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Normanton Phase 1 Mains Replacement Scheme Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Monitoring of Groundworks between Normanton and Hough on the Hill, Lincs.

> NGR: SK 922 461 - SK 949 462 Site Code: NHH 98 LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 128.98

Report prepared for Anglian Water Services Ltd.

LAS Report No. 337

December 1998

EVENTS LI2324 LI2326

SOURCES LI6998 LI6999

35390 LI81937 Med

35391 LI81939 LIVEDTED

35392 LI81940 Med

35393 LI81942 Rned

35394 LI81944 Pred

35395 LI81948 Aned

35395 LI81951 Pred

35397 LI81954 Med

35399 LI81955 PMED

35399 LI81955 PMED

35399 LI81957 Med

35401 EMED

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# Normanton Phase 1 Mains Replacement Scheme Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Monitoring of Groundworks between Normanton and Hough on the Hill, Lincs.

NGR: SK 922 461 - SK 949 462 Site Code: NHH 98 LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 128,98

#### Summary

A new water pipeline between Normanton and Hough on the Hill was laid beside an existing main. During installation of the existing main in 1954, the discovery of Romano-British pottery and stone building foundations was reported. Very little information about that find could be traced.

During topsoil stripping for the new main, an archaeological watching brief was maintained along the easement across farmland, producing five struck or worked flints, and pottery sherds of Roman to post-medieval date. In the area of the reported Romano-British site, a very thin scatter of Roman pottery was found, in association with redeposited limestone blocks and human skeletal remains. This area was the subject of an archaeological excavation which produced an Anglo-Saxon cemetery above Romano-British features. The site had been ploughed during the medieval period and substantial backfilled furrows were present.

No archaeological remains were observed in the pipe trench along Cliff Road, Normanton.

#### Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Anglian Water Services in May 1998 to undertake archaeological investigations along part of the route of a 225mm diameter replacement water main between St. Nicholas' Church, Normanton and Hough on the Hill village (Fig. 1). A desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and watching brief during contractors' groundworks had been requested by the Lincolnshire County Archaeological Officer as part of a programme of archaeological investigation.

The replacement main formed part of the more extensive Normanton Phase 1 Scheme, and was positioned beside the existing main. Particular archaeological interest was occasioned by records of the discovery of stone foundations of a Romano-British building when the previous main was installed. It was hoped that a collation of existing available information about that discovery would permit a mitigation scheme to be devised, reducing further damage to the site or enabling preservation by record of any affected remains. A draft form of the desk-based assessment report was produced in June 1998. Publication of the report of an excavation by LAS in 1998 on the pipeline route will be produced at a later date.

#### The Desk-Based Assessment

#### The Site

The grid reference of the Romano-British building reported in the 1950s has been recorded as SK 9393 4607. This point lies about 900m SW of Normanton village within a field currently used as pasture. The parish boundary with Hough on the Hill, a mixed species hedge, lies 350m to the west.

The existing main had been laid within the two parallel hedgelines of a green lane or disused track which survives in good condition for 450m within the pasture field. The line of the main is visible as a narrow linear depression where the fill has settled. Occasional valve markers and meter covers confirm the position of the pipe.

The green lane seems to have originally led from the Lincoln-Grantham road through Normanton, past the southern side of the church (where it survives as a metalled track) and across a small stream. Maps pre-dating the Lincoln and Honington Branch Railway indicate that it crossed the opposite hillside along almost the same alignment as the present pipeline easement, and a short length of ditch is shown in that position on recent OS maps (Bryant 1828). The track was directed below a bridge under the railway while that was in use (OS 1905). It appears that the track served as access to fields at the edge of the parish and it may never have extended further west than its present terminal.

Within the pasture field the green lane is flanked by trees from a hedge and adjacent slight ditches. North-south aligned ridge and furrow is visible to the south, apparently with a flat area close to the lane which was initially interpreted as a plough headland contemporary with or later than the lane. There is a similar 'headland' north of the lane.

Normanton parish was privately enclosed and no Enclosure Award is available. A 1756 map of part of the enclosed Lordship shows the land around the findspot to have been pasture owned by Sir John Cust; the track was not depicted (LAO 2CC 70/7). This evidence would date the track to the late eighteenth century or later.

Monitoring of topsoil stripping has showed that the plough furrows south of the lane were earlier than the ditch and lane. Medieval pottery and three postmedieval horseshoes from the topsoil/subsoil interface provided an indication of when this land was last ploughed.

#### The Sites and Monuments Record entry

Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section maintains a computerised and map-based list of archaeological sites and artefact findspots which have been reported to local museums, archaeological societies or the Sites and Monuments Record. The entries include data collected by Ordnance Survey fieldworkers, archaeologists and other correspondents.

The archaeological site beside the existing pipeline at Normanton is recorded as PRN No. 30297. The entry summarises the entry as the 'site of a Roman building, SE of Normanton Wood'.

Descriptive text notes that

Walls of a Romano-British building were exposed when laying a water-pipe in 1954. The walls were seen by C. Moulton who retrieved second and third century pottery, including some samian. The pottery was held by Lincoln Museum. The OS fieldworker B.H. Seaman inspected the findspot in 1964 and described it as within a permanent pasture field.

The entry records that an artefact at Lincoln City and County Museum had been assigned the accession number 126.54. Other references given are to the 1964 Ordnance Survey card, the 1976 card index of sites in Lincolnshire (map SK 94 NW, letter D), and the inclusion of the site in the 1955 Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Societies' compilation of recent discoveries in the county (Thompson 1955, 10).

#### Discovery of the site

No engineer's log for the 1954 Kesteven Water Company pipeline could be found during research for this assessment. As no written records for that company were known at Anglian Water Services Records Dept. or catalogued at Lincolnshire Archives Office, it is possible that material might survive unidentified elsewhere although unfortunately complete disposal is likely.

The site was apparently reported to Lincoln City and County Museum by Mr C. Moulton (the Accession Book queries this). He seems to have been a local amateur archaeologist, based in Ancaster, who at that time was gathering evidence relating to the Roman settlement at Ancaster and had noted a number of new prehistoric sites in that area (Thompson 1955, 2). This may imply that he found this site in September 1954 by informally visiting the project rather than merely reporting a discovery by a contractor.

#### The Geophysical Survey

In view of the limited information about this site, the Assistant County Archaeological Officer requested a geophysical survey of the environs of the recorded findspot in order to locate the building and assess the options for avoiding further damage by the replacement main. A fieldwalking survey designed to complement this was also requested but was impractical because of the pasture land use.

LAS arranged for Oxford Archaeotechnics to conduct a geophysical survey of a 15m wide corridor alongside the existing main in order to identify the location of archaeological features. A direct topsoil magnetic susceptibility survey was conducted in June 1998 and has been the subject of a separate report (Johnson 1998). The existing pipe and the pipe trench disturbance influenced some readings, but the survey identified a zone of markedly greater topsoil magnetism within the NW angle of OS Field 0002, in the recorded position of the archaeological site. The zone extended for about 100m centred on SK 93950 46070, with an intense highspot and other variations. This was believed to confirm the position of the Romano-British building and pottery scatter.

#### Site Visit

During the first visit by the author a small fragment of late medieval pottery was recovered from bare soil **3D** within the green lane immediately east of the recorded site. Although cattle had scuffed soil alongside the existing main and pieces of natural ironstone were evident, no other archaeological finds were seen.

The site lies on flat ground with a slope to the south; although exposed to winds by its elevation and the modern absence of natural windbreaks, the views are extensive. A pond about 300m to the NE indicates a local water source.

#### Conclusion

If no pottery had been recovered from this site in 1954, the foundations of a stone building could have been dismissed as those from a medieval or post-medieval structure associated with the end of the green lane, perhaps a shepherd's shelter or arable barn. While the pottery might have been a coincidental scatter beside a later building, there was no reason to dispute Mr Moulton's identification.

#### The Watching Brief

LAS was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd. in June 1998 to conduct an intermittent watching brief of trenching for the 225mm diameter replacement water main. The initial strategy had been to use the results of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey to mitigate disturbance to the previously reported archaeological site. Unfortunately, the desk-based assessment had been unable to locate detailed records of the archaeological site and the geophysical survey, although indicating a probable location, was affected by the adjacent existing metal main (Johnson 1998).

As work on the pipeline had already commenced, the subsequent parts of the mitigation strategy (fieldwalking survey and evaluation trenching) were abandoned. In their place, the aim was to identify the extent of the site during topsoil stripping of the preferred route prior to determining the pipeline route through or around it.

LAS was also asked to monitor excavation of part of the pipe trench within Cliff Road in Normanton village, along an un-named track past St. Nicholas' Church, and both topsoil stripping and trench excavation within the easement across fields between Honington Beck, (Normanton) and Grantham Road (Hough on the Hill) (Figs. 2 and 3). No monitoring was requested for the pipeline along the north verge of Carlton Road (Hough on the Hill).

The first site visit by the author was made on June 8th 1998. Further visits were made until 4th September 1998 when monitoring was concluded; a total of 16 visits were made.

#### Normanton

Within Normanton, a 0.5m wide trench was excavated beneath the modern road past a village pump, milestone and water trough 1A now protected as a scheduled Ancient Monument (Pls. 1-3). This part was watched in order to ensure no damage to the monument; none occurred and apart from undated road metalling, no archaeological remains were seen.

An intermittent watching brief was maintained to the east of St Nicholas' Church **1B** within the village core in case early settlement features were present. None were seen below the road.

To the south of the church and graveyard, a rough metalled track leads down a slope and crosses Honington Beck by a small bridge. Alongside the graveyard the track is narrow, as if the burial ground has either been extended south across part of a medieval lane or the lane was created at a later date from part of the graveyard (Pl. 4). The trench exposed no human remains, which suggested that the lane pre-dated the churchyard. Below a thin covering of soil, the trench revealed limestone brash except for a small ridge of larger stone **1C** where the lane became slightly wider. This may have

been a demolished wall or an upcast mound beside an unrecognised ditch (Pls. 5 and 6).

If the lane was earlier than the present churchyard extent, it is logical to consider where a medieval track would have led. At present the lane forms a public footpath across the stream (and formerly beneath an adjacent railway bridge) which used to lead to the green lane on the hilltop. A north-south footpath between Carlton Scroop and Frieston crosses the green lane but the lane itself ends east of the Hough on the Hill/ Normanton parish boundary. In its present form this lane is probably a post-medieval drove path to outlying enclosed pasture on medieval open arable fields.

The lane may instead have been a village street providing access to plots to the south of the track, now only visible as earthworks **1D** in a pasture field (Pls. 7 and 8). Although difficult to interpret from ground level, the undulations appeared to include possible house platforms, tofts and paths as well as ridge and furrow from arable cultivation. No previous record of this possible shrunken or migrated medieval village site was found.

Further west along the track verge, a backfilled ditch **1E** was identified in the trench face (Pls. 9 and 10). The ditch was about 0.6m deep and 1.5m wide, sealed by a 0.3m thick topsoil layer. No datable material was found in the exposed fill.

#### Field 2

Within Fields 2 - 5, an easement was stripped of topsoil with a ditching bucket before the pipe trench was excavated. The stripped surface was inspected for soil variations which would indicate backfilled ditches or pits, and artefacts of prehistoric to post-medieval date were collected.

Beyond Honington Beck the track ends at a broad, flat NW-SE aligned farm track where the former Lincolnshire and Honington Branch Railway has been removed. Early OS maps mark the railway as passing above the track, and a spread of brick and stone rubble at **2A** may have been the remains of a demolished bridge foundation (Pl. 11).

The pipeline route crossed Field 2 at an angle up the slope, following the line of the former green lane. At **2A**, a single unretouched flint flake was retrieved. Two eighteenth/nineteenth century pot sherds were found at **2B**, a fourteenth/fifteenth century jug base at **2C** and a slightly earlier jug base at **2D**.

#### Field 3

In Field 3, the easement was aligned across a pasture field south of an almost backfilled ditch **3E** defining the side of a tree-lined green lane. The pasture undulated across north-south aligned ridge and furrow which in places was still pronounced; the pipe trench showed that some furrows had cut over 1m into the subsoil despite the ironstone boulders present in places

(Pls. 12-14). Investigation showed that the ditch had been cut across the ploughed field and that the ridge and furrow extended towards the green lane. The ditch upcast, piled as a bank to the south, gives a misleading impression of east-west aligned ridge and furrow (Pl. 15). The lane itself probably occupies the flatter medieval headland although this could not be confirmed. The green lane appears to originate in the mid to late eighteenth century and first appears on a map of 1756 (LAO 2CC 70/7). The ditch seems to have been dug to define the lane and probably dates from the change from arable to pastoral land use.

During topsoil stripping alongside the green lane, three horseshoes were found close to the ditch at separate findspots within about 25m, and recorded as **3C**. Sketches of these U-shaped objects were made; their widths varied from 0.15m to 0.17m and their lengths between 0.15m and 0.16m. These horseshoes have now been discarded. The forms suggest shoes of very similar date, probably nineteenth century. They may have been shed during ploughing of this field, although the field had probably been turned to pasture before that date.

Despite the proximity of the recorded Roman site to the western end of Field 3, no Roman pottery was found during topsoil stripping or later trenching. A cluster of limestone lumps at **3A** was interpreted as stone packing for a field boundary fence- or gate- post, very close to the existing fence line and probably not of any antiquity (Pls. 16 and 17). The stone may have been reused from material disturbed at the site of the Roman building. A medieval sherd was found close to **3A**, two at **3B**, and another at **3C**.

#### Field 4

Topsoil removal at the eastern side of Field 4 was monitored very closely to try to avoid damage to any surviving structural remains. At the northern edge of the stripped easement a linear feature filled with darker soil was visible, containing limestone lumps. This proved to be a continuation of the ditch defining the green lane and was probably eighteenth century in origin (Pl. 18).

Initial topsoil removal across the easement revealed infrequent Roman pottery sherds, and some limestone was present but there were no indications of a major finds scatter.

Bone fragments were found at a depth of about 0.25-0.3m below the surface and these were identified as human skeletal remains, although few bones remained. Home Office Licence No. 1190 (dated 24th June 1998) was obtained prior to their removal by LAS. Machining continued at this level but with no further results; the blank zone was then machined slightly deeper. Stone rubble, apparently forming a surface, was clipped at intervals and the decision was made to cease machining at that level despite the few visible features. The soil appeared homogenous, unlike Field 3 where the furrow fills were much darker than the intervening ridges, and it was unclear whether medieval cultivation had affected the site. As no definite furrows were evident,

no attempt was made to remove the soil by machine. Finds revealed by topsoil stripping were left in situ and recorded as part of the subsequent archaeological excavation. The report on that excavation, which identified an Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery overlying Romano-British features, will be produced at a later date (Williams, forthcoming).

The topsoil stripping revealed the existing pipe deflecting into the pasture field at the end of the green lane. From that point, the existing pipe lay within the stripped easement as far west as the parish boundary (Pl. 17). The present topsoil layer covered a disturbed layer of redeposited subsoil mixed with topsoil, left after reinstatement in the 1950s. The mixed layer was not removed and some archaeological features cut into the subsoil below may have been masked by it.

The western edge of Field 4 was bounded by a thick hedge growing along the parish boundary. In order to avoid damage to the hedgerow, the pipe was moled beneath it, and no information about the boundary's origin was revealed.

#### Field 5

No finds were made in Field 5. The pipe was laid in the eastern roadside verge of Carlton Road at an earlier stage of the project. This part of the route was not monitored.

#### Field 6

Two worked flints were recovered at **6B**, and one was found at both **6C** and **6D**. These have been dated to the Neolithic period: one may be slightly later. It is unlikely that they have derived from occupation features. Two pot sherds were found at **6A**, one medieval and the other post-medieval. A sherd from a medieval jar or pipkin was found at **6E**.

#### Field 7

This pasture field could not be topsoil stripped with the rest of the route, and was topsoil removal and trench excavation was not monitored. Earthworks of medieval settlement features have been recorded in adjacent fields but there was no evidence that they extended into this field (Pls. 20 and 21). A search of exposed soil failed to locate any pottery scatters that might have indicated occupation features.

#### <u>Acknowledgements</u>

LAS are grateful to Anglian Water Services, especially Darren Hodgson (Project Engineer), Mick Claffey (Clerk of Works) and Andrew Fox (Records) for their help. Further co-operation was received from the contractors, AHLCO, in particular John Mardell, John Bishop, Kevin Grey and the machine operator.

Thanks are also due to Jim Bonnor (Assistant County Archaeological Officer), Mark Bennet (SMR Officer), Tony Page (Curator, Lincoln City and County Museum) and the staff of Lincolnshire Archives Office.

The flints were identified by Bob Middleton, and the Post-Roman pottery by Jane Young.

Information was also provided by Tony Johnson (Oxford Archaeotechnics) and Mark Williams (LAS Site Director of the archaeological excavation in Field 4).

Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid, and the report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann Lindsey Archaeological Services 22nd December 1998

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- Thompson, F.H. 1955 'Archaeological Notes for 1954' in *Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Societies' Reports* 6.

#### **Archive Summary**

Archaeological finds: flints, pottery
Anglian Water Services route maps
Annotated AWS maps
Correspondence
Specialists' archive lists
Photographs: colour prints, LAS Film Nos. 98/67/24-26, 28, 35; 98/89/4-6, 16, 17, 19 (and photographs used in this report).

Post-Roman Pottery Archive List (by Jane Young, City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit)

| Co | ontext | Ware          | Sherds | Form        | Comments                            |  |
|----|--------|---------------|--------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--|
|    | 2B     | BL            | 1      | ?           | 18/19TH                             |  |
|    | 2B     | GRE           | 1      | BOWL        | BASE;18/19TH                        |  |
|    | 2C     | <b>MEDLOC</b> | 1      | JUG         | BS;14/15TH                          |  |
|    | 2D     | <b>MEDLOC</b> | 1      | JUG         | THUMBED BASE;13/14TH;WELL WORN      |  |
|    | 3A     | NOTG          | 1      | JUG         | REDUCED FABRIC;14TH?                |  |
|    | 3B     | NOTG          | 2      | JUG         | BASE;FRESH BREAKS; VERY WORN; 13TH; |  |
|    |        |               |        |             | CREAM FABRIC                        |  |
|    | 3C     | MP            | 1      | JUG/CISTERN | HANDLE; ORANGE FABRIC RED SURFS     |  |
|    | 3D     | MP            | 1      | JUG/CISTERN | LHJ;ORANGE FABRIC PURPLE SURFS      |  |
|    | 6A     | BL            | 1      | BOWL?       | BASE;L17/18TH                       |  |
|    | 6A     | NOTG          | 1      | JUG         | STRAP HANDLE; VERY WORN; 13TH;      |  |
|    | 6E     | MEDLOC        | 1      | JAR/PIPKIN  | ORANGE/GREY FABRIC<br>BASE;13/14TH  |  |

#### **Glossary of Fabric Codes**

| BI     | Blackware: mid 16th - modern                                 |
|--------|--|
| Gre    | glazed red earthenwares: mid 16th/late 18th centuries        |
| Medloc | medieval, local origin: early 13th/late 15th centuries       |
| Mp     | Midland purple type: late 14th - early 17th centuries        |
| Notg   | Nottingham green-glazed ware: early 13th-late 14th centuries |

## Lithic material assessment

## NORMANTON, LINCS. (NHH98)

Prepared for Lindsey Archaeological Services

December 1998

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## Flints from the Pipeline Watching Brief at Normanton, Lincs. (NHH98)

This report considers, briefly, five flints recovered from the surface of the stripped easement during a pipeline watching brief at Normanton, Lincolnshire (NHH98)\*. A brief assessment was made of the material to identify its chronology and any features of particular interest.

The flints may be said to be typical of many assemblages in Eastern England from derived or mixed contexts. All of the pieces exhibited some edge abrasion, mainly small edge removals and spalling caused by movements in the soil against other stones. The patination of the material proved no indicator of either date nor length of time in the soil.

In terms of chronology, all of the material was of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, although few of the pieces could be dated accurately owing to the small assemblage and lack of diagnostic features. The majority of the artefacts, however, had some features suggestive of the use of a controlled flaking technique indicative of a Neolithic, rather than Bronze Age, date.

It is unlikely that an assemblage of this size, with such mixed features spread over a relatively wide area, is indicative of associated contemporary features. Given the condition of the material, is it likely that this represents the background of prehistoric activity in the area.

\*This report has been edited by LAS from a report which includes flints from the excavation.

| No   | Material | Period               | Form/type          | Condition | Flint colour | <b>Patinated</b> |
|------|----------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|
| 2A   | Flint    | Undated              | Unretouched flake  | Fresh     | Black        | Υ                |
| 6B/1 | Flint    | Neolithic            | Unretouched flake  | Abraded   | Black        | Υ                |
| 6B/2 | Flint    | Neolithic/Bronze Age | Unretouched flake  | Fresh     | Dark Grey    |                  |
| 6C   | Flint    | Neolithic            | Utilised flake     | Fresh     | Mid-brown    |                  |
| 6D   | Flint    | Neolithic            | Edge-dressed flake | Abraded   | Black        | Υ                |

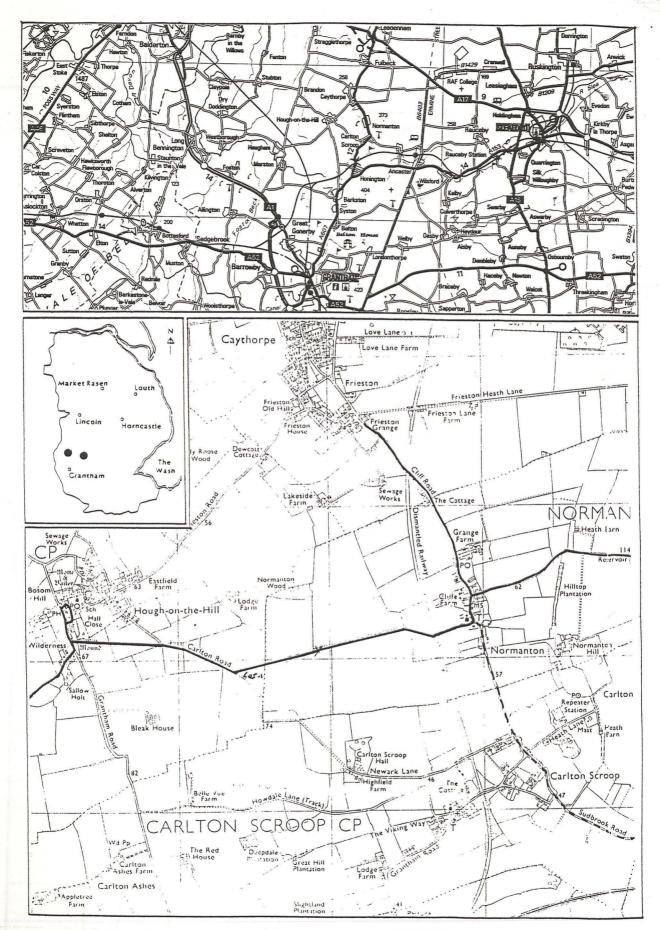
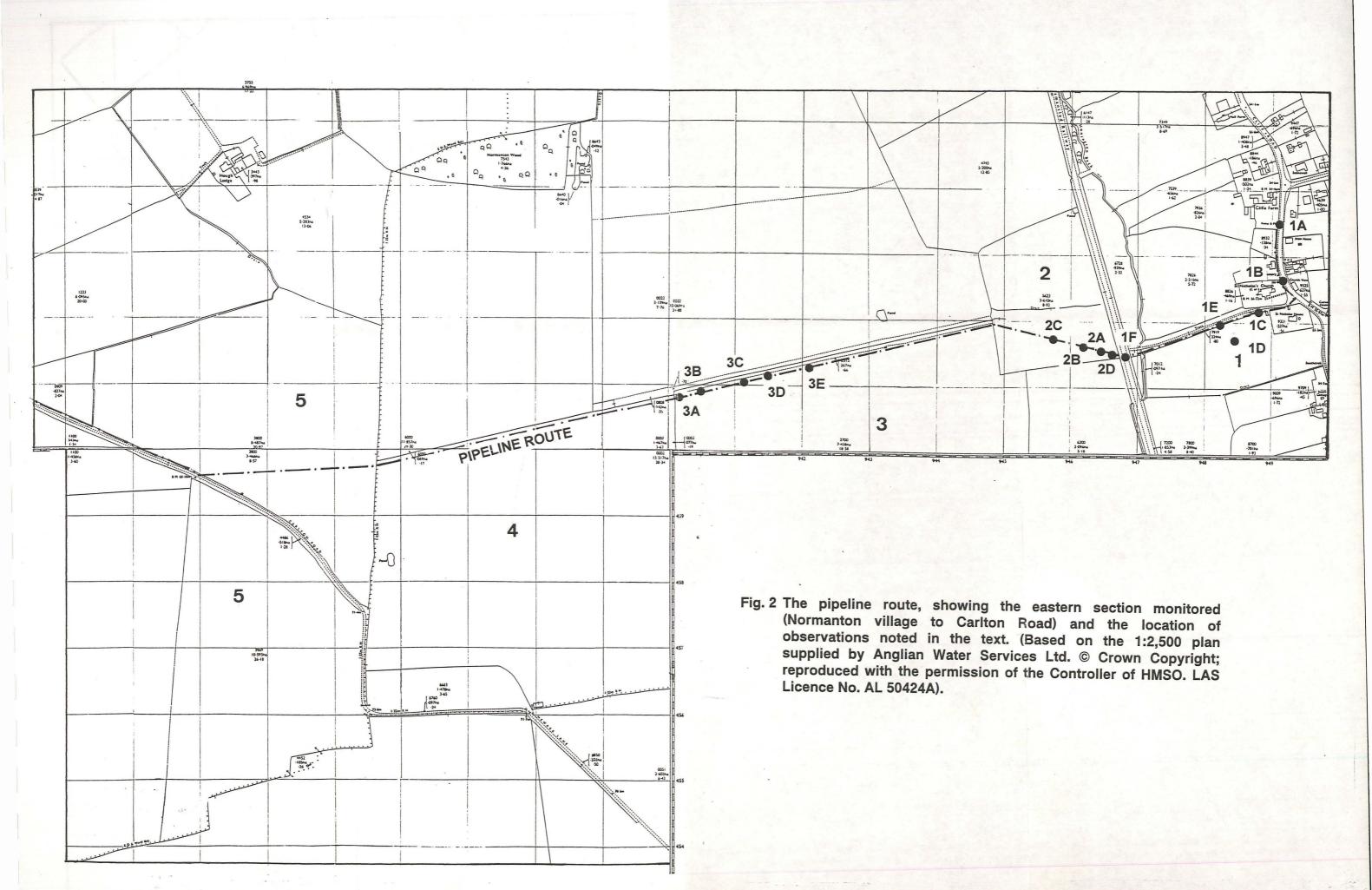
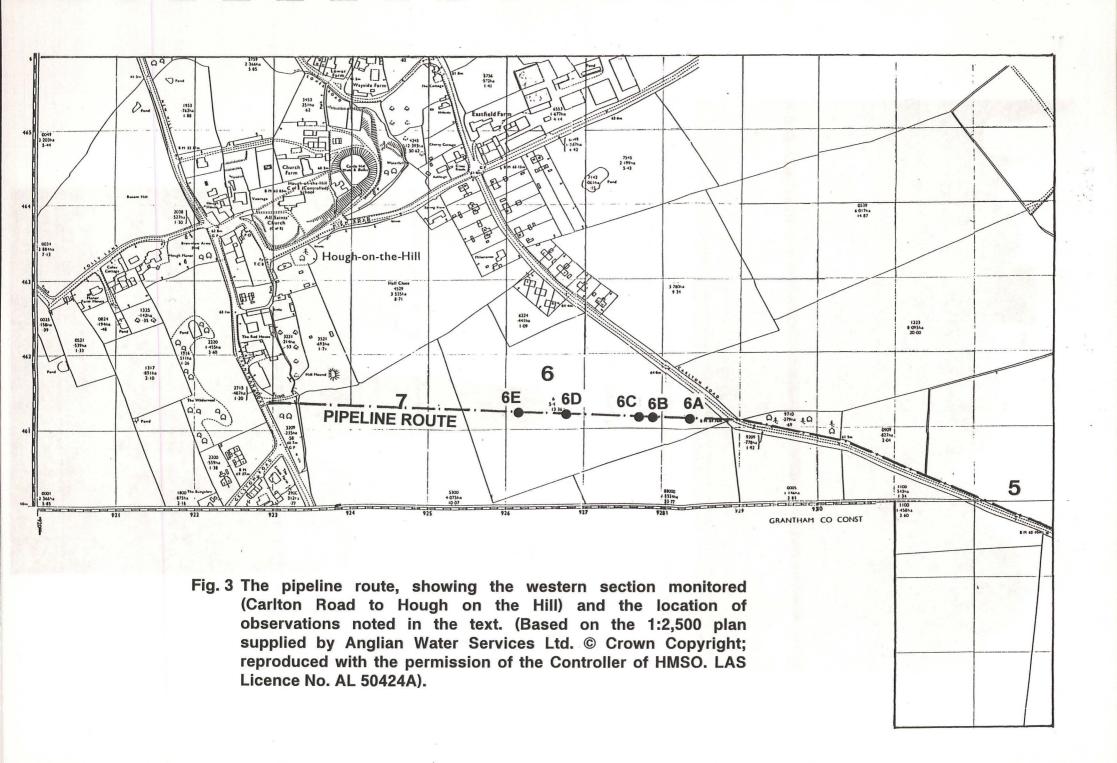


Fig. 1 Location of Normanton and Hough on the Hill (inset C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map supplied by Anglian Water Services Ltd, dwg. no. 9722007/06. © Crown Copyright; reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).







Pl. 1 Cliff Road, Normanton, showing the position of the milestone and pump (looking SW).

Pl. 2 Front view of the milestone, pump and water trough (looking west).





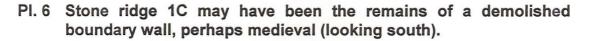


Pl. 3 Pump handle at rear of the milestone. Looking east across Cliff Road.

Pl. 4 The pipe trench within the narrow track south of Normanton churchyard. Looking east to Cliff Road.



PI. 5 To the SW of the churchyard the track became wider with a verge. This coincided with a ridge of stone 1C in the trench face (left foreground).







PI. 7 Panoramic view (with PI. 8) showing earthworks 1D in the pasture field south of the track. (Looking south from the track edge).



PI. 10 Red/brown clay fill of ditch 1E visible in the trench face. Looking south.

Pl. 11 Limestone and brick rubble at 2A, perhaps associated with demolished bridge beneath former railway line. Looking east.





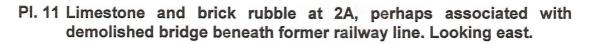
PI. 8 Earthworks 1D to the SW of the track (looking west).

PI. 9 The pipe trench was sited in the southern verge of the track. A thick root (right foreground) is above ditch 1E.





Pl. 10 Red/brown clay fill of ditch 1E visible in the trench face. Looking south.

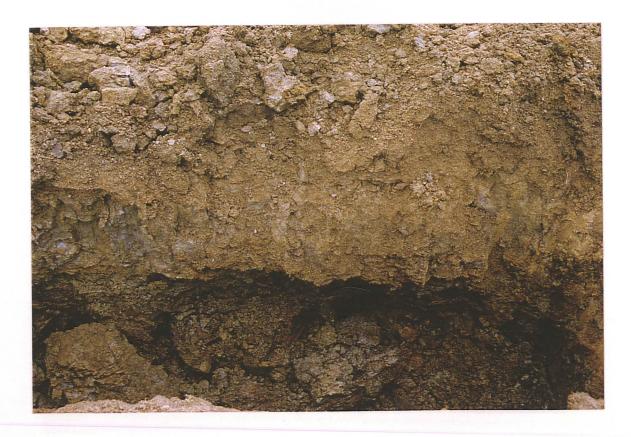


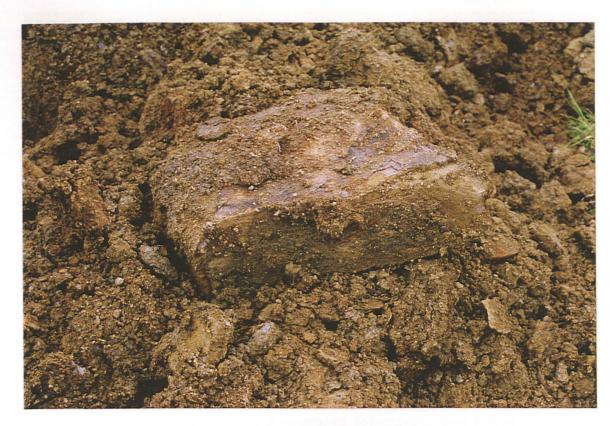




Pl. 12 Red/brown fill of medieval plough furrow in Field 3.

Pl. 13 Within Field 3, the subsoil covered patches of dense ironstone.





Pl. 14 Ironstone block from the natural deposit in Field 3.

PI. 15 The post-medieval tree-lined green lane at the edge of Field 3, showing the adjacent ditch 3E and bank. Plough furrows in the field to the right are not visible from this angle (looking east to Normanton village).





Pl. 16 Topsoil removal in Field 3 revealed the darker soil filling plough furrows, with lighter intervening ridges (looking east).

Pl. 17 Limestone rubble in a post-hole at the western side of Field 3, probably re-used from the Roman stone building as support for a post-medieval or modern fenceline or gatepost (looking north).





Pl. 18 Archaeological remains from an Anglo-Saxon cemetery were revealed at this level after topsoil removal in Field 4 (looking west). The backfilled ditch flanking the post-medieval green lane is visible, right foreground.



Pl. 19 Part of the multi-species hedge along the Normanton parish boundary. Looking west.



Pl. 20 Aerial view of Hough on the Hill village showing the pipeline easement crossing fields 6 and 7. Earthworks are recorded in the field with sheep (centre right). (Looking north, photograph: N. Field).

