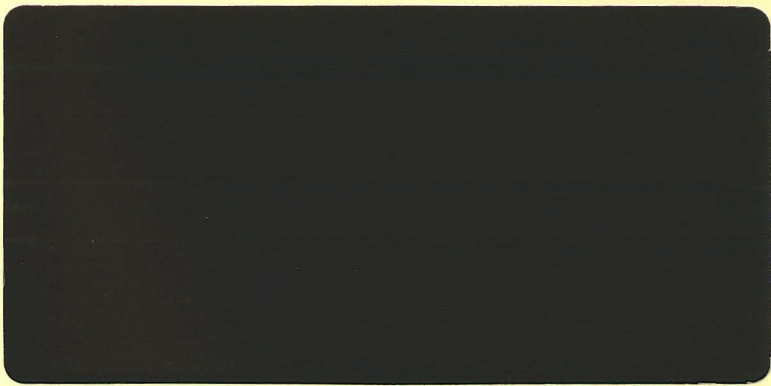


99/16.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT
AT BRACEBY, SAPPERTON AND
ROPSLEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SVP 98)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



Lancashire County Council
Archaeology Section
03 SEPT 99
ack 3/9/99

EVENTS

L14332 - SAPPERTON

SOURCE

L14333 - BRACEBY

L1 8901 L18902

L14334 - ROPSLEY

PRAS - 36470 Post medieval pot + tile
35453 - Med settlement, Braceby
36338 - Med Ridge + furrows.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT
AT BRACEBY, SAPPERTON AND
ROPSLEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SVP 98)

Work Undertaken For
Anglia Water Services Ltd.

August 1999

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA
and
Jenny Young BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 01 34
City and County Museum Accession No: 149.98

A.P.S. Report No. 83/99

*Archaeological Project Services is an IFA Registered Archaeological
Organisation (Number 21)*

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during water main replacement in and between Braceby, Sapperton and Ropsley villages, South Kesteven, Lincolnshire.

The villages are situated in an area containing remains dating from the Bronze Age (2200-700 BC) through to the post-medieval period (AD 1500-1750). Archaeological monitoring of the work concentrated on areas where it passed close to known archaeological sites and in the vicinity of each of the medieval (AD 1066-1500) village centres.

Although artefacts dating to the post-medieval period were retrieved, no archaeological deposits were identified.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as *'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area ..., where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed'* (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Anglian Water Services Ltd notified the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section of the intention to replace water mains in the area of Braceby, Sapperton and Ropsley. The County Council Archaeology Section determined that certain parts of the route were archaeologically sensitive and recommended a watching brief in those areas.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd to undertake the watching brief. No project brief or specification was prepared for this investigation.

The investigations were undertaken during water main replacement between the villages of Braceby, Sapperton, and Ropsley, Lincolnshire and took place between the 1st July and 21st August 1998.

2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

Braceby, Sapperton and Ropsley are situated c. 10km southeast of Grantham and 13km southwest of Sleaford in Braceby and Sapperton, and Ropsley and Humby parishes respectively, South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The area covered by the watching brief is centred on National Grid Reference TF 01 34, and lies between 60 and 80m OD. (Fig. 2, 3 and 4). Individual grid references for recorded trenches appear in Appendix 1. The villages are all located on the gently undulating Lincolnshire Heath. The area is incised by a dry valley, known as Long Hollow.

Local soils are of Elmton I Association comprising brown redzinas (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179). Both Sapperton and Braceby are located on an outcrop of Jurassic Great Oolite Limestone while Ropsley is located on Upper Lincolnshire Limestone (GSGB 1964; 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

The pipeline traverses an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age. Approximately 150m west of Sapperton where the pipeline passes the parish boundary to Ropsley and Humby, aerial photographs and fieldwalking survey

have identified round barrows and artefacts dating to the Bronze Age (Lane 1981, 66).

Survey work in Ropsley and Humby (Lane 1995) has demonstrated a generally dense concentration of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval finds.

Settlement, comprising stone buildings dating to the Romano-British period, has been located on the edge of Long Hollow, a Romano-British thoroughfare (Simmons 1976, 5).

Braceby, Sapperton and Ropsley are first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 where they are referred to as *Breizbi*, *Sapretone* and *Ropeslai* (Ekwall 1974, 57, 404 and 392). Sapperton and Ropsley are both Old English in origin and mean 'the homestead (*tun*) of the soap makers (*sapera*)' and '*Hroppa*'s clearing in a wood (*lêah*)' respectively. The name *Breizbi* derives from the Scandinavian '*breiðsbjör*' meaning broad.

All the villages are probably Saxon in origin, as evidenced by the place-names. The only extant structure of this period is St. Peter's church in Ropsley, which retains a 10th century nave (Taylor and Taylor 1980, 522). Early Saxon pottery has also been retrieved from Sapperton.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, the King held five caracutes of land and his nephew, Ivo Taillebois, held a further one caracuate, both in Sapperton and Braceby, along with 156 acres of meadow, 76 acres of woodland, 71 acres of underwood and a church (Foster and Longley 1976). Ropsley was held entirely by Robert de Toden and comprised 120 acres of woodland, 450 acres of underwood and a church (*ibid.*).

Medieval and later structures are found in all three villages. The parish church of St.

Margaret's in Braceby dates from the 14th century with restoration of the chancel occurring the late 19th century. The parish church of St. Nicholas in Sapperton dates from the 12th century and has a 13th century font and doorway and a 14th century window (*ibid*, 621). Earthworks at Braceby and Sapperton, representing former tofts, indicate the former extent of these villages.

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during ground disturbance. The objectives were to determine the form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence of any archaeological remains.

4. METHODS

Trial holes were excavated by machine along the route of the pipe trench at archaeologically sensitive areas. Each trial hole or trench was allotted a number. Trenches 1 - 4 were located in Sapperton and trenches 5 and 6 in Braceby. No archaeological remains were encountered at Ropsley or archaeologically sensitive areas along the route of the pipe trench between the villages.

Following excavation, the sides of the six trenches were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit revealed within a trench was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled, depicting the setting of each site and the deposits exposed. Sections were

drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practise.

Records of deposits exposed during the investigation were examined. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced.

5. RESULTS

Two phases were identified:

Phase 1: Natural deposits

Phase 2: Recent deposits

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1: Natural Deposits

SAPPERTON:

The earliest deposit exposed in Trench 1 was a light brownish yellow gritty silt (003), 0.39m below the ground surface. In Trench 2, light brownish yellow gritty clay (006) was exposed 0.94m below the present ground surface. At the base of Trench 3 was a light yellow silty clay (011) overlain by yellow limestone (010).

Natural deposits were not observed in Trench 4.

BRACEBY:

The earliest deposit encountered in Trench 5 was a bluish orange silty clay (016), exposed 0.45m below the present ground

surface and sealed by a 0.6m thick deposit of orange clayey silt (015). At the base of Trench 6 was a light yellowish grey limestone and silt (020), 0.56m below ground surface.

Phase 2: Recent deposits

SAPPERTON:

Overlying natural deposits (003) and (006), in Trenches 1 and 2, and recorded in the base of Trench 4, were layers consisting of light yellowish brown silt (002), dark brown silty clay (005) and light brown sandy clay (013). These layers, measuring between 0.15m and 0.6m thick, were identified as the subsoil.

Sealing the subsoil (013) and (002) was a layer of dark brown organic silt (001), 0.24m thick, and dark brown organic clay (012), 0.3m thick, representing the present topsoil.

A layer of redeposited limestone (009) 0.35m thick, overlay natural (010) in Trench 3. This in turn was sealed by a layer of tarmac (008) of the present road surface.

Overlying the subsoil (013) in Trench 2 was a 0.43m thick layer of dumped light yellowish brown gritty silt with limestone fragments (004).

BRACEBY:

Overlying the natural(015) in Trench 5 was a layer of dark brown clayey silt (014), 0.3m thick, that represents topsoil.

Sealing natural deposit (020) in Trench 6 were two dumped deposits of dark greyish brown orange silt (019) and light greyish brown clayey sandy silt (018). The latest of these was overlain by a layer of topsoil comprising blackish brown silt (017). A pond has been recorded at this position, and deposits (019 and 018) may represent the

deliberate infilling of this feature.

6. DISCUSSION

The earliest recorded deposits comprised gritty silt and clay, silty clay, and limestone and silt (Phase 1). These deposits represent the weathered surface of the underlying geology.

Phase 2 deposits comprise subsoil and topsoil layers and make-up for the present road. A former pond is represented in trench 6 and is filled with modern deposits.

Two trenches in Ropsley were also examined (Fig. 5). No archaeological features or deposits were observed and the decision was made not to record the trench sections.

The pipeline route largely follows the modern street pattern. It is probable that this street layout preserves an earlier medieval street arrangement and may explain the paucity of archaeological features. Also, by excavating a small pit and then directional drilling the pipeline, fewer deposits are exposed, compared to the practise of trenching and pipe laying.

A few artefacts were retrieved during this investigation and include post-medieval pottery and roofing tile from Trench 2 and a fragment of 20th century vessel glass and a cattle bone from the infill of the possible pond.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out along selected lengths of a new water pipeline through Braceby, Sapperton and Ropsley because of the proximity to known archaeological remains, largely the medieval

village centres.

No archaeological features were identified during the investigation, apart from a possible pond that had been backfilled in the 20th century. A few sherds of 18th -19th century pottery and a 16th - 17th roof tile were recovered.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr D. Waterfield of Anglian Water Services Ltd. who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Jenny Stevens, the former Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, permitted examination of the relevant parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisors: Martin Griffiths, Neil Herbert, Rene Mouraille, Fiona Walker
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Phil Mills
Post-Excavation Analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Jenny Young

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

LCC Lincolnshire County Council

SK Numbers prefixed by this letter relate to the reference codes used by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

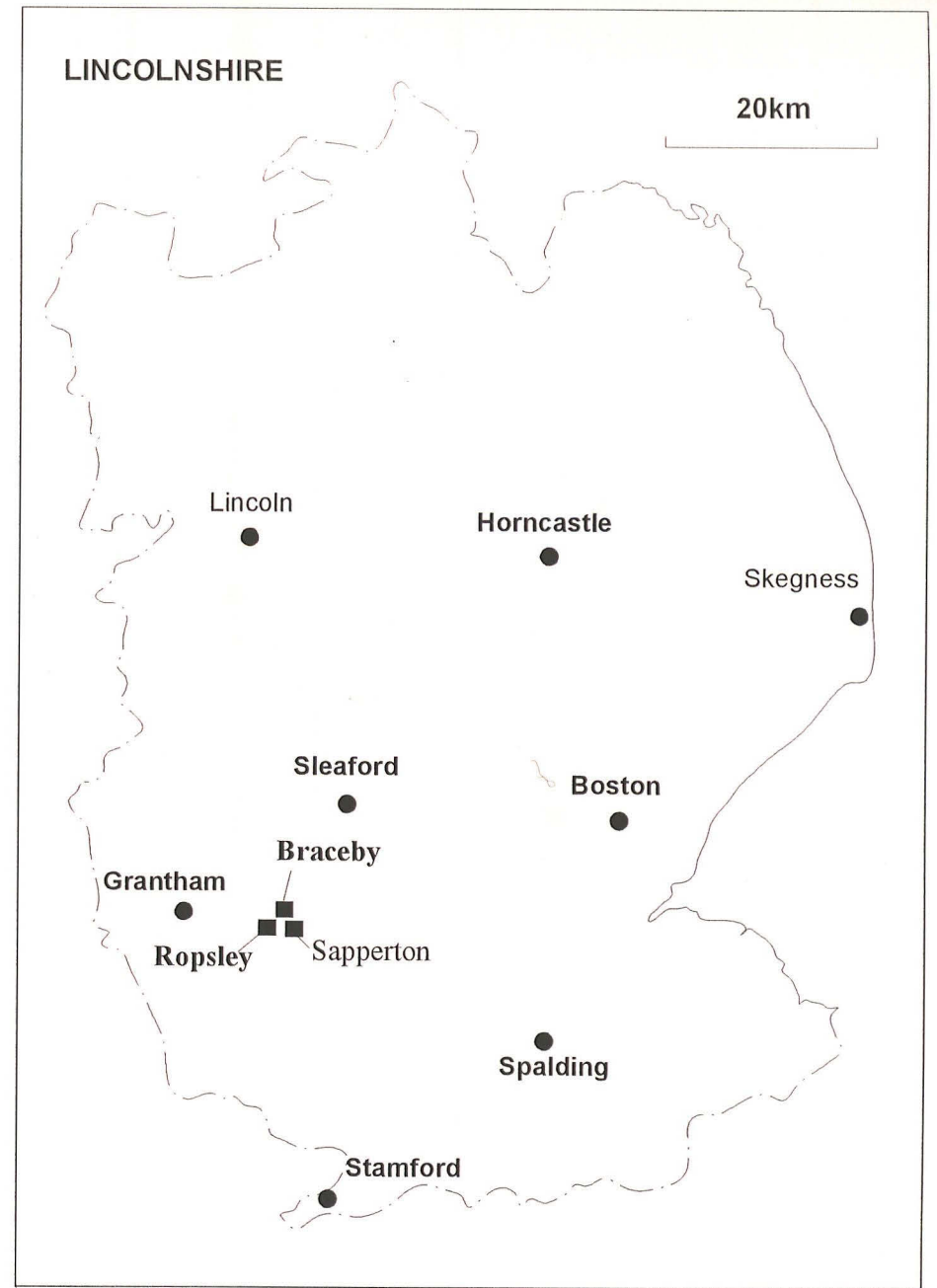
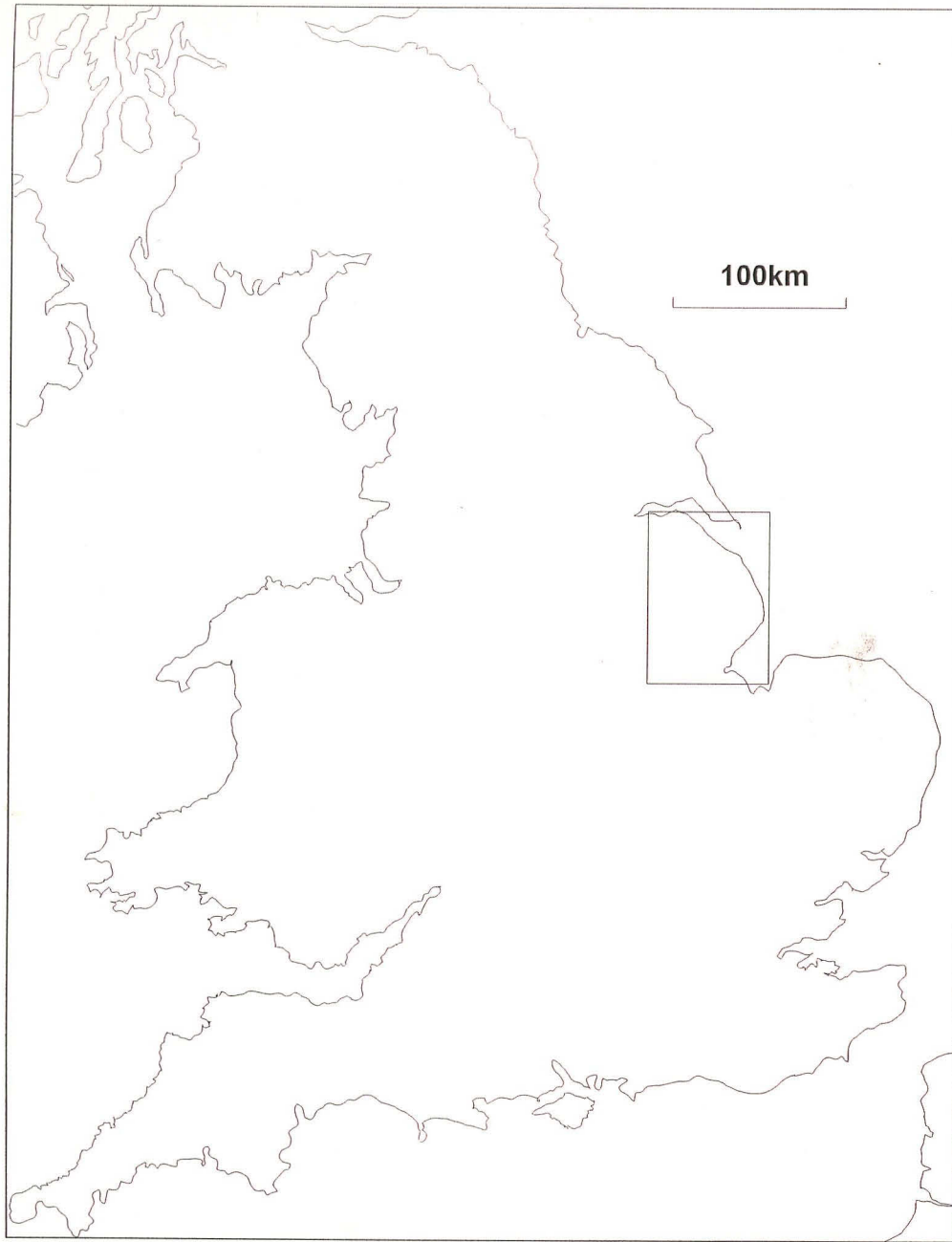


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

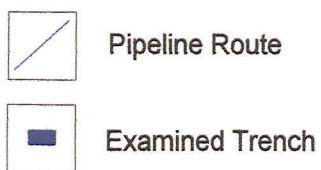


Figure 2 - Sapperton Pipeline Route

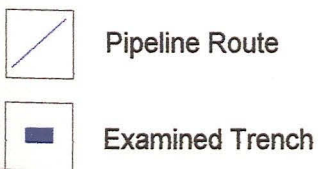
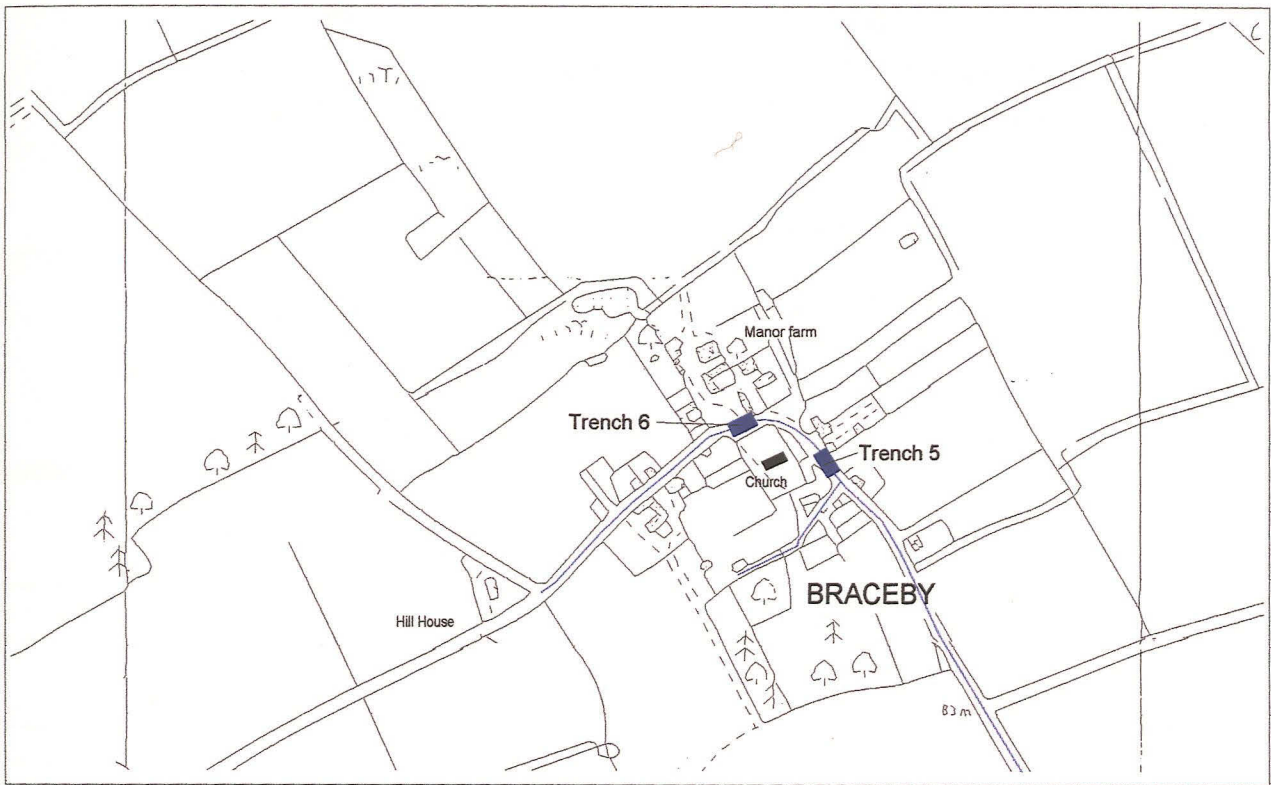


Figure 3 - Braceby Pipeline Route

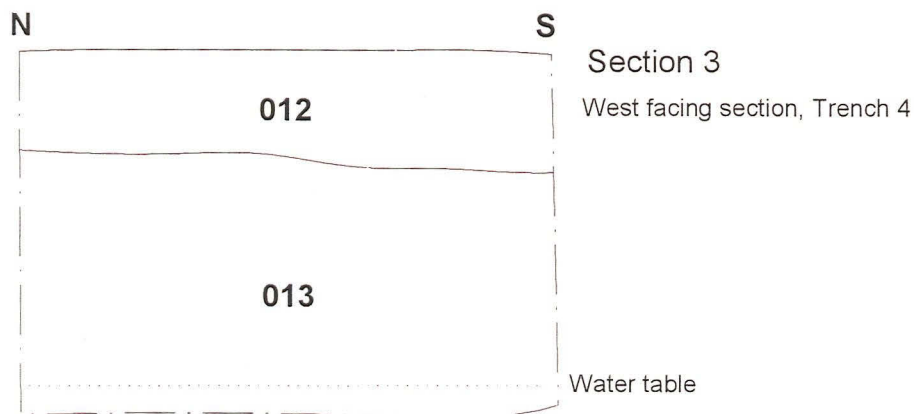
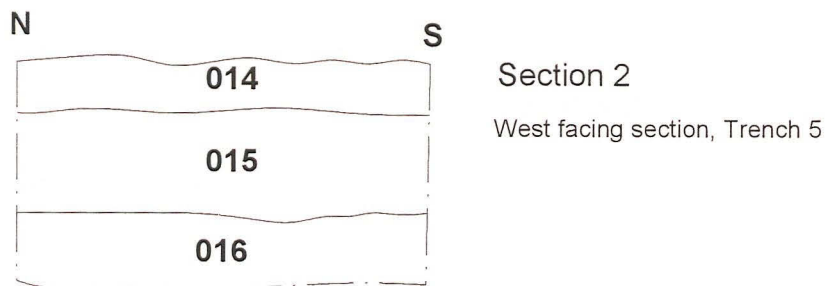
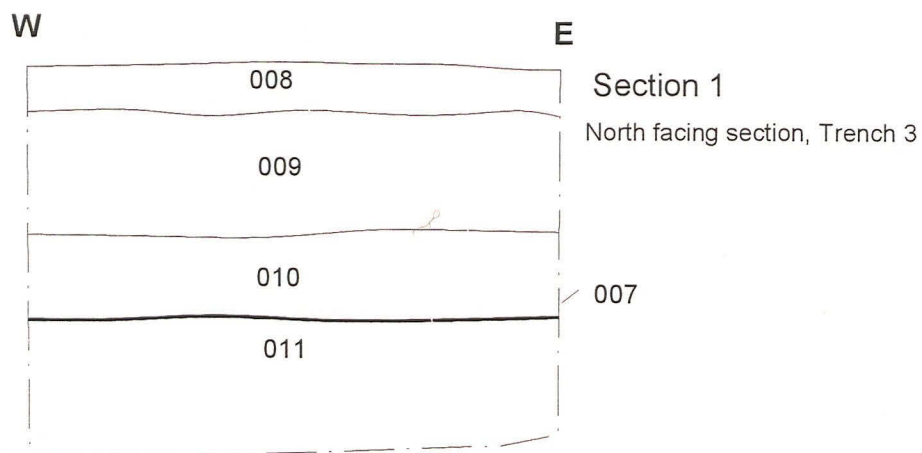


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



Pipeline Route



Examined Trench

0 400m

N



Figure 5 - Ropsley Pipeline Route



Plate 1 General view of the pipeline through Braceby



Plate 2 Trench 6, showing the sequence of deposits

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1	Location	Sapperton	National Grid Reference	TF 0161 3381
No.	Description		Interpretation	
001	Mid dark brown organic silt, 0.24m thick		Topsoil	
002	Light yellow brown silt, 0.15m thick		Subsoil	
003	Light- mid brownish yellow gritty silt		Natural	

Trench 2	Location	Sapperton	National Grid Reference	TF 0189 3390
No.	Description		Interpretation	
004	Light yellow brown gritty silt, frequent gravel inclusion, 0.43m thick		Demolition Deposit	
005	Dark brown silty clay, 0.51m thick		Subsoil	
006	Light- mid brownish yellow gritty clay		Natural	

Trench 3	Location	Sapperton	National Grid Reference	TF 0190 3394
No.	Description		Interpretation	
007	Linear cut with straight sides and flat base		Trial pipe trench	
008	Black tarmac, 0.15m thick		Tarmac surface	
009	Yellow white crushed fragments of limestone, 0.35m deep		Road Buildup	
010	Yellow orange sandstone, 0.25m deep		Natural	
011	Yellow white silty clay, 0.4m thick		Natural	

Trench 4	Location	Sapperton	National Grid Reference	TF 0208 3423
No.	Description		Interpretation	
012	Dark brown organic clay, 0.3m thick		Topsoil	
013	Yellow brown sandy clay, 0.6m thick		Subsoil	

Trench 5	Location	Braceby	National Grid Reference	TF 0170 3536
No.	Description		Interpretation	
014	Black brown clayey silt, 0.3m thick		Topsoil	
015	Light yellow orange clayey silt, 0.6m thick		Natural	
016	Mid blue orange silty clay, 0.4m thick		Natural	

Trench 6	Location	Braceby	National Grid Reference	TF 0160 3538
No.	Description		Interpretation	
017	Mid- dark blackish brown silt, 0.2m thick		Topsoil	
018	Light- mid grey brown sandy silt, 0.35m thick		Deposit	
019	Mid- dark grey brown organic silt, 0.19m thick		Pond deposit	
020	Light yellow grey limestone and silt		Natural	

Appendix 2

THE FINDS

Gary Taylor MA and Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

Provenance

The material derived from unstratified layers in the vicinity of Trench 2 and from the backfill of a possible pond.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Context	Description	Latest Date
Unstrat. Tr. 2	4 x black glazed earthenware, late Midland Purple type 1 x roof tile, early 16 th to early 17 th	19 th century
018	1 x moulded clear glass vessel 1 x juvenile cattle humerus	20 th century

Although the roof tile is the earliest artefact retrieved, such tiles are known to have had a long period of use.

Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage should be archive by material class.

Documentation

Post-medieval artefact assemblages have previously been examined and reported.

Potential

The assemblage has little potential.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

20	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Drawing sheets
1	Bag of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 149.98

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: SVP 98

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Caracuate	An area of land which could be ploughed annually by a team of eight oxen, usually between 160 and 180 acres.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany