnshire (N.G.R. ~~SK44-85~~). The work was commissioned by the Anglian Water Authority and carried out by Heritage Lincolnshire.

The route of the pipe-line passes within a few metres of known sites of archaeological interest. These are notably the medieval earthworks and the site of the old Manor House on Back Lane, and the church. Previous archaeological work and documentary evidence indicate that Westborough has origins dating back to at least Saxon times.

The watching brief monitored the excavation of the pipe trench and recorded any archaeological remains exposed during this operation.

Very few archaeological remains were encountered. A series of dump or make-up deposits were recorded on Back Lane although these were relatively late in their deposition.

A possible explanation for the absence of archaeological features may be that Long Lane and Back Lane have been thoroughfares since the earliest settlement of Westborough and consequently show no direct evidence of occupation.

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INTRODUCTION

Between the 13th April and 6th May 1992, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the insertion of a water-pipe through part of the village of Westborough, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference: SK 4485) (see fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd and carried out by Heritage Lincolnshire. The purpose of the work was to record any archaeological remains exposed during the course of the work.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING

The route of the pipeline along Back Lane passes within a few metres of a field containing earthworks thought to be fish ponds dating to the medieval period (see fig. 2). It also passes close to the church and the site of the old Manor House where medieval burials have previously been found. Although the present church in Westborough dates to the 12th century, there is evidence of a church existing on the site well before this date. Evidence of Saxon occupation has been found from archaeological excavations in the garden of the Old Tavern. Saxon artefacts have also come to light in the gardens of houses between Town Street and Back Lane. Evidence points to Westborough being substantially larger in medieval times in comparison to that of the present village. This phenomenon is commonly known as a shrunken medieval village. The village name occurs in the Domesday Book as *Westburg* and is assumed to mean "Western Fort".

CONSTRUCTION OF THE PIPE-LINE

A trench measuring 0.30m in width and averaging 1.00m in depth was excavated to accommodate a 90mm diameter water-pipe. Where the pipe-line crossed or followed tarmacked roads, the trench was backfilled with Type 1 ballast to minimise subsidence, before being resurfaced. Any surplus soil was transported away from site. Elsewhere, the trench was backfilled with soil derived from the excavation of the trench.

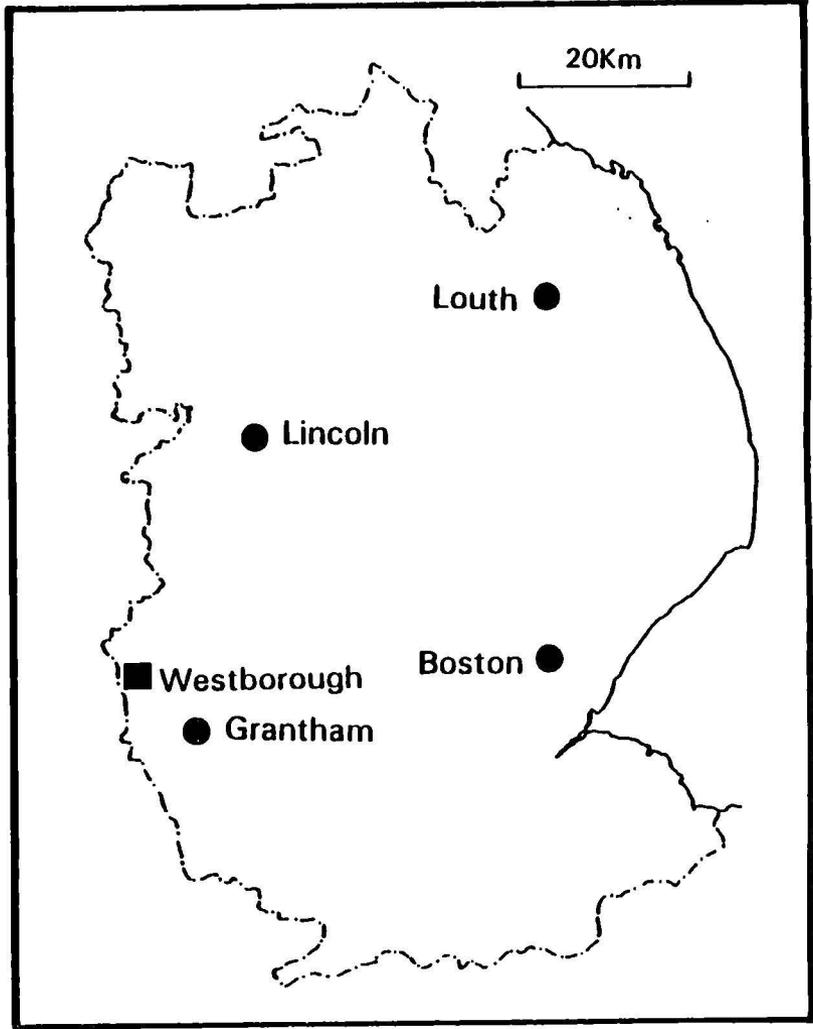
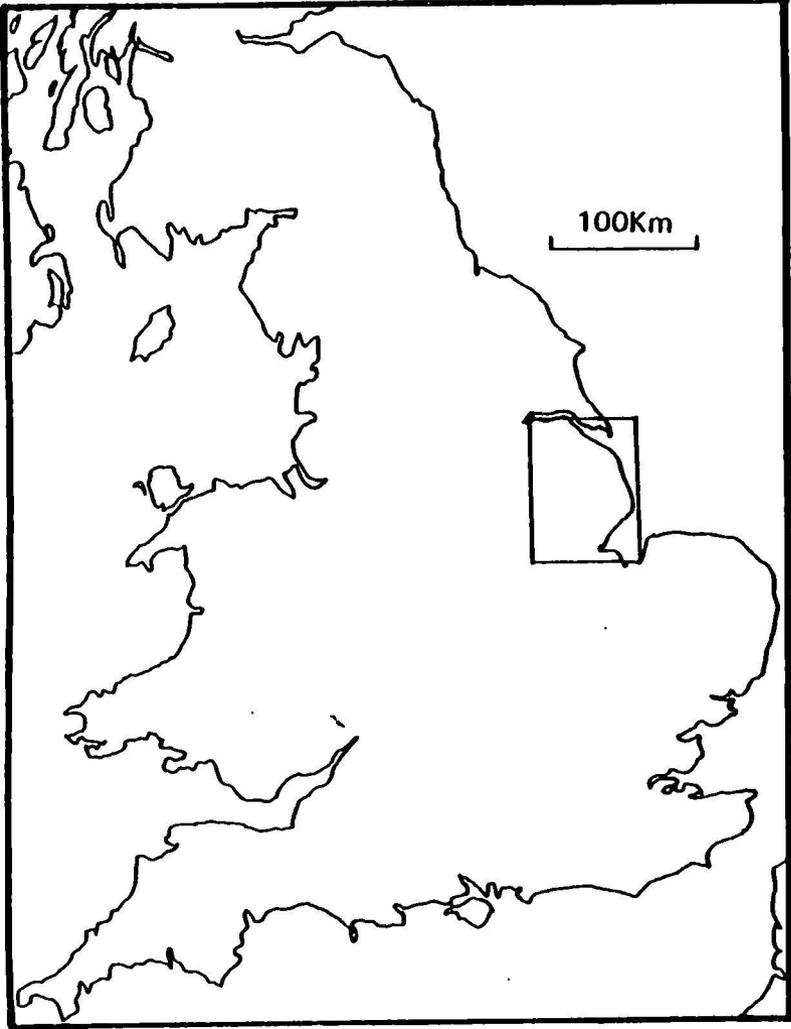
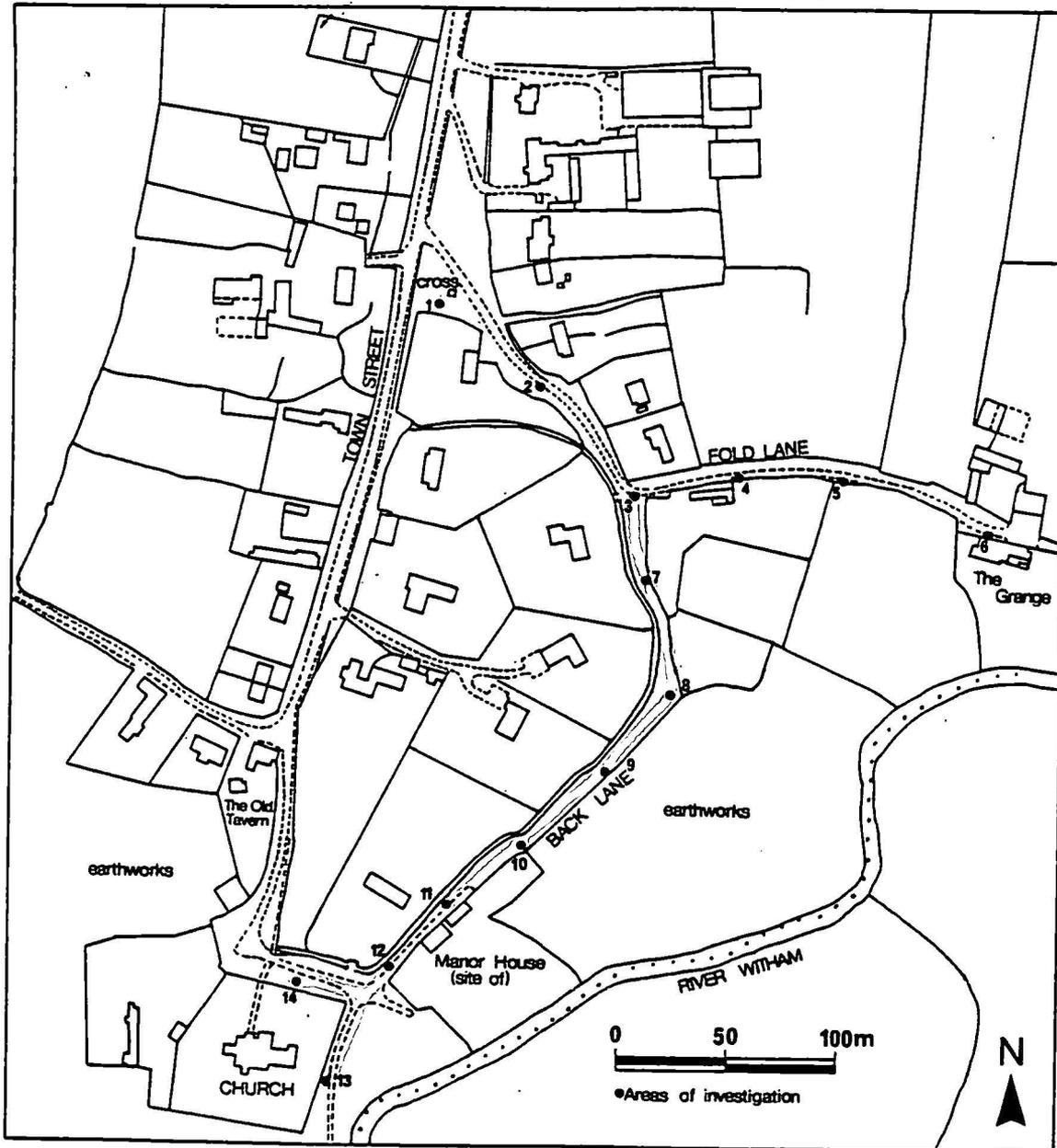


Fig. 1 General location

Fig. 2
Route of water-pipe through westborough



ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

The pipe-line was divided into two sections. (see fig.2).

Section A

Section A extended from the village cross to The Grange and is coloured red on the route map.

Section B

Section B extended the length of Back Lane and included the trenches excavated to the east and north of the church, coloured green on the route map.

An archaeological presence was maintained during the construction of the pipe-line in order to record archaeological remains as they were exposed.

Excavation of the pipe trench.

A mechanical excavator was used for most of the pipe-line, although a trenching machine was used for the section along Back Lane. This was done to minimise any long term damage to the lane, which is currently used as a bridleway and footpath.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed during excavation of the pipe trench was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at scale 1:10. Additionally, the natural geology was recorded at regular intervals.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Section A

No archaeological features were observed in section A.

Section B

Areas 7, 8, 9 and 10, revealed a 0.70m thick, continuous deposit of mid grey silt/clay containing frequent fragments of brick and tile with occasional fragments of limestone measuring up to 0.30m in diameter.

Areas 11 and 12 revealed a 0.40m thick deposit containing irregular shaped limestone fragments measuring up to 0.20m with occasional fragments of brick, in a matrix of cinder and ash. This deposit was sealed by a 10mm thick deposit of limestone and brick fragments within a sand/silt matrix. Each of the deposits described above are dumped deposits.

GEOLOGY

The area investigated in Section A revealed similar geological stratigraphy, consisting of a continuous deposit of mid grey clay of which only the uppermost 0.40m was revealed. Sealing the clay was 0.40m of light grey silt/clay, which in turn was sealed by a sand/silt topsoil averaging 0.20m thick.

In section B the geology was represented by a mid to dark grey clay similar to that seen in section A. Only the uppermost 0.30-0.40m of this deposit was revealed. This was sealed by the dump deposits described above.

A deposit of light to mid green/yellow clay, was noted in area 13, of which only the uppermost 0.20-0.30m was revealed. Above it was a deposit of rounded stones, measuring up to 100mm in diameter, within a matrix of mid green yellow/clay 0.35m thick. Directly above this was a deposit of mid brown sand/silt 0.40m thick.

As in area 13, area 14 contained a lower deposit of light to mid green/yellow clay of which 0.30m was revealed. This layer was sealed by a 50mm thick deposit of cream coloured fine silt overlain by a 0.20m thick layer of orange sand containing frequent rounded stones measuring up to 20mm in diameter. This layer was in turn sealed by a deposit of mid brown sandy silt 0.45m thick.

CONCLUSIONS

The nature of the deposits in section B, suggest that approximately the uppermost 0.70m of Back Lane has been intentionally made-up. This is the case from area 7 southwards to where the new Manor House now stands.

At the front of the Manor House, (areas 11 and 12), the uppermost 0.5m was made up of crushed limestone fragments.

Back Lane could well have existed as a hollow way until recent years. At a date, certainly within the last 150 years, it seems that its level was raised up to that of the adjacent land. Much of the soil dumped onto the lane could be derived from the drainage ditch or dyke which runs alongside.

The dumped limestone fragments which extend from the Manor House to the road were probably laid down, not only to raise the level of the roadway, but also to provide a more stable surface for traffic serving the house.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heritage Lincolnshire wish to thank Anglian Water Services Ltd for funding the watching brief.

APPENDIX 1

GLOSSARY

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 excavation or evaluation is allocated a unique context 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 square brackets e.g. [001].
Cut	A cut refers the physical action of digging a post-hole, pit, ditch etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an excavation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal, or may be positive attempts to raise the land surface.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug, it immediately begins to silt-up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which 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 which is not contained within a cut.
Natural	Deposit(s) of soil which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Hollow way	An ancient trackway which lies at a lower level than the surrounding land, due to continual erosion by traffic and weather on its unmetalled surface, resulting in a characteristic "U" shaped or 'hollow' profile.