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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
WELTON PHASE 1 WATER MAINS
REPLACEMENT SCHEME**

99/9

Site Code: WWM99
LCNCC Acc No: 26.99
NGR: SK 01208210 - 97108300



Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
04 JUN 99
case #6/99

EVENT: L15965

INTERVENTION: L1 10034

EXCAVATION: L1 10035

PRN 50574 Emine street (Roman)

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Report prepared for Anglian Water Services Ltd.
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May 1999

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Summary

- * *An intermittent archaeological watching brief took place in selective areas during groundwork's for water mains replacement associated with the Welton Phase 1 scheme (Anglian Water Services Ltd).*
- * *In one of four locations the work exposed archaeological remains relating to Ermine Street.*
- * *Three of the areas did not produce archaeological remains, although it should be noted that, in these areas, small pits rather than open cut trenches were often used to construct the pipeline, rendering archaeological identification and interpretation almost impossible.*

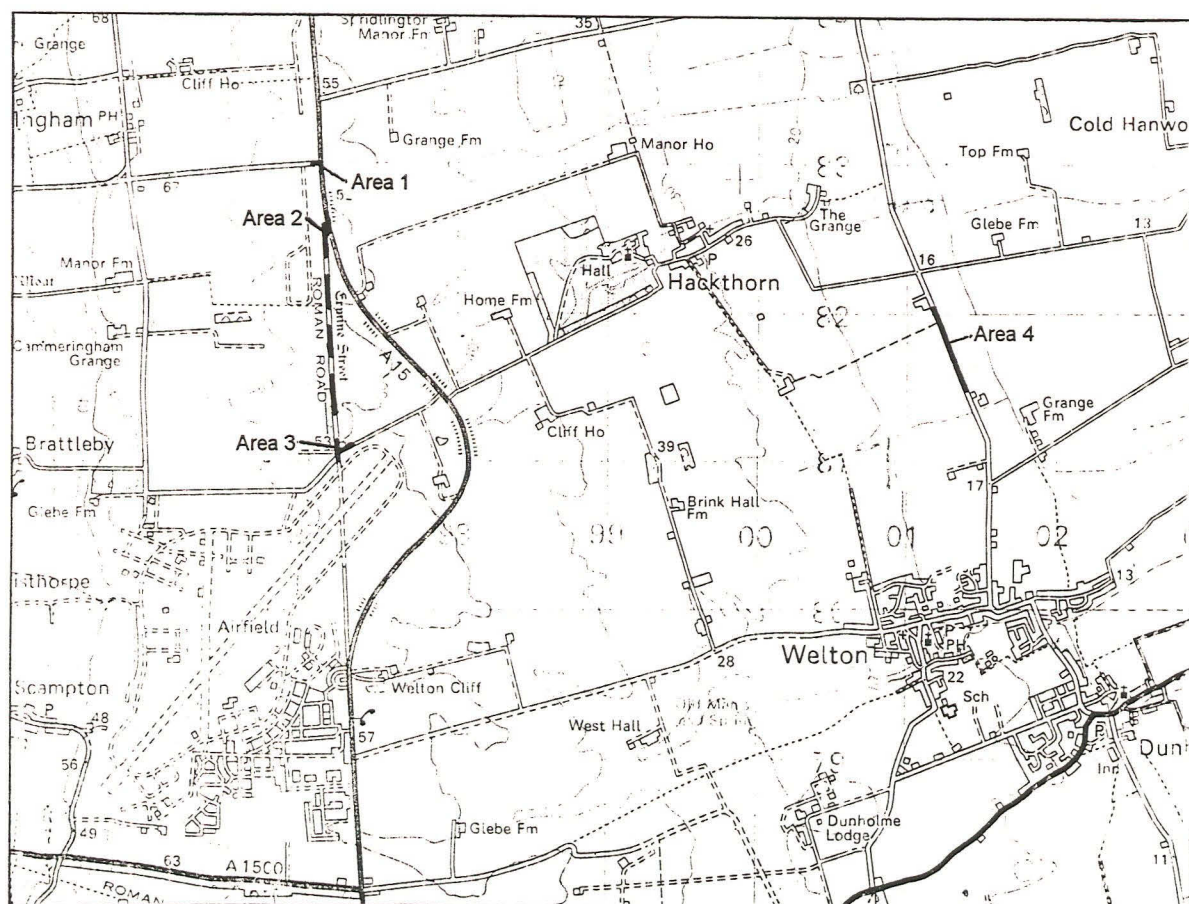


Fig. 1 Site location. Scale 1:50,000
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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out for Anglian Water Services Ltd. during water mains replacement associated with the Welton Phase 1 scheme. This was undertaken on an intermittent basis between 8th February and 25th March 1999. The brief was carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section publication '*Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice*' and in accordance with a specification prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology, that was approved by Lincolnshire County Council.

2.0 Location and Description

The scheme was centred to the north of Lincoln in the vicinity of the villages of Welton and Hackthorn. Welton is approximately 6km north-east of Lincoln, and Hackthorn is approximately 2.5km north-west of Welton. To the west is the Roman road Ermine Street which is now the A15.

The Assistant County Archaeologist identified four specific areas of archaeological importance which required monitoring:-

- 1) At the junction of Ingham Road and the A15 (SK 9710 8300). The purpose of monitoring this area was to identify traces of the former Roman road and any associated remains.
- 2) At the junction of Ermine Street and the A15 (SK 9715 8250). The purpose of monitoring this area was also to identify traces of the former Roman road and any associated remains.
- 3) At the junction of Ermine Street and the un-named road to Vulcan Lodge (SK 9717 8105). Again the purpose of this monitoring was to identify traces of the former Roman road and any associated remains.
- 4) At the section of road between Mill Farm and the Hackthorn/Welton parish boundary (SK 0120 8210 - SK 0140 8140). The purpose of this monitoring was to examine any remains associated with a system of Iron Age / Romano-British enclosures that are known from aerial photographs and were sampled in 1991 as part of the Welton to Glentham pipeline scheme.

The pipeline construction was carried out within existing road areas and roadside verges and used a combination of open cut and drilling techniques.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Ermine Street was the major Roman road linking London with the military north. It passed through Lincoln and then proceeded to the Humber at Winteringham. A number of Romano-British settlements have been discovered along its length (for example Navenby and Owmbly), with many of these sites containing evidence of

occupation in the later prehistoric period. In the parish of Scampton a section of the road was discovered on an *aggar*, or raised bank, on which the road surface was built up. In areas where the road has been investigated, several phases of construction and repair have been identified, made up of irregular cobbles and gravel. The road is usually flanked by ditches.

Areas 1, 2 and 3 of the watching brief were all located along the route of Ermine Street.

Close to the boundary between the parishes of Hackthorn and Welton is a large rectangular enclosure. This site was identified from aerial photographs and partially excavated in 1991 during the construction of the Welton to Glenthams water pipeline. It lies on the east side of the road from Spridlington to Welton, and an easement for the water main exposed the western boundary ditch. Dating evidence from the excavations placed this enclosure in the Romano-British period (Field, N. 1991). Area 4 was a short distance to the west of the enclosure.

4.0 Methodology

The watching brief was undertaken on an intermittent basis by Mr J. Albone, Mr C. Palmer-Brown, and the writer between 8th February and 25th March 1999. A total of thirteen site inspections took place.

The fieldwork element consisted of a thorough inspection of all plan and section surfaces, and a record was made of all archaeological features. That record includes scale drawings (in plan and section), colour photographs, and written context descriptions (on standard record sheets). Archaeological features were subjected to limited rapid excavation to retrieve dating evidence and to clarify their form and orientation.

5.0 Results

5.1 Area 1

This area was disturbed by a small number of access pits. No open cut trenching took place, and no archaeological remains were exposed. Below the verge topsoil and the road make-up was a layer of natural limestone brash over natural sandy clay.

5.2 Area 2 (See Fig. 2 & 3)

A series of access pits were monitored along the west side of Ermine Street. Only one of these pits contained deposits which may have related to the Roman road. A layer of small limestone fragments (203) was sealed below a light to mid grey clay silt subsoil (202). Beneath the possible road surface was a layer of red-brown silty clay (204) with bands of white silty clay which appeared to contain lime. A further layer of limestone fragments (205) was identified above the natural limestone brash (206) but was not considered to be an earlier road surface.

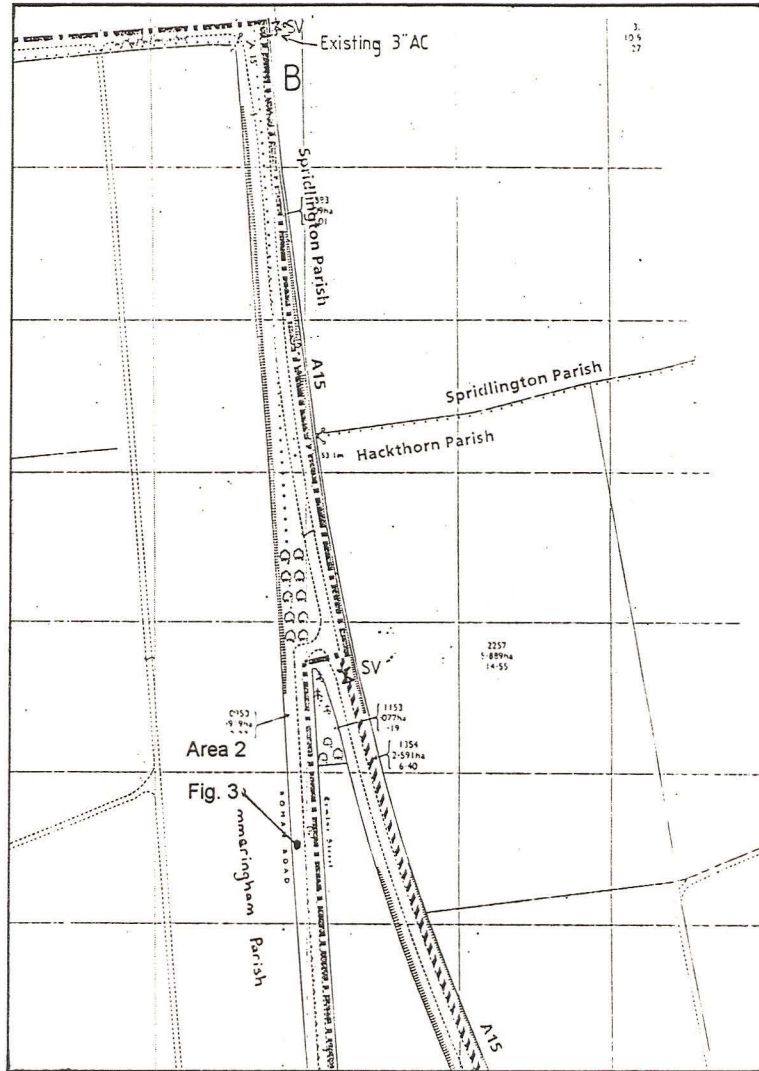


Fig. 2 : 1:5000 map of Area 2.

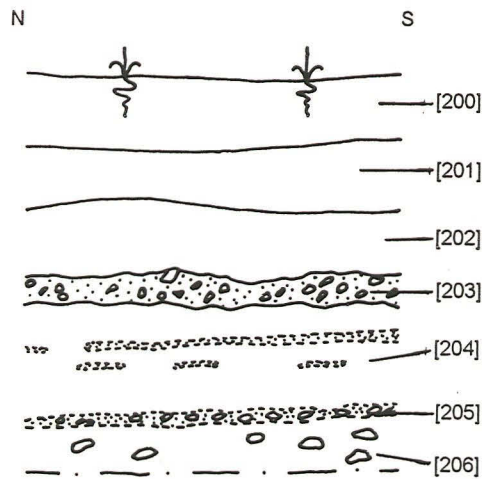


Fig. 3 : East section of access pit in Area 2 showing possible road surface. Scale 1:20.

5.3 Area 3

In this area, open cut trenching took place. However, no archaeological remains were exposed, only natural deposits of limestone brash.

5.4 Area 4

The majority of this area was drilled, and an examination of the access pits showed that no archaeological remains had been disturbed. Beneath the verge topsoil and road make-up was natural limestone brash over degraded limestone bedrock.

6.0 Conclusions

With the exception of a single access pit in Area 2, none of the groundworks associated with the water main replacement scheme disturbed any identifiable archaeological remains or led to the recovery of archaeological artefacts. In Area 2, one access pit exposed some possible remains of the Roman road (Ermine Street).

The extensive use of drilling rather than open cut techniques may have contributed to the predominantly negative result, as it is only possible to monitor access pits of less than two metres to assess the archaeological impact of a section of pipe some thirty or forty metres long

7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Anglian Water Services Ltd. for this commission.

8.0 References

- Field, N. 1991 *LAS Report; 'Welton to Glentham Water Pipeline'*
- Palmer-Brown, CPH. 1999 *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief; 'Welton phase 1 water mains replacement scheme.'*
- Whitwell, JB. 1992 *'Roman Lincolnshire'*

Appendix 1.



P.1 General view of mains replacement in progress on Ermine Street (area 2), looking south.



P.2 East section of thrust bore pit in area 2 showing possible Roman road surfaces, looking east.