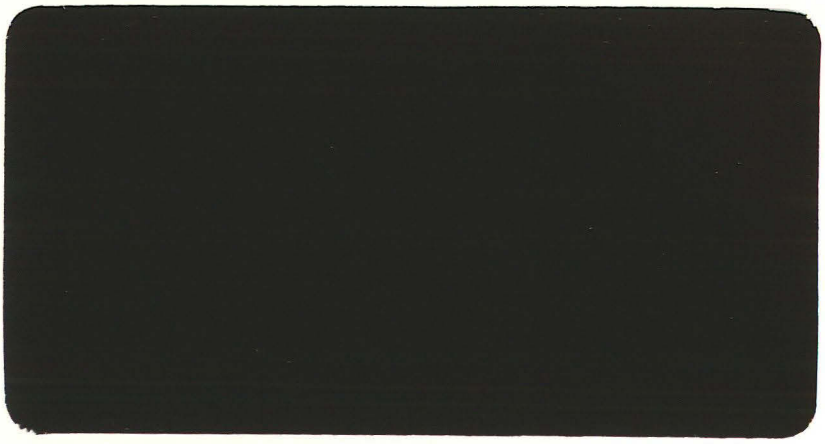
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
COLEBY TO WELLINGORE PIPELINE PROJECT, LINCOLNSHIR

Site Code: CWP98
LCNCC Acc No. 157.98
NGR SK 9750/6050 - SK 9850/5650



EVENT 42215
SOURCES L16911 L16912

Coleby - 60638 Ermine Street
+ Navenby 60638 and 60537

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Also known as WELLINGORE TO NAVENBY

Report prepared for Anglian Water Services Ltd
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January 1999

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Illustrations

Summary

* *An intermittent archaeological watching brief took place in selective areas during excavations for a water main replacement between the villages of Coleby and Wellingore, Lincolnshire.*

* *In some areas important archaeological remains were exposed as a result of the works, and information relating to Ermine Street and the Romano-British roadside settlement at Navenby has added significantly to a programme of investigation that has been taking place since 1994.*

* *Some of the areas monitored did not produce archaeological remains.*

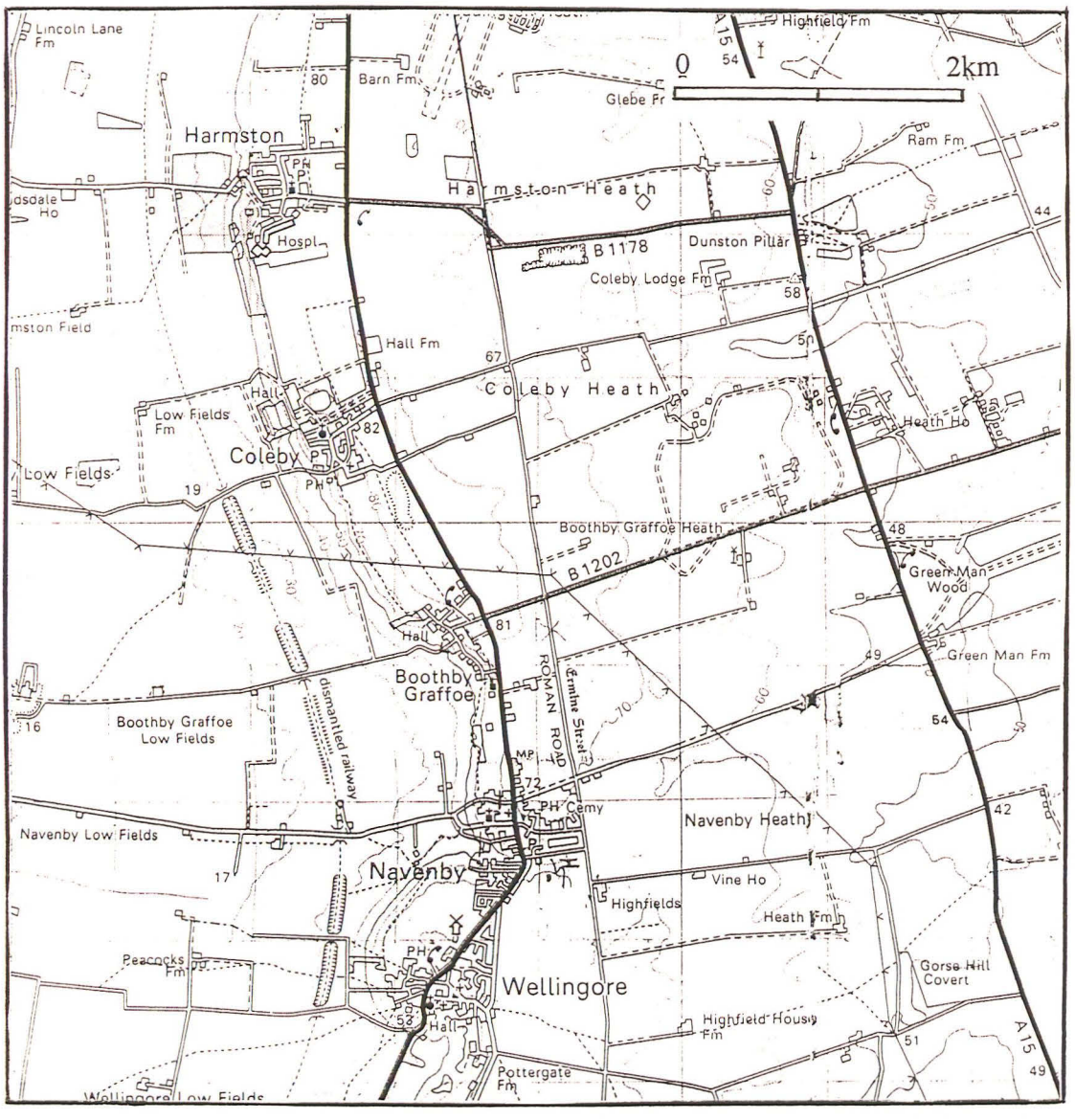

Fig. 1: General location
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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out for Anglian Water Services Ltd. during the Coleby to Wellingore water mains replacement scheme. The SMR database for Lincolnshire suggested that the scheme would traverse important archaeological sites, most notably within the village of Navenby.

In consideration of the impacts to archaeological resources which can and do take place as a result of such developments, and in accordance with the terms vested in the Water Act of 1989, Anglian Water Services Ltd. agreed to fund a programme of investigation in line with their own conservation policy.

The watching brief was carried out on an intermittent basis between May and November 1998 and the results of the brief are documented in this report.

2.0 Location and Description

The villages of Coleby, Navenby and Wellingore are situated on the edge of the Lincoln Cliff escarpment between 11 km and 15 km south of Lincoln. The escarpment is a prominent landmark feature, and is thought to have incorporated a major prehistoric trackway (the Jurassic Way) prior to its formalisation in the C1st AD and the construction of Ermine Street.

The area covered by this project, which includes land on the dip slope to the east of the escarpment, lies between 65m and 80m OD.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Presented below is a summary of information derived from the County Sites and Monuments Record and other sources. Some of the sites relating to the replacement scheme are relatively well documented (eg Navenby), although the relationship between hilltop settlements on the south side of Lincoln, many of which appear to overlies pre-Saxon settlements, is generally poorly understood. Casual surface collection has demonstrated that many of the modern villages (Bracebridge Heath, Waddington, Harmston, Coleby and Navenby) contain traces of Romano-British and earlier activity; suggesting that the spacing of these settlements (?catchment areas) owed much to the Romano-British or pre-Roman settlement pattern.

3.1 Coleby

A search of the SMR identified fifteen records relating to Coleby in the vicinity of the areas being monitored:

1. The medieval settlement of Coleby, formerly *Colebi* (PRN: 60776). The settlement was recorded in the Domesday Book and therefore existed before 1086. Most of the land was held for the King and there are references to a church and priest.

2. A fragment of a stone cross shaft was found built into the Old Manor and was moved into the church in 1910 (PRN: 60408). It is decorated with carved interlace and zigzag patterns. One face shows a crucifixion scene with St. Mary and St. John, another face shows a figure in a mandorla.

3. A fragment of a stone cross shaft was found built into the stables of Coleby Hall (PRN: 60605). It is decorated with interlace and Ring-and-Dot(?) patterns. The stone is now in the grounds of the Hall.

4. Coleby Hall was originally built in the early 17th century and has been modified and expanded on several occasions. It is surrounded by an 18th century landscaped park with a number of 18th and 19th century garden features (PRN: 60634)

5. During the monitoring of the Harmston to Coleby watermains replacement, a small undated pit was observed on Church Lane (PRN: 60793).

6. During the monitoring of the Harmston to Coleby watermains replacement, a potsherd dating to the late Saxon period was recovered (PRN: 60792).

7. A watching brief on land off Rectory Road identified and number of undated pits and ditches (PRN: 60617).

8. A large hoard of Roman *antoniniani* were found at the rear of the quarry to the south of the village, about 15,000 to 20,000 coins (card AD)

9. The centre part of a Roman dragonesque brooch was found off Heath Road near to Ermine Street (card AL).

10. Rim of a 13th century pitcher and neck was found near the Tempest Arms public house (card E).

11. There are O.S records of a Glass bead and glass ring found at Coleby Hall (card F).

12. A Denarius of Caracella was found in the area of the quarry to the south of the village (card G).

13. A sherd of Samian (Roman) pottery was found in the edge of the quarry to the south of the village (card H).

14. There are records of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery disturbed by ploughing in 1833. It is believed to have been somewhere to the north of the village (PRN: 60372, card M).

15. O.S. records of All Saints Church, which dates from Saxon to perpendicular and was partially restored in 1901 (card AN).

3.2 Navenby

The SMR database for Navenby is extensive, and a narrative is probably of greater value than a list of finds and sites.

The Roman site at Navenby was first recognised in 1965 following fieldwalking by pupils of the local primary school under the guidance of their head teacher. Concentrations of Romano-British pottery, building materials and coins were picked up over a wide area on both sides of Ermine Street, leading Whitwell to suggest (Whitwell 1966, 45) that Navenby was possibly the site of a Roman posting station (given its equidistant between the Roman fort at Ancaster to the south and the Legionary Fortress at Lincoln (Lindum) to the north. Other writers (eg Jones 1980, 285) have postulated that, in the C1st AD, Navenby may have been the site of a (?timber) fort.

Although the above interpretations are valid (ie until proved or disproved by further investigation), the information that has emerged since the mid-1960's suggests that the pattern at Navenby was more complex and that the earliest settlement activity preceded the Roman Conquest.

Over wide areas, surface artefact scatters indicate that settlement can be traced back to the Neolithic or Bronze Age periods. Worked flints are abundant, and recent (unpublished) work on the south side of Chapel Lane has demonstrated the presence of a cemetery; the origins of which may be firmly rooted in the Middle Bronze Age. This cemetery appears to have remained a site of ritual focus into the Anglo-Saxon period.

East of the above, closer to Grantham Road, pits containing post-Deverel Rimbury pottery (late Bronze Age / early Iron Age transition) were discovered in 1996 during a watching brief associated with a housing development (D Knight, pers. comm.).

Extensive investigations in the Chapel Lane area have produced evidence of occupation in the pre-Roman Iron Age. An evaluation in 1994 (Palmer-Brown 1995) revealed a large native type settlement enclosure containing circular buildings. Excavation of part of the enclosure ditch produced sherds of coarse native-type hand made pottery, although there is no certainty as to whether this material is pre or post-conquest.

We now know that in the later Roman period, both sides of Ermine Street in the Navenby area were lined with substantial stone buildings. These buildings were of more than one phase and incorporated plastered walls and floors. They appear to relate to a characteristic pattern of roadside (ribbon) settlement.

One of the main features of recent work has been the failure to identify Roman artefactual remains dating to the C1st AD. All of the buildings discussed above have

been dated to the later Roman period and, whilst it could be argued that earlier activity may be found beneath the levels thus far investigated, it is noteworthy that absolutely nothing relating to the Conquest period has thus far been identified in the investigations of the 1990s. Also, although extensive, the County SMR records do not appear to contain records of material evidence pre-dating the C2nd AD.

3.3 Wellingore

A search of the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) in Lincoln produced six records relating to Wellingore in the vicinity of the areas being monitored:

1. The remains of a medieval stone cross positioned at a road junction on the A607 in Wellingore (PRN: 60739). The cross was originally in the churchyard but was later moved, it now consists of the stump of a shaft on rectangular base on a three-stepped plinth. The cross and an area of one metre around it, is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

2. An Anglo-Saxon coin was found in the village in 1974 (PRN: 60757).

3. There are O.S. records of finds of Roman bronze coins near Ermine Street on Heath Road (card J).

4. There are some linear features traced from aerial photographs, to the south of the village (card K).

5. There are records of Roman coins found in the area of Wellingore (cards L, BQ, BX), also an Anglo-Saxon baked clay loomweight (card BR).

6. The O.S. records of the All Saints church, which has Transitional to Perpendicular elements but was mainly restored in 1878 (card BY).

4.0 Methodology

The watching brief was undertaken on an intermittent basis by Mr J. Albone, Mr C. Palmer-Brown, Mr R Schofield, and Mr J Snee between 14th May and 11th November 1998. Forty-nine site visits took place.

The site contractors were provided with 1:2500 base plans that incorporated areas of archaeological sensitivity. Usually, PCA was informed by the contractors when the scheme was approaching such areas, and arrangements were made for an archaeologist to monitor the works on an intermittent basis.

The fieldwork element comprised a thorough inspection of all plan and section surfaces exposed as a result of the trenching scheme. On each occasion that the site was inspected, a narrative account was maintained using PCA General Account

Sheets. Detailed archaeological records were assembled using PCA Watching Brief Record Sheets, supplemented with scale drawings (in plan and section) and colour photographs. Where exposed, archaeological features were subject to limited rapid excavation to retrieve dating evidence and to clarify form and orientation.

Artefacts removed from the site were washed and processed and were then submitted for detailed specialist appraisal.

5.0 Results

5.1 Area One: Heath Road, Coleby (SK 98406095 - SK 98816108): Fig. 2

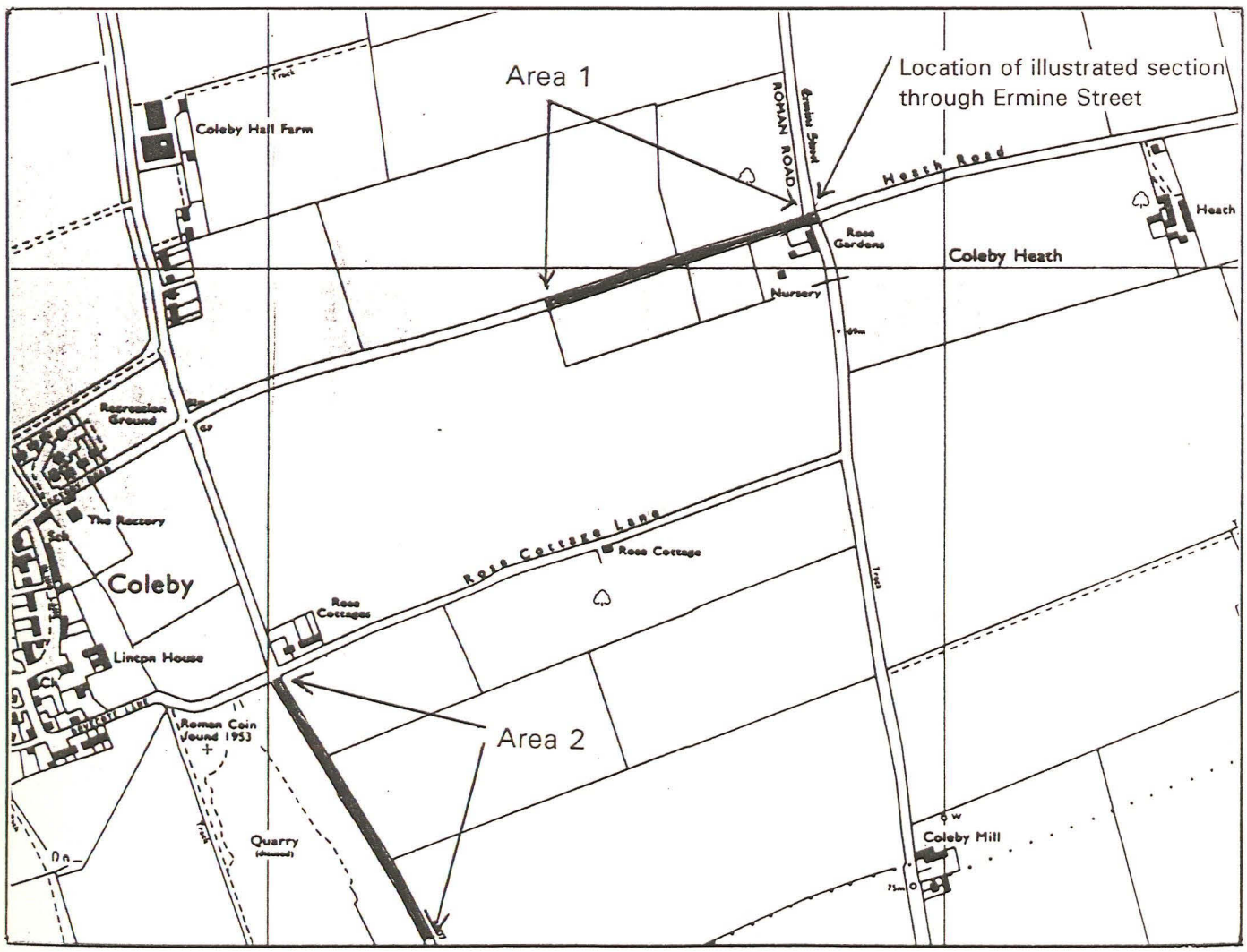


Fig. 2 Location of Area 1 at scale 1:10000

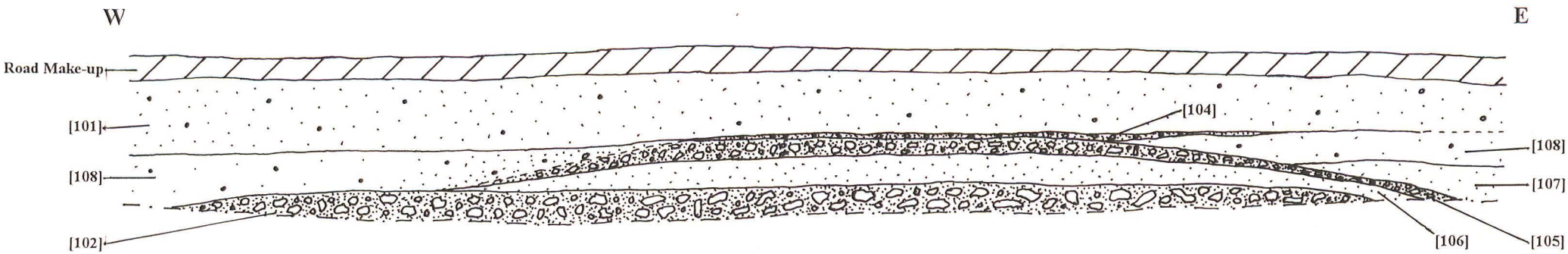


Fig. 3: Section through Ermine Street at point of intersection with Heath Road, Coleby (scale 1:20)

At the eastern limit of this area the pipe trench crossed Ermine Street and a section through the Roman road was recorded at SK98816108 (see Fig. 3). Ermine Street continues north and south from this point as a track / green lane.

The Roman road surface was sealed beneath the modern road / track and a layer of red-brown sandy silt (101). It consisted of a cambered surface of compacted limestone fragments 8.7 m wide (105). Below the surface was a layer of dark brown silt (106), which was possibly the remains of a topsoil pre-dating the road, or material dumped during its construction. This soil lay directly on the weathered natural limestone (102).

On the east side of the road was a deposit of dark brown silt (107), possibly the upper fill of a roadside ditch. Present on both sides of the road was a layer of yellow-brown sandy silt (108), possibly formed from material eroded from the road surface itself. Above this was a thin spread of limestone fragments (104), representing damage to road surface by ploughing.

The remainder of the trench, which was excavated in the grass verge on the north side of the road, revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

Recording of the Roman road was restricted by the narrowness of the construction trench, although it is possible to draw some comparison with the more detailed excavations of 1980 that were carried out approximately 360m further to the north (Chowne 1987, 31 - 34). These excavations revealed two phases of construction, and an associated roadside ditch was exposed on the west side. From the descriptions in Chowne's report, both sections were built using similar raw materials, with some of these probably having been derived as a result of excavations for the ditches. The full width of the road could not be determined, but evidence from earlier studies (at Broughton, Appleby, Ingham Lane and Scampton) puts this at between 6.11m and 12.52m (Scampton).

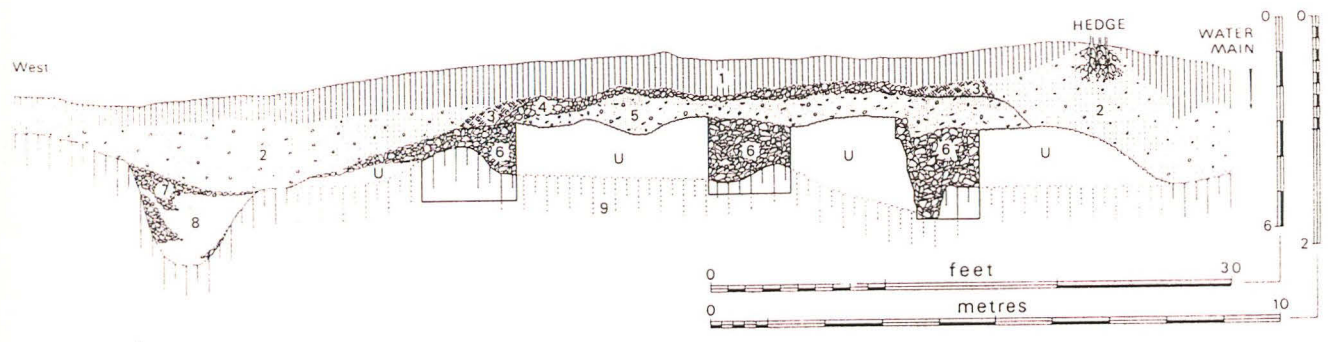


Fig. 3 Section of Ermine Street at Coleby, Lincolnshire, facing north. U-unexcavated. (M. Clark).

Reproduced from Chowne 1987

5.2 Area Two: Grantham Road, Coleby (SK 98006040 - SK 98345984): Fig. 2

Trenching in this area was confined to the modern road. Only natural subsoil and bedrock were exposed beneath the modern road surface.

5.3 Area Three: North Lane, Navenby (SK 98485791 - SK 98825795): Fig. 4

Monitoring of the trench along the south side of North Lane at Navenby revealed only natural limestone bedrock directly below the road surface / make-up.

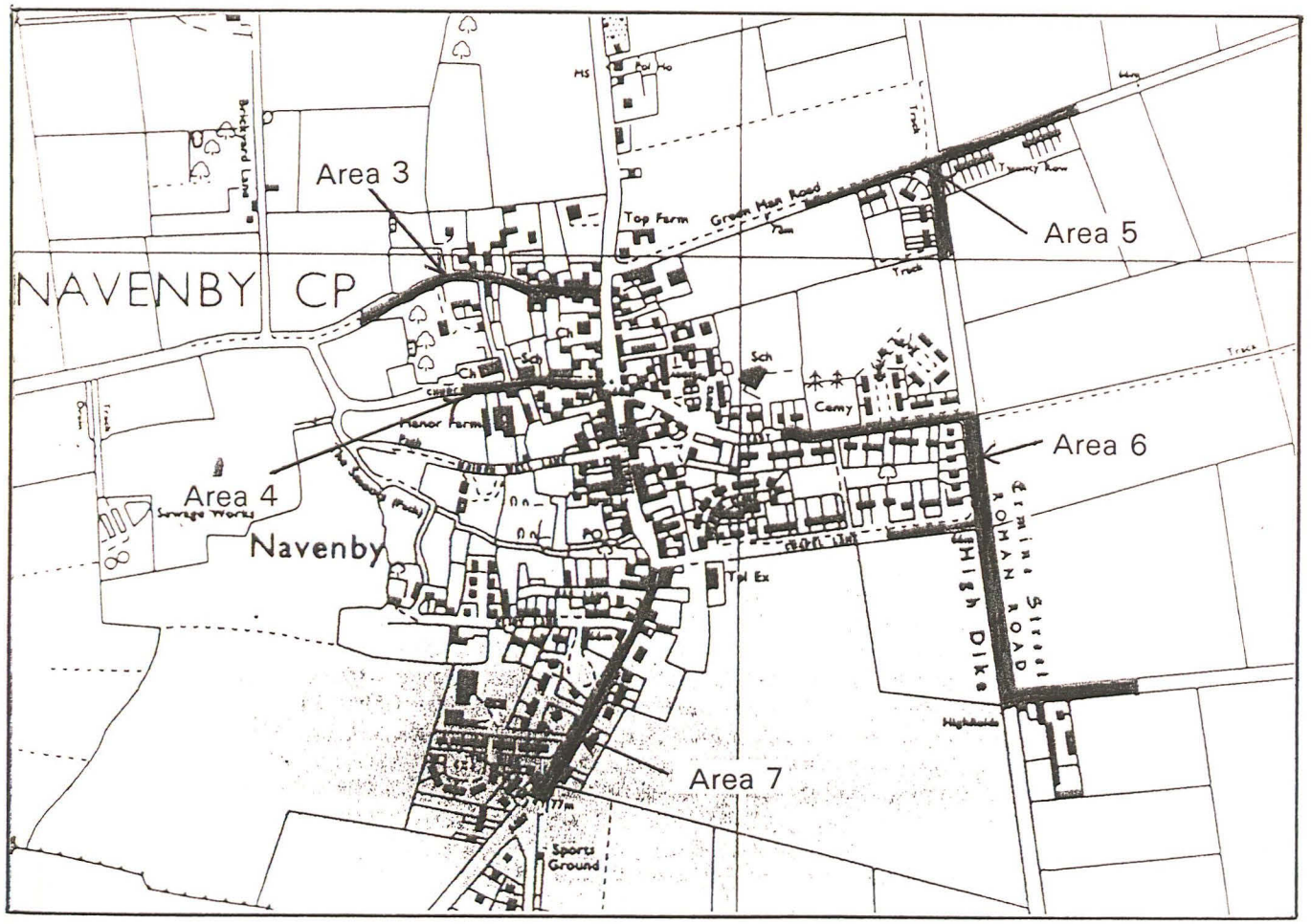
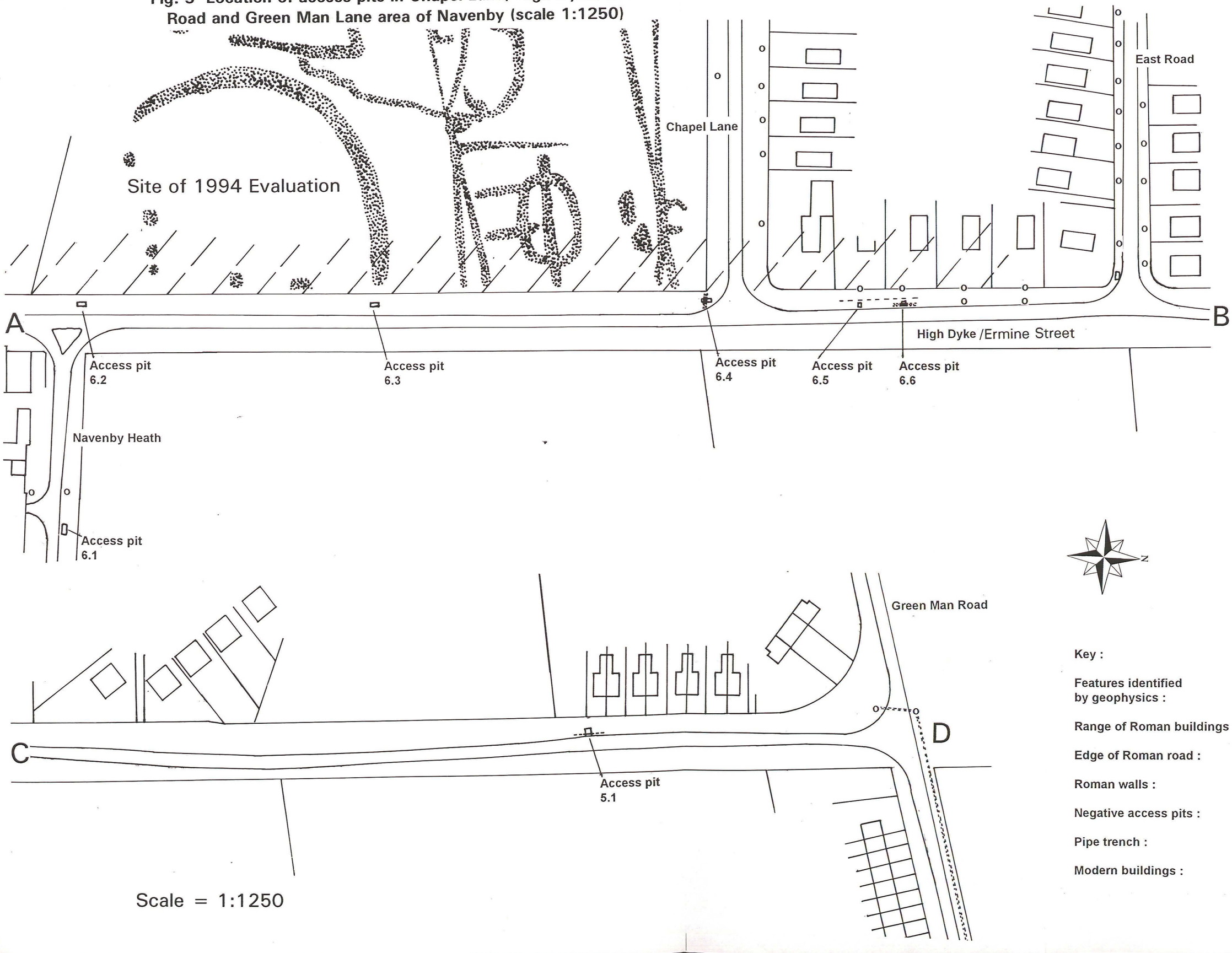


Fig. 4: 1:10000 map section showing location of Areas 3 - 7

5.4 Area Four: Church Lane, Navenby (SK 98685782 - SK 98815782): Fig. 4

The pipe trench and thrust bore access pits were excavated along the line on the existing service and no archaeological deposits were disturbed.

Fig. 5 Location of access pits in Chapel Lane, High Dyke, East Road and Green Man Lane area of Navenby (scale 1:1250)



5.5 Area Five: Green Man Road and High Dyke, Navenby: Fig. 4

The work along Green Man Road used a combination of open trench and thrust bore techniques. Below the topsoil, or road make-up, was a deep layer of natural limestone rubble mixed with red-brown silt and sand. Below the rubble was limestone bedrock. A similar sequence was seen on High Dyke where it joins Green Man Road. No evidence of the Roman Road, which is believed to pass through Green Man Road at this point, was observed. However, where the pipe trench crossed the High Dyke there was a considerable amount of modern disturbance, including previous water mains and a gas main trench. These trenches may have already obliterated part of the road in this location.

Further south along the High Dyke, fragments of the Roman road surfaces were observed in the east side of access pit 5.1 (Fig. 5 (location), Fig. 6).

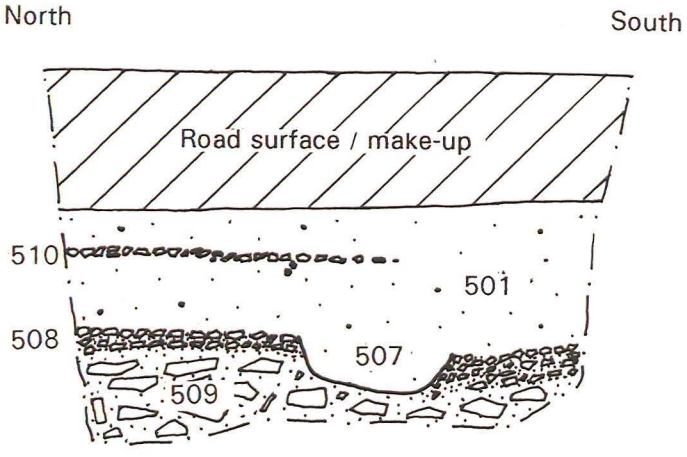
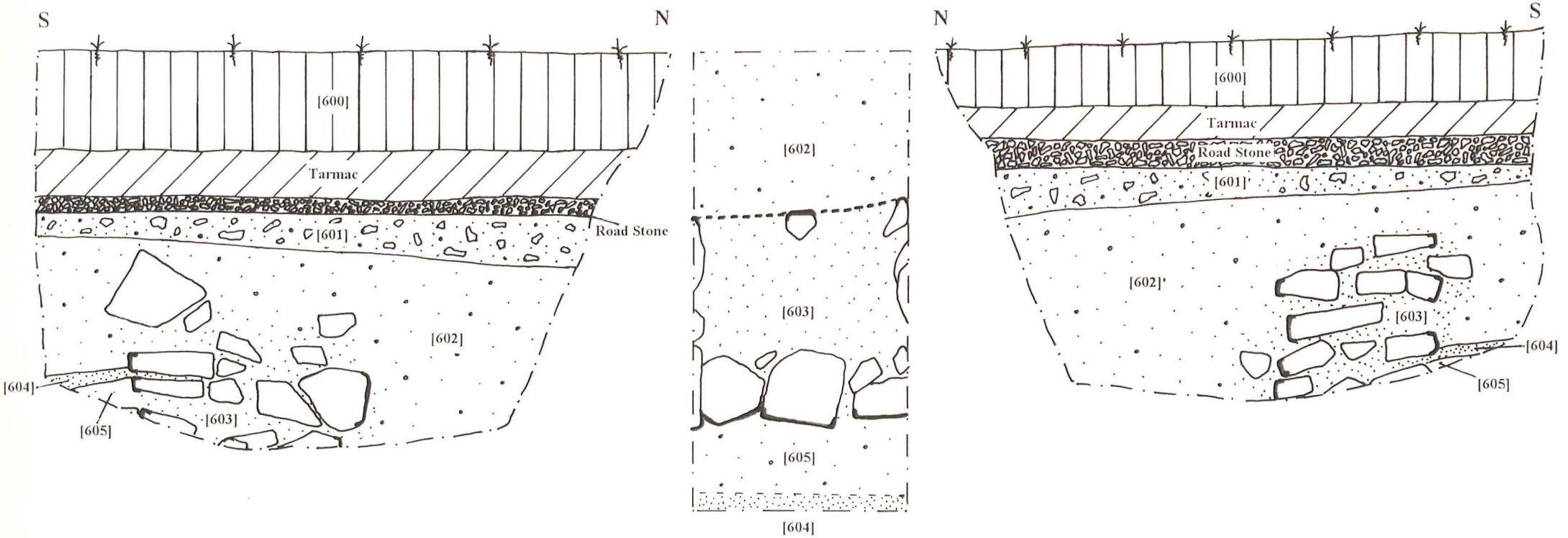


Fig. 6: East section through access pit 5.1 (scale 1:20)

Below the make-up of the modern road was a layer of red-brown sandy silt [501], which appeared to incorporate a thin layer of limestone fragments [510]. This layer was observed at the north of the access pit but petered out to the south. It probably represents material spread from a late road surface, although the date of this is uncertain. Below layer [501] was another, thicker, layer of limestone fragments [508]: probably a later Roman road surface. This surface was disturbed a 'cut' feature [507] which was probably a pothole. Below the road was limestone rubble [509] which may have been a natural deposit or a road make-up deposit. No finds were recovered from this deposit, so a definite interpretation is not possible.

5.6 Area Six: High Dyke, East Road and Chapel Lane, Navenby (Fig. 4, Fig. 5)

Surprisingly, the work on East Road and Chapel Lane failed to produce any archaeological features. It is possible that the layer of orange-brown sand and gravel [602] exposed in these areas was an archaeological stratum built up during and after



West section

Plan

East section

Fig. 8: Stone wall and associated deposits exposed in access pit 6.4
(scale 1:20)

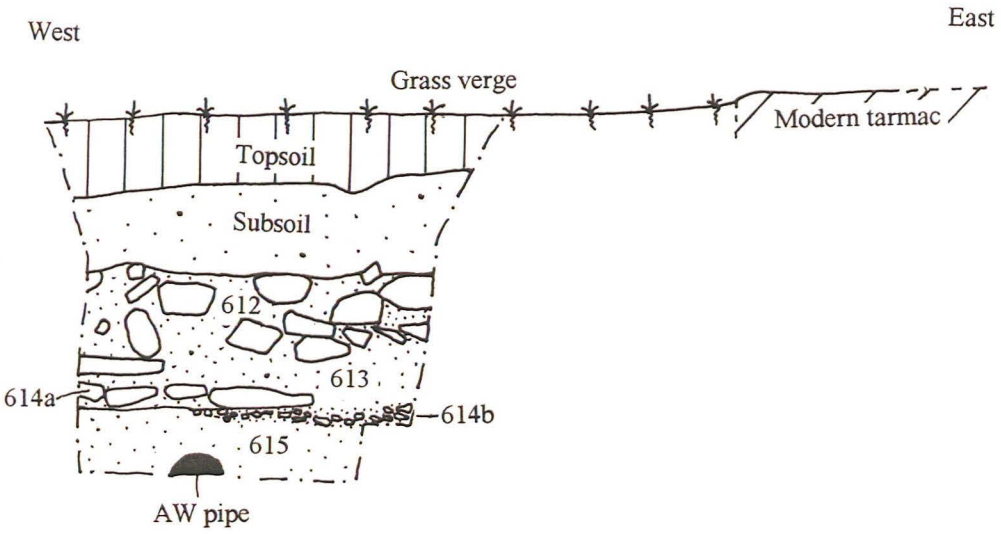


Fig. 9 Pit 6.5: North section face (scale = 1:20)

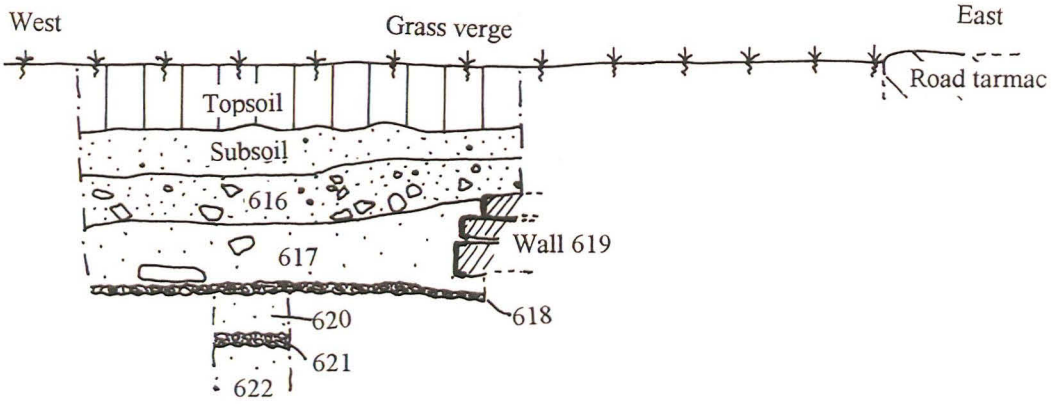


Fig. 10 Pit 6.6: South section face (scale = 1:20)

Sections through the west side of the Roman road surface and (in one trench) further building remains were exposed in access pits on the west side of High Dyke to the north of Chapel Lane (access pits 6.5 and 6.6).

Pit 6.5 was approximately 40m north of Chapel Lane within the grass verge on the west side of High Dyke (Fig. 9, location on Fig. 5). This small cutting measured approximately 1.2m x 1.2m in plan, and was excavated to a depth approximately 1.0m beneath the modern ground surface. In the base of the trench, a deposit of clean orange sand measuring 20cm+ was interpreted as natural or redeposited natural. Resting over the top of this was a thin, compact layer of small/medium-sized pebbles and small limestone fragments, 614b. This was a metalled surface and was probably the west side of Ermine Street. It was sealed beneath a second layer of metalling 614a, this time consisting of medium-size cobbles. This also was interpreted as a road deposit, although its survival was not as good as 614b. These layers were beneath approximately 20cm of relatively clean silty sand, 613, which was beneath 24cm of relatively large limestone rubble mixed with dark earth and several fragments of Romano-British pottery. It is suggested that the rubble derived from a nearby stone building (ie a demolition layer). Associated pottery dates to the later Roman period (probably the 4th century AD).

Approximately 14m north of the above was access pit 6.6 (Fig. 10, location on Fig. 5). This was excavated to approximately 60cm beneath the modern ground surface, although a sondage was then cut through the base of the trench to expose the lower strata.

The lowest deposit, 622, comprised clean orange sand: natural or redeposited natural. Above this, a metalled surface made of small pebbles and worn limestone fragments was exposed, 621. This was beneath approximately 12cm of orange sand, 620, over which was a second metalled surface, 618. This was very similar to the earlier surface, and both would appear to represent different phases of Ermine Street.

On the east side of pit 6.6, built directly over the later surface, was two courses of a stone wall orientated north-south (much of which was beyond the east section face). Although internal floor surfaces were not exposed, this development can be seen as easterly encroachment in the later Roman period over the west edge of Ermine Street. Demolition deposits over the top of the wall, 617 and 616, contained pottery dating to the middle/late 4th century AD.

5.7 Area Seven: Grantham Road, Navenby (Fig. 4)

The trench along Grantham Road, Navenby, exposed only road makeup and natural limestone bedrock. No archaeological features were exposed.

5.8 Area Eight: Mill Gate, Wellingore (SK 98395678)

A medieval cross is situated at the junction of Cliff Road and Mill Gate in Wellingore. This is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 22660) surrounded by a 1m wide management area. Mesh fencing was placed around the monument by the contractors

to highlight its position and ensure that it was not accidentally damaged by plant working in the adjacent road. Photographs were taken of the fencing in place.

No trenching took place in this area.

5.9 Area Nine: Wellingore Heath (Fig. 11)

Plans by Anglian Water Services Ltd. to lay a new main along this section, to include a section through Ermine Street, was cancelled.

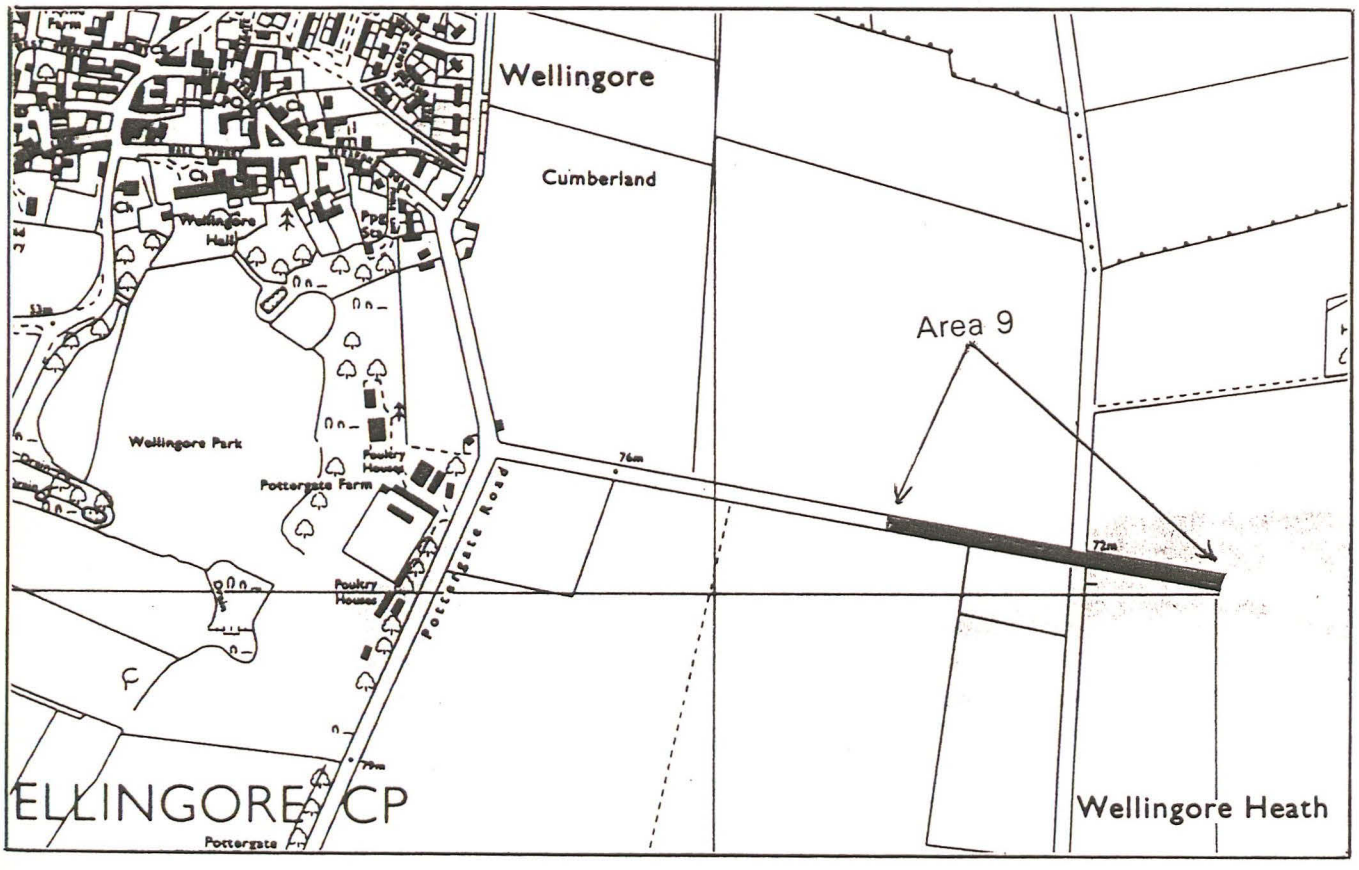


Fig. 11: 1:10000 map section showing location of Area 9

6.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Although several of the areas monitored did not result in the exposure and recovery of archaeological remains, important new information relating to the development of Ermine Street and, in particular, the extent and development of the roadside settlement at Navenby has been forthcoming.

Work carried out since 1994, primarily in the angle of Ermine Street and Chapel Lane, has shown that in the later Roman period (3rd century AD to later 4th century AD) the west side of Ermine Street was occupied by an extensive ribbon development. This development was of several different phases, and the stone buildings incorporate internal floors and plastered walls (these walls usually survive to three or four courses, although modern ploughing continues to batter the uppermost archaeology). Traces of native-type settlement enclosures are also known to exist in this area, although it has not been established whether or not this native settlement reflects pre or post-Conquest occupation.

There is no doubt at all that Navenby was occupied in the pre-Conquest era. Again, recent work has demonstrated that settlement was taking place from at least the late Bronze Age / early Iron Age transition (c. 10th century BC), and the recovery of a Middle Bronze Age burial urn close to the Chapel Lane frontage suggests that this settlement was even earlier (worked flints recovered during fieldwalking exercises suggests that occupation of the area may have commenced in the Neolithic).

The present brief has allowed an incomplete section through Ermine Street to be recorded at the point where Coleby Heath Road crosses Ermine Street (Area 1), complimenting the earlier investigations further to the north (Chowne 1987). Further evidence of the road (at least two phases) has been recorded in the Chapel Lane area.

The information derived from access pit 6.6 on the west side of High Dyke suggests that, in the later Roman period, stone buildings had started to encroach over the west side of the Roman road. At this time, the military significance of the route may have diminished, and one assumes that there must have existed some element of land pressure for this to have taken place. If, for example, we may interpret these buildings as combined commercial and domestic structures, then access to the street frontage for trade purposes may have been of paramount importance.

Regrettably, the exact location of the west side of Ermine Street (and any associated roadside ditch) in the Chapel Lane area has not been located. This is because most of the trenching in this location was confined to small access pits rather than long (east-west) sections. The identification of the interface between the settlement and road edge (possibly several phases) must await further investigation.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) express sincere thanks to Anglian Water Services Ltd. for funding this programme of investigation. In particular, thanks are expressed to Mr M Vickers.

8.0 Appendices

8.1 References

8.2 Roman pottery report by MJ Darling

8.3 Colour photographs

8.1 References

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Appendix 8.2

REPORT 36 ON THE POTTERY FROM THE COLEBY-WELLINGORE PIPELINE, CWP98

for PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

by Margaret J. Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

28 October 1998

QUANTITY AND CONDITION

The pottery came from five contexts, and amounted to 31 sherds, 1.034kg. The condition is generally fair, with some abrasion; there are no anticipated problems for long term storage. The pottery has been archived according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery*. A copy of the database is attached, and the computer file will be curated for future study.

THE POTTERY

The pottery may be summarised:

Site	cxt	Sherds	Weight	Date	Links etc.
Wall foundation	603	2	197	L2M3	A single Dressel 20 amphora handle
Demolition horizon	606	3	275	ROM	Overfired tile fragments only
Demolition over foundation	612	9	93	4C PROB	
Demolition over foundation	616	9	219	ML4	probable link to 617
Over upper Ermine St.surface	617	7	190	ML4?	probable link to 616
Unstratified	u/s	1	60	4C	abraded
Total		31	1034		

DISCUSSION

The handle from a Dressel 20 olive-oil amphora in the wall foundation 603 gives it a *terminus post quem* of later 2nd to mid 3rd century, the fabric being the later type for these amphorae. The rest of the pottery fits well with what has been seen before from Navenby, reflecting a later Roman date. The earliest is the Central Gaulish samian sherd from a Dr 31R bowl, belonging to the later 2nd century. The strongest dating comes from the GREY bead-and-flanged bowl occurring in 616 and 617, the form suggesting a date well into the 4th century. There are also sherds from two separate late Nene Valley colour-coated bowls or dishes from 612. Three sherds from two shell-gritted vessels, almost certainly jars, came from 616, one of which appears to be wheel-thrown, and is therefore more likely to come from a lid-seated form, later in date than the Dales ware jars common in the later 3rd century.

Site info.	Cxt	Fabric	Form	Dec+	Ves	D?	DNo	Details	Links	Shs	Wt
Wall foundation	603	DR20	A		1			HDLE FR;LATER FAB		2	197
Wall foundation	603	ZDATE						L2M3			
Demolition horizon	606	TILE						O'FIRED FRS;THICK STRUCT?		3	275
Demolition horizon	606	ZDATE						ROM			
Demolition over foundation	612	SAMCG	31R					BS		1	16
Demolition over foundation	612	NVCC	BD		2			BSS		2	16
Demolition over foundation	612	GREY	JBCUR			D?		RIM		1	30
Demolition over foundation	612	GREY	DPR					ABR RIM FR		1	7
Demolition over foundation	612	GREY						BSS		4	24
Demolition over foundation	612	ZDATE						4C PROB			
Demolition over foundation	616	GREY	BFBH			D?		RIM/WALL;SAME	617	1	75
Demolition over foundation	616	GREY	JEV			D?		SM.J RIM		1	9
Demolition over foundation	616	SHEL	J?	HM?	1			BSS;V SPARSE SHELL		2	33
Demolition over foundation	616	SHEL	J					SHLDR;?WM		1	40
Demolition over foundation	616	GREY			1			J BSS		2	26
Demolition over foundation	616	GREY						BS		1	27
Demolition over foundation	616	GREY?	CLSD					ABR BASE;OXID INT		1	9
Demolition over foundation	616	ZDATE						ML4			
Over upr Ermine St surface	617	MONV	M					BS		1	64
Over upr Ermine St surface	617	GREY	BFBH			D?		RIM/WALL;SAME	616	1	56
Over upr Ermine St surface	617	GREY	BD					BS		1	11
Over upr Ermine St surface	617	GREY						BSS		3	46
Over upr Ermine St surface	617	FCLAY?						GRYISH FRAG		1	13
Over upr Ermine St surface	617	ZDATE						ML4?			
Unstrat.	U/S	GREY	BFB					ABR FRAG RIM/WALL		1	60
	U/S	ZDATE						4C			
										31	1034

Appendix 8.3: Colour photographs

P1. East-west Roman wall 603, access pit 6.4, High Dyke, Navenby

P2. The same wall in section, demonstrating the vulnerability of the important archaeology at Navenby

P3. North-south Roman wall overlying Roman road surface, access pit 6.6, High Dyke, Navenby

P4. Access pit 6.5, High Dyke, Navenby: Roman road surface overlain by demolition deposits associated with 4th century pottery

P5. Section through Ermine Street, junction of High Dyke and Coleby Heath Road, Coleby

P6. Access pit 5.1, High Dyke, Navenby: section through Roman road and associated ?pothole