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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

**LAND OFF HEATH LANE AND LINCOLN ROAD, WELTON
WELTON SOUTH WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT SCHEME**

Site code: WWMR99
LCNCC Acc. No.: 1999.26
NGR: TF 0110 7949

S2143 - Med - post
med

Event LE1247.

LI80741 Funded ~~LI8903~~

54523

LI8904 find/coin

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Report prepared for Anglian Water Services Ltd
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April 2000

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Summary

- An archaeological watching brief took place during water mains replacement on land off Heath Lane and Lincoln Road, Welton, Lincolnshire between 7 – 8 September 1999.
- Open-cut trenching on Lincoln Road exposed a cobbled road or track surface which overlay a possible buried soil, in turn cut by a large ditch orientated NE – SW. Unfortunately monitoring was not possible in the area of Heath Lane as work had been completed prior to the appointment of an archaeological contractor.
- It is concluded that significant remains were disturbed by pipeline replacement and that the watching brief has been able to preserve potentially important archaeological information by record.

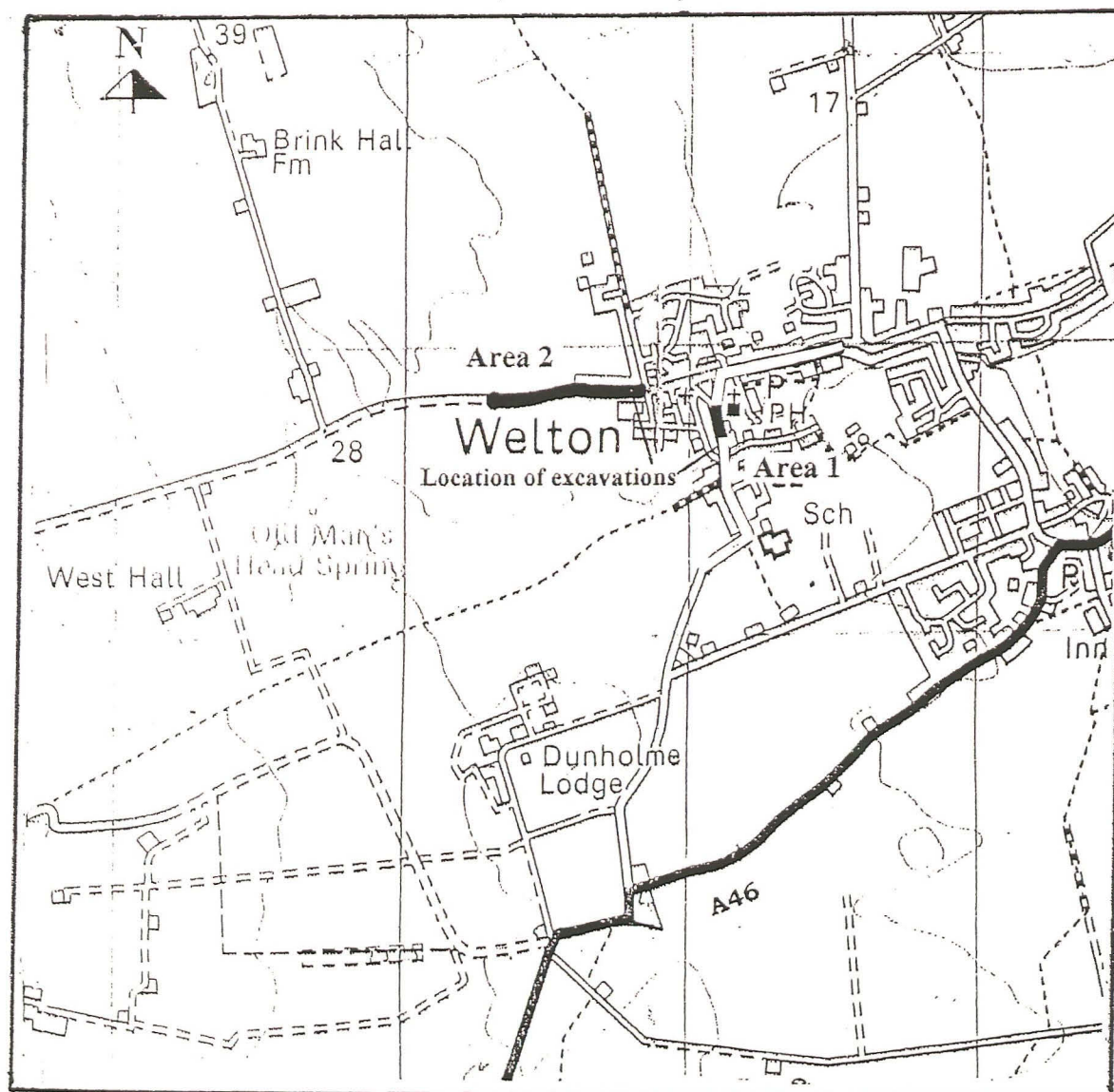


Fig. 1 Location of excavations Scale 1: 25 000

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) were asked by Anglian Water Services Ltd. to undertake an archaeological recording brief during water mains replacement on land off Heath Lane and off Lincoln Road, Welton, Lincolnshire.

Only one of the two areas was monitored due to the fact that work off Heath Lane was completed prior to the appointment of an archaeological contractor.

The project was conducted in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section publication *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice, 1998*.

2.0 Location and description

Welton is approximately 6km north-east of Lincoln, between the A15 and A46, and falls within the administrative district of West Lindsey. It is centred on NGR TF 0110 7949 at approximately 26m OD. The area to be monitored on Lincoln Road, designated Area 1, is adjacent to St. Mary's Church. Heath Lane (Area 2) lies on the north-west side of the village.

3.0 Planning background

The excavations were not subject to a formal planning constraint, and the watching brief was conducted in accordance with Anglian Water Services Ltd. conservation policy following consultation with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, who recommended the monitoring of two specific areas within the broader scheme.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Information contained within the County SMR and other sources suggests that the area surrounding and within Welton was a significant focus of human settlement since at least the Roman period. Stone building remains of this date were discovered a short distance to the south-west and Roman artefacts, including pottery and tile, have been found in several locations within and around the village. In 1863 a large quantity of Roman pottery was found in Chapel Close. Fifty - sixty pottery sherds, tile fragments and a quern were also found in the Old Vicarage garden (now stored in the church). Though the exact location of these finds has not been recorded, they are likely to be from the immediate area.

A potentially extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery is known to exist in the vicinity of Heath Lane. Eleven inhumations were uncovered in 1971 during the building of Saxon House, c. 50m south of Heath Lane. Grave goods, including annular brooches, beads and shield bosses dated to the 6th century were found with the remains. In 1963 thirteen inhumations were found behind council houses on Norbeck Lane, less than 100m south of Heath Lane. Several of the burials were beneath stone slabs and were

believed to be either Roman or medieval. The extent of this cemetery has not been established.

Welton was clearly an important local settlement in the medieval period. The Domesday Book records that it possessed some six prebendal manors.

The large parish church, St. Mary's, retains many of its 13th and 14th century elements, even though it was extensively rebuilt between the 18th and early 20th centuries.

In 1998, an evaluation by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land west of Norbeck Lane (Albone 1998) identified evidence of Late Saxon and medieval structures, very close to the Saxon cemetery that was discovered in 1971 during the construction of Saxon House. The current watching brief (Area 2) should have presented an opportunity to add to this record.

5.0 Methodology

The watching brief was carried out by C. Palmer-Brown and J. Snee between 7 – 8 September 1999. As noted, only one area (Area 1) was monitored due to circumstances beyond the control of Pre-Construct Archaeology.

In accordance with current national and local guidelines, the fieldwork was restricted to monitoring trenching operations along Lincoln Road within the heart of the village. This consisted of: -

- the cleaning and inspection for archaeological evidence of all exposed plan and section surfaces.
- limited rapid excavation for dating evidence and clarification of the nature of deposits.
- scale section drawings of archaeological features at 1:20.
- the location of archaeological remains to 1: 2500 development plans.
- the recording of deposits on standard watching brief record sheets.
- photographic recording.

A Roman coin found during the course of the excavations was submitted for specialist analysis to Mr P.J. Casey via J Cowgill (Appendix II).

6.0 Results

The main replacement was based largely on open-cut trenching. This exposed a 70m section 0.5m wide and 1.2m deep adjacent to St Mary's Church on the east side of Lincoln Road.

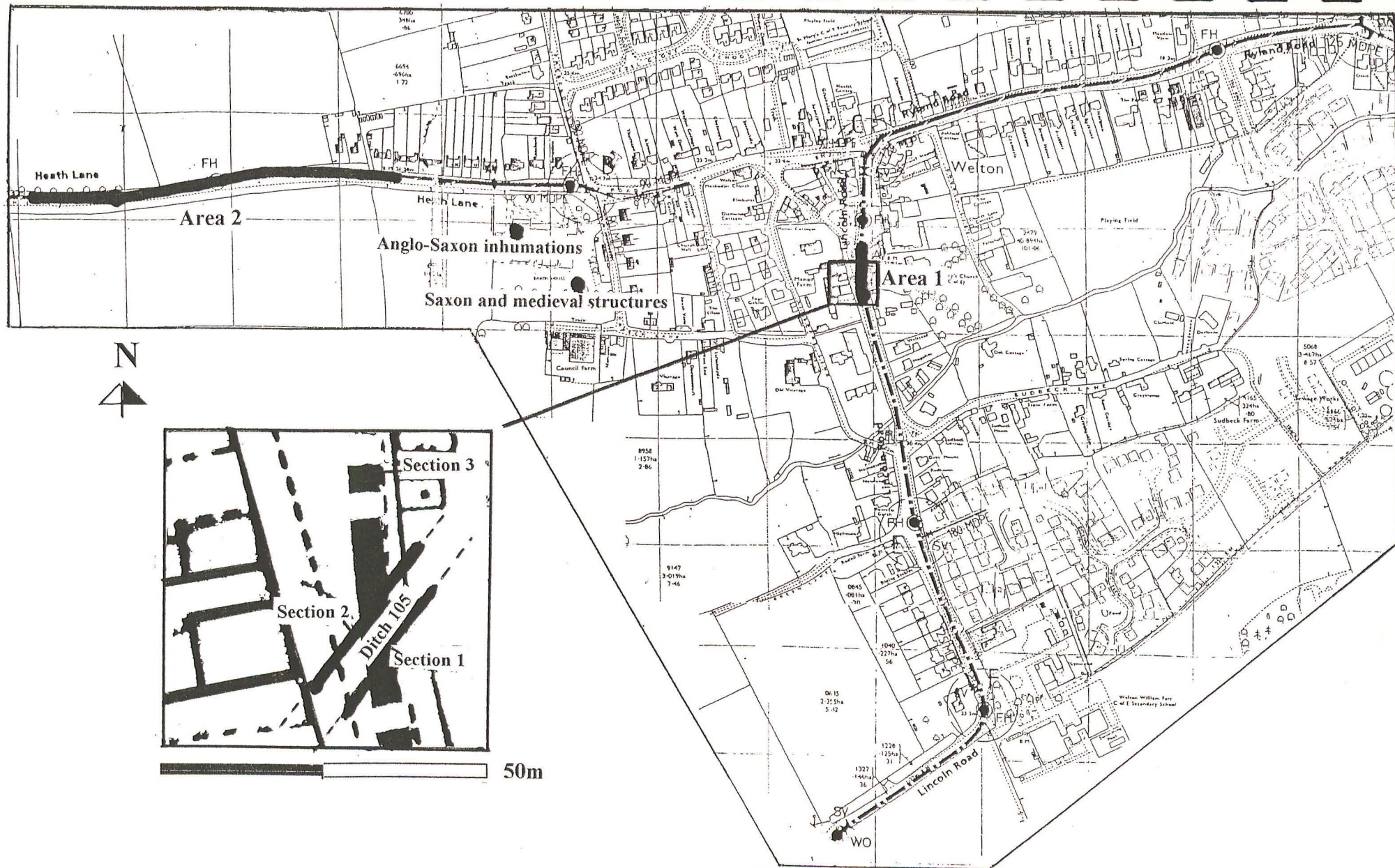


Fig. 2 Location of monitored sections Scale 1: 5000

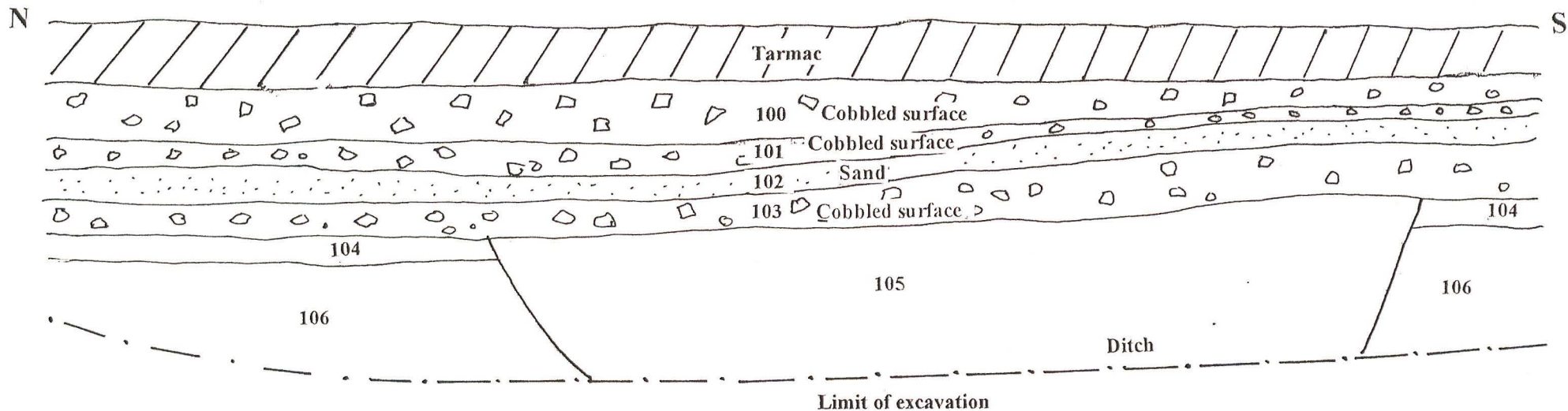


Fig. 3 Section 1 Scale 1:20

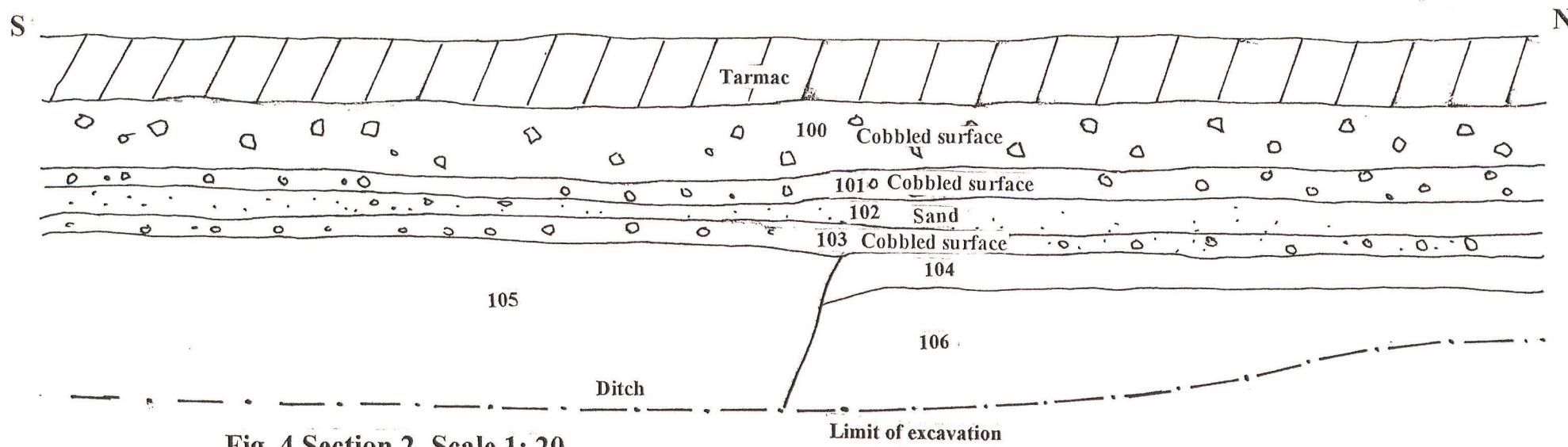


Fig. 4 Section 2 Scale 1:20

The trenching exposed several deposits of archaeological significance. Beneath the modern tarmac were successive layers, probably earlier road and make-up deposits. These layers comprised successive horizons of compact cobbles (100, 101, 103) with a deposit of sand 102 sandwiched between 101 and 103. Beneath this surface, and cut into a possible earlier occupation layer 104, was a large ditch orientated north-east, south-west. A Roman coin was found in association with this ditch, but this may have been residual (Appendix II)

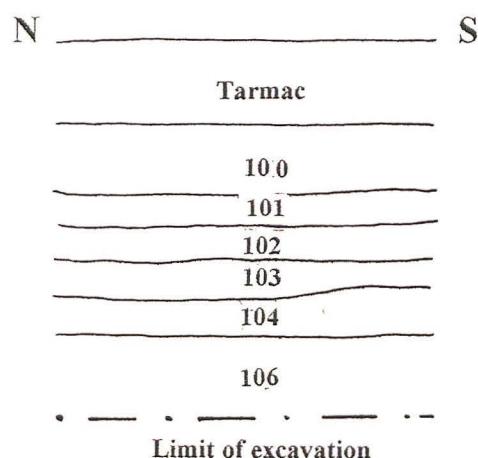


Fig. 5 Section 3 Scale 1: 20

7.0 Conclusions

Unfortunately, the watching brief was restricted to one relatively small area of the water mains replacement. Area 2 was excavated and backfilled prior to monitoring, and no information of archaeological value was recovered from this zone.

A sequence of potentially interesting deposits were exposed and recorded on Lincoln Road, although interpretation and dating of these was restricted by the nature of the scheme. The cobbled layers exposed on Lincoln Road indicate the presence of a road or track of successive builds and, presumably, of some considerable duration: precursors to the modern road itself. A possible occupation surface 104 and a large ditch 105 were also exposed, although a date for these features has not been determined. The ditch appeared to be substantial and this must have been a significant boundary, located close to the centre of the medieval settlement, adjacent to the parish church.

8.0 Bibliography

Albone, J. 1998 *Archaeological Field Evaluation Report, land off Norbeck Lane, Welton, Lincolnshire* unpublished. PCA report.

Palmer-Brown, CPH 1999 *Specification for an archaeological watching brief, land off Heath Lane and Lincoln Road: Water mains replacement scheme (part of)*

9.0 Acknowledgements

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

Appendix I
List of contexts

No.	Type	Description
100	layer	orange/ brown road make-up
101	layer	pale yellow/ brown road make-up
102	layer	dark mid brown silty sand, possible road make-up
103	layer	dark brown sandy clay with compact pebbles/ cobbling
104	layer	dark grey/ brown sandy loam – possible buried soil
105	ditch	large ditch orientated northeast- southwest
106	layer	natural brash

Appendix II – Coin report by P.J. Casey

Coin.

Obverse. [DN CONSTANTIUS PF AVG]

Reverse. [FEL TEMP REPARATIO]

Copy as *Roman Imperial Coinage* Vol. VIII (Lyon) 183

Wt. 1.2g

Max. Diam. 15mm

Die Axis. 45°

Issue date AD 354 – 64.

Following the law of 354, which outlawed the use of coins in circulation dating back to the 330's and those issued by the usurper Magentius (350-3), a shortage of acceptable currency in Britain and Gaul was supplemented by the circulation of copies of the extremely scarce legal coinage. The main pictorial element of both legal coins and copies was the reverse type which featured a Persian cavalryman tumbling from his horse, having been struck down by a Roman soldier.

The supply hiatus was not relieved until coins of Valentinian I and Valens became abundant after 364. The small module of the present specimen suggests a date towards 360.

Appendix III
Colour photographs



P.1 General shot of Area 1, facing north



P. 2 Ditch 105, facing east



**P. 3 Detail of road layers,
facing east**



**P. 4 View of excavations
alongside the church,
facing north**