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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND SOUTH OF THE A52 (SALTER'S WAY), NEAR DEMBLEBY GORSE, HACEBY, LINCOLNSHIRE (DSW 99)

A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ON LAND SOUTH OF THE A52 (SALTER'S WAY), NEAR DEMBLEBY GORSE, HACEBY, LINCOLNSHIRE
(DSW 99)

Work Undertaken For
Anglian Water Services Limited

Report Compiled by
Neil Herbert BA (Hons), AIFA

August 1999

TF 0196 3701
National Grid Reference: ~~TF 0190 3700~~
City and County Museum Accession No: 76.99

A.P.S. Report No: **32/99**

REGISTERED IFA ORGANISATION

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the proposed route of a water mains pipeline on land south of the A52, close to Dembleby Gorse, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference TF 0190 3700). The evaluation formed part of a programme of archaeological investigation conducted along the length of an Anglian Water main between Welby Lodge Farm and Dembleby Gorse.

Aerial photography and archaeological evaluation has identified the course of a Roman road (AD 43-450) west of the proposed development, apparently connecting the Long Hollow and Mareham Lane Roman roads. The remains of a bathhouse complex (Scheduled Ancient Monument County Number 51) lie in a field immediately south of the proposed development. Recent evaluation north of the proposed pipeline route has identified Romano-British structural remains and at least one intact infant burial. Geophysical survey showed that these features are part of an extensive complex of archaeological remains, possibly indicating the presence of a small Roman roadside settlement.

This evaluation comprised 6 trenches dug at regular intervals within the easternmost part of the proposed pipeline route. Each trench revealed a thick sequence of natural hillwash deposits containing occasional pieces of abraded tile and Romano-British pottery, though no clear archaeological remains were identified. These deposits overlay a natural limestone geology, although the thickness of the overlying hillwash prevented the surface of the geology from being reached in all the trenches. A probable former stream course, also containing pieces of Roman roof tile, was identified towards the western part of the evaluation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Previous desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation had indicated that evidence for multi-period occupation most probably survived within the eastern part of a proposed water pipeline route (Cope-Faulkner 1998, Herbert 1999). In particular, Romano-British building remains were located on the original planned route of the pipeline, north of the A52, and a Roman bathhouse, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, lay to the south of the road. An alternative route for the pipeline was designed by Anglian Water to traverse the area between these known Roman sites.

Consequently, the Assistant Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council, recommended that a programme of trial-trenching was implemented within this part of the pipeline corridor to assess the archaeological potential of the route.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Limited to undertake the evaluation on land south of the A52, near to Dembleby Gorse, Lincolnshire (Figs. 1 and 2). The purpose of this evaluation was to identify the presence or absence, spatial arrangement, date and function of surviving archaeological features within the route of the pipeline. The work was undertaken on 17th March 1999, in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the Assistant Archaeology Officer (Appendix 1).

2.2 Definition of an Archaeological Evaluation

Archaeological Evaluation is defined as:

'*A limited programme of non-intrusive*

and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, and relative quality; and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, national or international context as appropriate' (IFA 1997).

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

The proposed pipeline route covers land mid-way between the settlements of Cold Harbour (NGR SK 998639) and Threekingham (NGR TF 018371) and is centred approximately 11km east of Grantham (Fig.1). The immediate area of investigation lies south of, and parallel to, the A52 (Fig.2, Plate 1). Presently, this ground is used as roadside verge, and is covered by rough grass and vegetation.

Ground level at the western edge of the investigation area is at *c.* 69m OD, dipping eastwards into a natural dry valley at a height of *c.* 64m OD. The surrounding landscape is defined by large arable fields, punctuated by patches of deciduous and mixed woodland. Most field boundaries are marked by hedges and large drainage ditches.

The proposed pipeline traverses Aswarby Association soils, composed typically of fine loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 293, 99). These surface deposits, in turn, seal a solid geology of Upper Lincolnshire Limestone (GSGB 1972).

Natural deposits found during the investigations comprised yellow clayey sands with variable limestone inclusions [010 and 014], occasionally composed as solid bedrock.

2.4 Archaeological Setting (Fig.2)

A site-specific summary of all known archaeology in proximity to the pipeline has been previously produced (Cope-Faulkner 1998).

Prehistoric

Archaeological evaluation has exposed linear and curvilinear features west of an existing dry pond (Fig.2; Herbert 1999). Although most of thsese features were undated, the presence of a flint tool suggests that they were most probably dug during prehistory.

Romano-British

The present course of the A52 is believed to mark the line of a Roman road, known as the Salter's Way, that ran between Six Hills in Leicestershire (to the west) and Donington (to the east). An additional road is known from cropmark evidence, linking the Salter's Way with the Long Hollow (Fig.2; Margary 1973). Recent geophysical survey (Johnson 1998) has revealed that this feature continues beyond the A52, perhaps leading onto an existing track known as 'Green Lane', and thereafter towards the Mareham Lane Roman road (Herbert 1999, 11).

The remains of limestone walls and surfaces, with associated nails and window glass, have been revealed during archaeological work in the fields north of the proposed pipeline route (*ibid.*). These were associated with one complete and a possible second partial infant burial. It is suggested that the remains represent part of a small roadside settlement, perhaps extending northwards into Dembleby Gorse where additional remains are known.

Part of a bathhouse and probable villa complex is known to lie south of the A52 (Fig.2). This was uncovered by a team of amateur archaeologists in the early 20th

century and comprised several adjacent rooms associated with a hypocaust system of under-floor heating (Start 1993, 104). The site has Scheduled Ancient Monument status (SAM County Number 51).

3. PROJECT AIMS

The aims of the evaluation, as set by the Specification for Work, were to establish the spatial arrangement, date and function of archaeological features, and to determine their relationship with any surrounding occupation and land-use (Appendix 1).

4. METHODS

All trenches were opened by machine, under archaeological supervision, to the surface of the first archaeological or natural horizon and were then cleaned and excavated by hand. In compliance with standing Health and Safety restrictions no excavation was conducted to a depth greater than 1.2m below the existing ground surface. As such, the surface of the natural geology was not established in every evaluation trench.

Each archaeological deposit, or feature, was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record, including colour slide and black and white film, was compiled and sections and plans were drawn at scale 1:10 or 1:20. Recording of deposits was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice, in conjunction with the Museum of London Site Manual (MOLAS 1994).

The position of each trench was recorded using a tape survey. This survey used known Ordnance Survey features as controls to situate the trenches within the National Grid.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Phasing

Finds recovered from deposits identified during the evaluation were examined and a date assigned where possible. The primary record of the deposits made in the field were also examined. A list of all contexts appears as Appendix 2.

Phasing was assigned based upon artefact dating, the nature of deposits, and their recognisable stratigraphic relationships. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. A total of five phases was identified:

Phase 1	Limestone Geology
Phase 2	Alluvial Clay
Phase 3	Lower Hillwash
Phase 4	Upper Hillwash
Phase 5	Topsoil

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. Numbers in square brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

5.2 Phase 1: Limestone Geology

Friable light yellow clayey sand [010 and 014] with frequent sub-angular limestone inclusions (most 0.1m long) was exposed at the bottom of Trenches 3 and 4, towards the centre of the proposed route. This material represents the natural geology, and was recorded dipping in an easterly direction, following the slope of the present ground surface into a natural dry valley (Fig.3).

5.3 Phase 2: Alluvial Clay

Plastic light blue and light yellow clay [022 and 026], with frequent sand lenses, was recorded in Trenches 5 and 6, situated on the crest of the slope towards the western end of the proposed pipeline route (Fig.3). The clay

layers contained moderate quantities of rounded boulders (most 0.1m long) and sub-angular ironstone nodules (most 50mm long), measuring at least 0.4m thick to the limit of excavation. A single fragment of pottery and several pieces of tile (including one identifiable *tegula* or Roman roof tile) were retrieved from the clay. The composition of these layers suggests that they represent deposition within a former water channel.

5.4 Phase 3: Lower Hillwash

A fairly consistent horizon of friable mid brown silty clay [003, 006, 009, 013, 021 and 025] was exposed within all of the evaluation trenches (Fig.3). These layers contained frequent sub-angular limestone inclusions (most 30mm long) together with occasional tile fragments (most 10mm long) and charcoal flecks. Most probably representing a layer formed as a result of long-term weathering and soil movement on the natural slopes. The hillwash measured *c.* 0.1m thick on the upper slopes, though increased gradually to a thickness of over 0.5m. Small fragments of tile, coal and Romano-British pottery were retrieved from this sequence.

5.5 Phase 4: Upper Hillwash

Looser light yellow-brown clayey silts [002, 005, 008, 012, 020 and 024] with occasional sand lenses sealed the earlier hillwash. These layers were present in all of the evaluation trenches (Fig.3). This horizon was free from inclusions and did not contain any artefacts. The layer increased gradually in thickness from 0.3m at the top of the slope to 0.9m at the base, representing a longer-term process of soil movement.

5.6 Phase 5: Topsoil

Loose mid grey-brown clayey silt [001, 004, 007, 011, 015 and 023] with frequent root inclusions formed the latest deposit in all of the evaluation trenches. The surface of this layer is currently occupied by rough vegetation, forming the southern roadside verge of the A52. Small quantities of modern material, including some pieces of 18th-19th century pottery, and some fragments of tile were retrieved from this layer. The sequence was slightly altered within Trench 5, where modern disturbance (incorporating part of a concrete and tarmac surface) was identified [016, 017, 018 and 019].

6. DISCUSSION

Investigations have recorded natural limestone geology (Phase 1), sealed in part by deposits formed within a probable stream course (Phase 2), and later, more extensive horizons of hillwash (Phase 3 and 4). The site is presently in use as a roadside verge (Phase 5). It was not possible to reach the surface of the natural geology in most of the trenches due to the thickness of the overlying hillwash deposits.

Abraded fragments of tile, some identifiably Roman, and 3rd century Roman pottery were retrieved from the lower hillwash (Phase 3) and earlier alluvial clay (Phase 2). This may suggest that these deposits were either contemporary with adjacent Romano-British occupation or, alternatively, were formed during the degradation of nearby Romano-British archaeological layers. The upper hillwash (Phase 4) did not contain any artefacts and seemed to represent gradual soil movement within a lower energy environment, reflected by a dearth of stone and other inclusions. The absence of Romano-British finds suggests that this later hillwash may well have formed after the cessation of nearby occupation.

The absence of identifiable Romano-British archaeological features (even though small quantities of artefacts were present) is significant, implying that occupation of this period is unlikely to have occurred within the course of the proposed development.

This evidence, therefore, indicates that areas of known Romano-British occupation, north and south of the A52, are unlikely to be physically connected. As such, it is possible that the bathhouse complex stood in isolation from the group of structural remains (perhaps representing a roadside settlement) to the north. However, this investigation has also determined that extensive hillwash deposits seal the natural geology in this area, presenting the possibility that early archaeological remains, if present, are sealed at considerable depth.

Very limited modern disturbance was recorded, apart from the cutting of a (now redundant) tarmac and concrete surface within Trench 5.

7. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken alongside the A52 at Dembleby as there were major Roman remains on either side of the road and a proposal had been made to a put a pipeline through this area. The evaluation was required to determine whether archaeological remains were located on the route.

The archaeological evaluation has identified a sequence of natural geology, a possible stream course and later deposits of hillwash. No secure date could be ascertained for the stream or hillwash layers, although both contained fragments of abraded tile and Romano-British pottery. No archaeological features were present, though it must be emphasised that the surface of the natural geology was not reached in all of the evaluation trenches, presenting the possibility that remains could lie buried at a greater depth than that reached by the evaluation.

The absence of structural remains and other features suggests that Romano-British structures north and south, including a bathhouse and possible roadside settlement, of the A52 developed as separate entities.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Richard Snedmore and Mr Moe Anderson who commissioned this report on behalf of Anglian Water Services Limited. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Hilary Healey and Gary Taylor reported on the finds. Kate Orr, the North Kesteven Heritage Officer, kindly allowed access to the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Archaeological Team: Neil Herbert and Phil Mills
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
CAD Illustration: Neil Herbert
Post-excavation Analyst: Neil Herbert

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
DoE	Department of the Environment
GSGB	Geological Survey of Great Britain
HMSO	Her Majesties' Stationary Office
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LCC	Lincolnshire County Council
LCCAS	Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section
MOLAS	Museum of London Archaeology Service
OAL	Oxford Archaeotechnics Limited
RCHME	Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England
SMR	County Sites and Monuments Record number

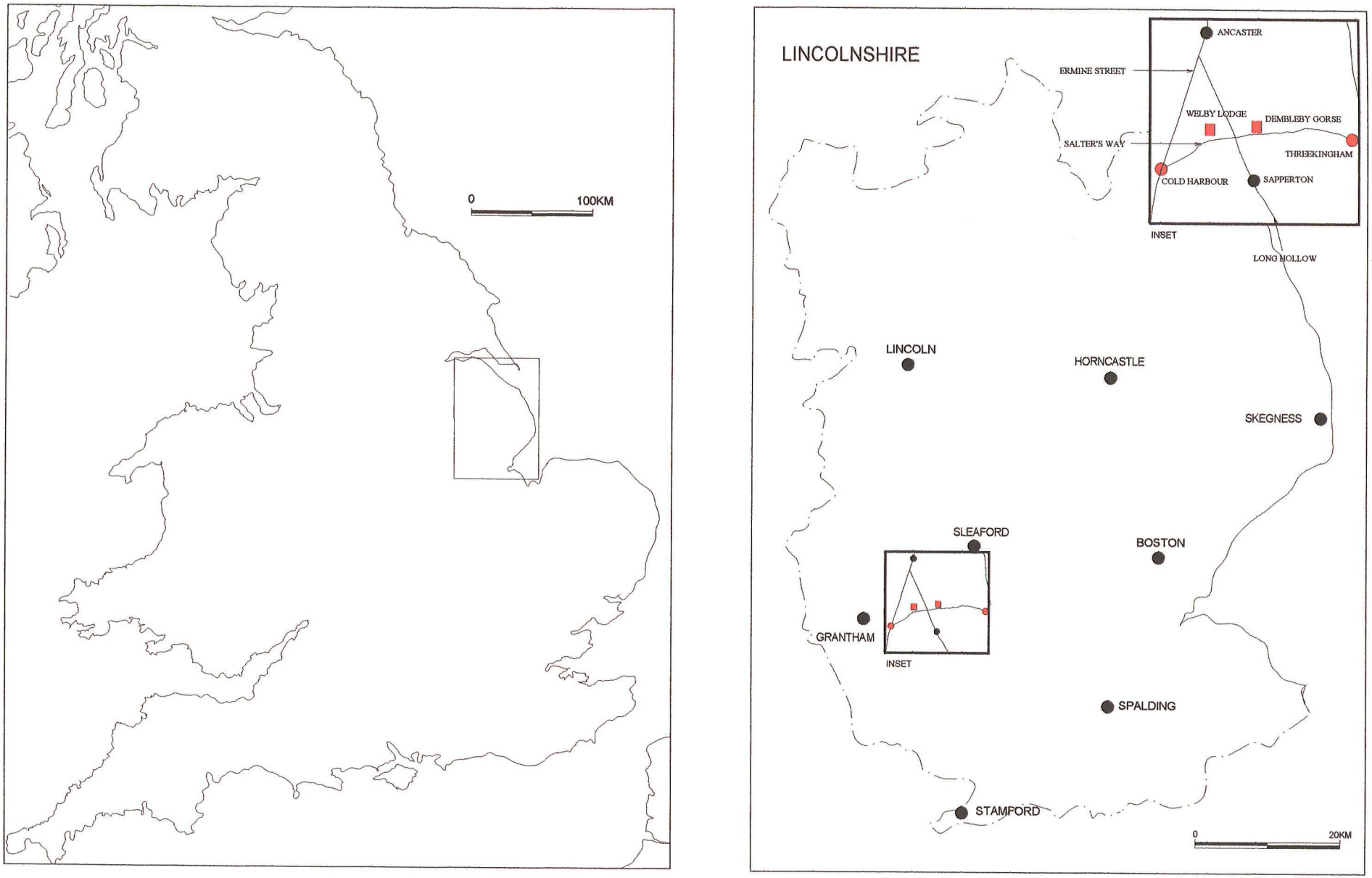

Figure 1: General location plan

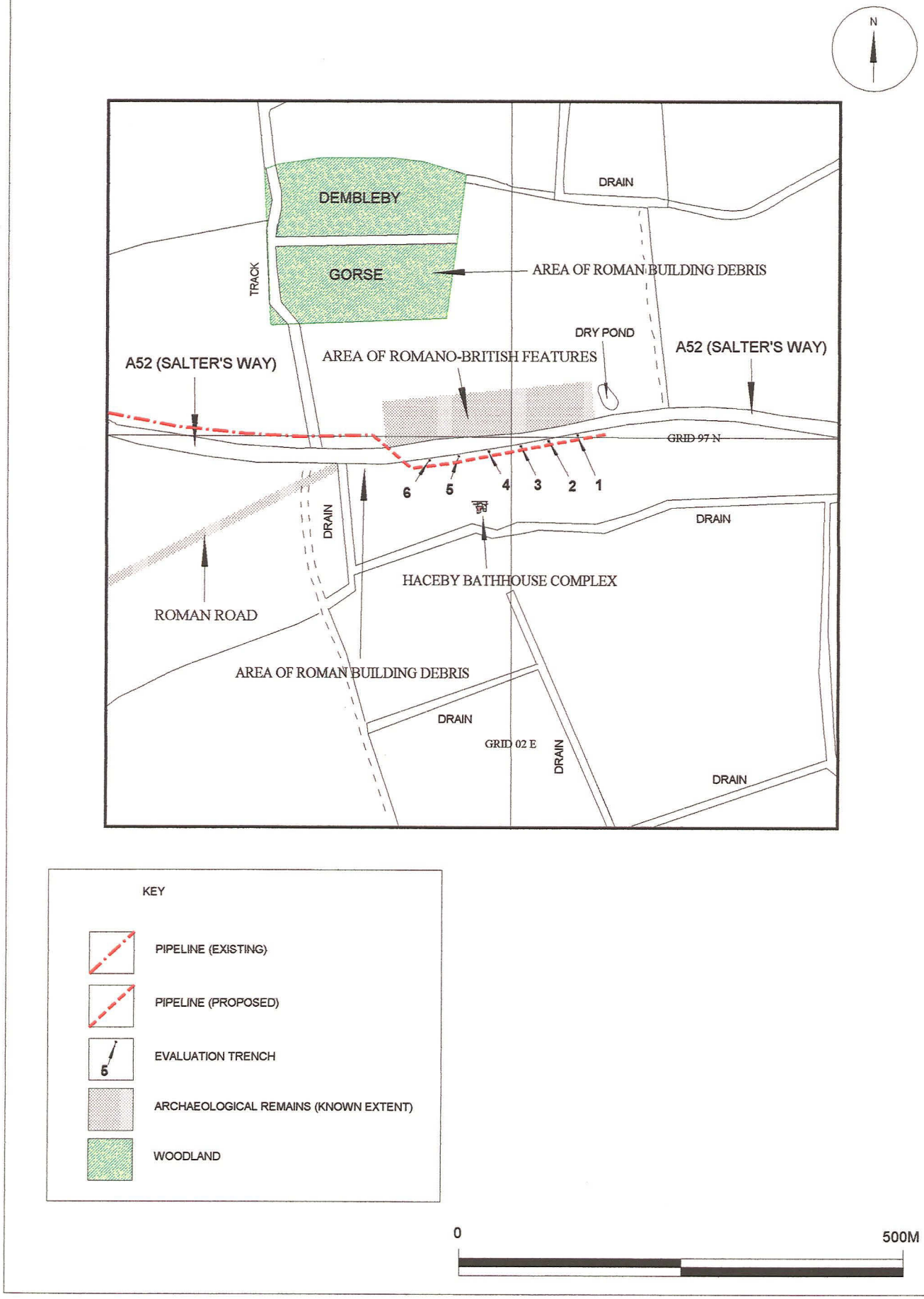

Figure 2: Area of proposed development, evaluation trenches and archaeological detail

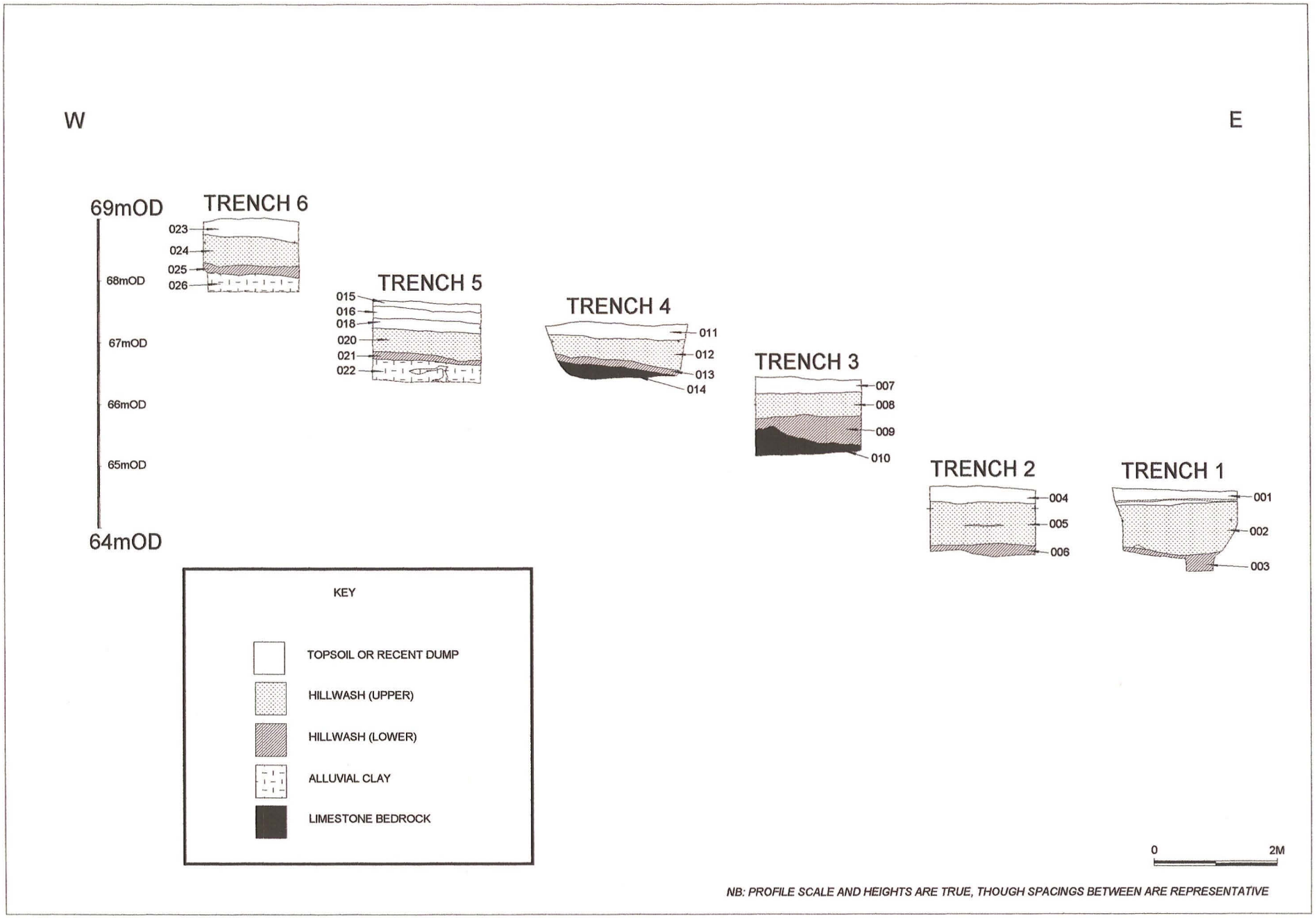

Figure 3: Schematic drawing showing profiles and relative heights of deposits revealed during evaluation

Plate 1 General view of the evaluation trenches, marked by hazard tape, looking east along the A52 (Salter's Way). The Haceby villa sites lies immediately right (south) of the trenches.

Plate 2 Trench 1, looking northeast, showing sequence of hillwash (deposits 001-003).

Appendix 1

LAND ALONGSIDE THE A52, NEAR HACEBY VILLA, DEMBLEBY, LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

PREPARED FOR

ANGLIAN WATER SERVICES LTD

BY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES
Institute of Field Archaeologists'
Registered Archaeological Organisation No. 21

MARCH 1999

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1 SUMMARY

1.1 A programme of archaeological test pitting and recording is required along the south side of the A52 at Dembleby, Lincolnshire.

1.2 The A52 is believed to follow the line of the Salter's Way Roman road. In the vicinity of the investigation area a Roman villa bathhouse is known just south of the road and trial excavations immediately north of the road revealed possible Roman building debris and an infant burial.

1.3 The investigation will involve the excavation of a series of small pits in the southern verge of the road. These will be archaeologically supervised and will cease at the surface of archaeological remains. Basic recording will be undertaken to confirm the location, depth and nature of any archaeological remains encountered. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.

1.4 On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the findings of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological investigation alongside the A52 at Dembleby. The site is located between national grid references TF 019 369 and TF 022 370.

2.2 This document contains the following parts:

2.2.1 Overview.

2.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.

2.2.3 List of specialists.

2.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 Dembleby is located 8km south of Sleaford and 12km east of Grantham in the administrative district of North Kesteven. The site is approximately 2km southwest of Dembleby village on the south side of the A52 Salter's Way between national grid references TF 019 369 and TF 022 370.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 A water pipeline is planned alongside the A52 between Aswarby and Harrowby. Due to the proximity of archaeological remains an archaeological evaluation was undertaken along part of the route. These investigations encountered Roman remains and Anglian Water Services have sought to avoid these remains. However, other Roman remains in the area limit the possible routes of the pipeline. The high potential for such remains has resulted in a programme of archaeological investigation being undertaken on the preferred pipeline route. This document provides the specification for this archaeological investigation.

5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

5.1 The site and surrounding area is in a slight hollow in gently undulating land and lies at approximately 65m OD. Soils at the site are Aswarby Association fine loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths, developed on Jurassic limestone and clays.

6 THE ARCHAEOLOGY

6.1 The site lies alongside the A52 Roman Road, the Salter's Way, in the area of Dembleby. Immediately to the south is the bathhouse of a Roman villa, known as Haceby villa. This is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, County No. Linc. 51. Trial excavations on the originally proposed pipeline route, immediately north of the A52 opposite the villa bathhouse, revealed probable Roman building remains and an infant burial. Bones from a probable second infant burial were observed in the trench side but left in place (Archaeological Project Services, forthcoming).

6.2 Subsequent to the trial trenching a geophysical survey was undertaken in the area of the infant burial. This suggested that there were buried structural remains or burnt features in the area of the burial and elsewhere nearby. Additionally, ditches, some perhaps defining a subrectangular enclosure, were also revealed (Oxford Archaeotechnics Ltd 1998).

7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

7.1 The aims of the investigation will be to:

7.1.1 Determine the presence/absence of archaeological remains along the proposed pipeline route.

7.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:

7.2.1 Determine the location of any archaeological remains encountered;

7.2.2 Determine the depth of any archaeological remains encountered;

7.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological remains, and

7.2.4 Establish the nature of any archaeological remains present on the site.

8 SITE OPERATIONS

8.1 General considerations

8.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the investigation.

8.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the Institute (MIFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (no. 21).

8.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

8.2 Methodology

8.2.1 The investigation will involve the archaeological supervision of mechanical excavation of a series of small test pits, each *c.* 1.6m wide by *c.* 1m long, and about 30m apart (Figure). Excavation will be down to the surface of archaeological remains or natural, whichever is revealed first. Should natural or archaeological remains not be revealed within 1m of the present ground surface the trench sizes may have to be extended. The maximum depth of any test pit will be 1.6m, the expected depth of the proposed pipe trench.

8.2.2 Following excavation each trench will be rapidly cleaned and recorded.

8.2.3 Section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets. The position of each trench will be established by survey using an Electronic Distance Meter with attached data logger.

8.2.4 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.

8.2.5 Throughout the investigation a photographic record consisting of colour slides and monochrome prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:

8.2.5.1 the site during work to show specific stages

8.2.5.2 the general nature of deposits within each trench.

8.2.5.3 any archaeological remains encountered

8.2.6 Should human remains be located they will be left *in situ* and covered following the appropriate recording. If exhumation is necessary the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9 POST-EXCAVATION

9.1 Stage 1

9.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the investigation will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of all deposits and archaeological remains present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.

9.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

9.2 Stage 2

9.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.

9.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

9.3 Stage 3

9.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.

9.3.2 This will consist of:

9.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.

9.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the investigation area.

9.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.

9.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the investigation.

9.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the investigation.

9.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the investigation findings.

9.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.

9.3.2.8 Sections of the trenches and, is appropriate, archaeological remains.

9.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological remains exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.

9.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

9.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological remains.

10 REPORT DEPOSITION

10.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client, Anglian Water Services Ltd, and to the County Sites and Monuments Record.

11 ARCHIVE

11.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12 PUBLICATION

12.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval*

Settlement Research Group for findings of medieval or later date.

13 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

13.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Assistant Archaeological Officer, Lincolnshire County Council. They will be given seven days notice in writing before the commencement of the project.

14 VARIATIONS

14.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

15 STAFFING LEVELS

15.1 The investigation will be undertaken by an experienced archaeological supervisor and assistant.

15.2 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists.

16 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

16.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Task	Body to be undertaking the work
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric Pottery - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, independent specialist Saxon - J Young, independent specialist Medieval and later - H Healey, independent archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, independent specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, independent specialist

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Oxford Archaeotechnics Ltd, 1998 *Grantham Pipeline (Haceby), Lincolnshire, Topsoil Magnetic Susceptibility and Gradiometer Survey*

Appendix 2

CONTEXT AND FINDS SUMMARY

Key

CTX	Context
TR	Trench
PH	Phase
INTERP	Interpretation

CTX	TR	DESCRIPTION	PH	POT	TILE	INTERP
001	1	Red-brown sandy clay	5	x	x	Topsoil
002	1	Yellow-brown silty clay	4	x	x	Hillwash
003	1	Mid brown-yellow silty clay	3	5	11	Hillwash
004	2	Grey-brown clayey silt	5	x	x	Topsoil
005	2	Yellow-brown clayey silt	4	x	x	Hillwash
006	2	Mid brown silty clay	3	x	15	Hillwash
007	3	Mid grey-brown clayey silt	5	4	x	Topsoil
008	3	Yellow-brown clayey silt	4	x	x	Hillwash
009	3	Mid brown clayey sand	3	x	x	Hillwash
010	3	Yellow-brown clayey sand and limestone	1	x	x	Natural
011	4	Red-brown silty clay	5	x	x	Topsoil
012	4	Red-brown silty clay	4	x	x	Hillwash
013	4	Red-brown sandy clay	3	x	x	Hillwash
014	4	Yellow-brown clayey sand and limestone	1	x	x	Natural
015	5	Grey-brown silty clay	5	x	x	Topsoil
016	5	Yellow-brown clayey sand	5	x	x	Dump
017	5	Concrete and tarmac	5	x	x	Surface
018	5	Grey-brown clayey silt	5	x	x	Buried topsoil
019	5	Cut, 0.25m deep	5	x	x	Cut for surface
020	4	Yellow-brown clayey sand	4	x	x	Hillwash
021	5	Yellow-brown clayey sand	3	x	6	Hillwash
022	5	Blue clay and sand	2	x	x	Alluvial clay
023	6	Red-brown silty clay	5	x	x	Topsoil
024	6	Red-yellow silty clay	5	x	x	Hillwash
025	6.	Red-yellow sandy clay	3	x	x	Hillwash
026	6	Grey-yellow clay	2	1	4	Alluvial clay

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

By Hilary Healey MPhil and Gary Taylor MA

Provenance

The material was recovered from hillwash and topsoil deposits and was mostly recovered from test pits in the eastern half of the investigation area. Notably, the Roman period artefacts were retrieved from the hillwash while the post-medieval materials was from the topsoil.

All of the clearly Roman material derives from production centres in Lincolnshire. The post-medieval pottery fragments probably come a source in the Midlands, perhaps Staffordshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

The earliest dateable artefacts are fragments of pottery of probable mid-late 3rd century date. Tile fragments are the most abundant objects in the small assemblage.

Table 1: The Pottery and Tile

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	DATE
003	3x greyware, abraded; 1x greyware, rilled decoration, abraded; 1x shelly ware, abraded 11x tile, including 1 tegula fragment	mid-late 3rd
006	15x tile, including 1 tessera	Roman
007	3x black glazed earthenwares; 1x red painted earthenware, in 2 pieces	late 18th-19th century
021	6x tile	Roman
026	1x orange sandyware pottery? 4x tile, including 1 tegula	Roman

Pottery in the same fabric as the greyware from (003) has previously been found at Saltersford small Roman town near Grantham, approximately 10km to the southwest of the site (Davies 1993). Similarly, the shelly ware from the same context has also previously been found at Saltersford and is thought to have been produced at Bourne, approximately 20km southeast of Dembleby (*ibid.*, 2).

The ceramic tile, including flanged *tegula* roof tile and a mosaic *tessera*, indicates the proximity of Roman buildings in the area, though may relate to the known Roman bathouse to the south of the investigation area, or other Romano-British structural remains to the north (Herbert 1999).

Condition

Although all of the Roman pottery is abraded, all of the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

Documentation

A number of archaeological investigations in and near the Haceby villa site have previously been undertaken and reported (eg, de la Bere 1929; Herbert 1999).

Roman pottery assemblages from throughout the county have previously been examined and reported.

Potential

The assemblage has limited-moderate potential and probably relates to the known Roman buildings and other remains in the immediate vicinity of the site.

References

Davies, B., 1993 *Saltersford (SAW93) Roman Pottery Report*, unpublished City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit report no: **53**

de la Bere, R., 1929 Roman Villa at Haceby, *Journal of the Royal Air Force Cranwell*, Vol **9**, No **2**

Herbert, N.A., 1999 *Archaeological Investigations on Land North of the A52 (Salter's Way) between Welby Lodge Farm and Dembleby Gorse, Lincolnshire (HSW 98)*, Unpublished APS Report No **27/99**