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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
REPORT  
GLENTHAM AREA WATER MAIN  
REPLACEMENT SCHEME

Site Code: GAW99  
LCNCC Acc No: 182.99  
NGR: SK005864 - SK075988

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Report prepared for Anglian Water Services  
Ltd.  
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April 2000-04-10

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## Summary

- *An intermittent watching brief took place in selective areas during groundworks for a water mains replacement scheme around the parishes of Owersby, Osgodby, Caenby, Normanby, Owmbly and Saxby in north Lincolnshire.*
- *No archaeological remains were positively identified as being effected by the groundworks. This was due in part to the limited surfaces exposed in the small access pits frequently used to construct the pipeline, which made the identification and interpretation of archaeological features difficult if not impossible.*
- *Equally, work in several sensitive areas was concluded without notification to Pre-Construct Archaeology.*

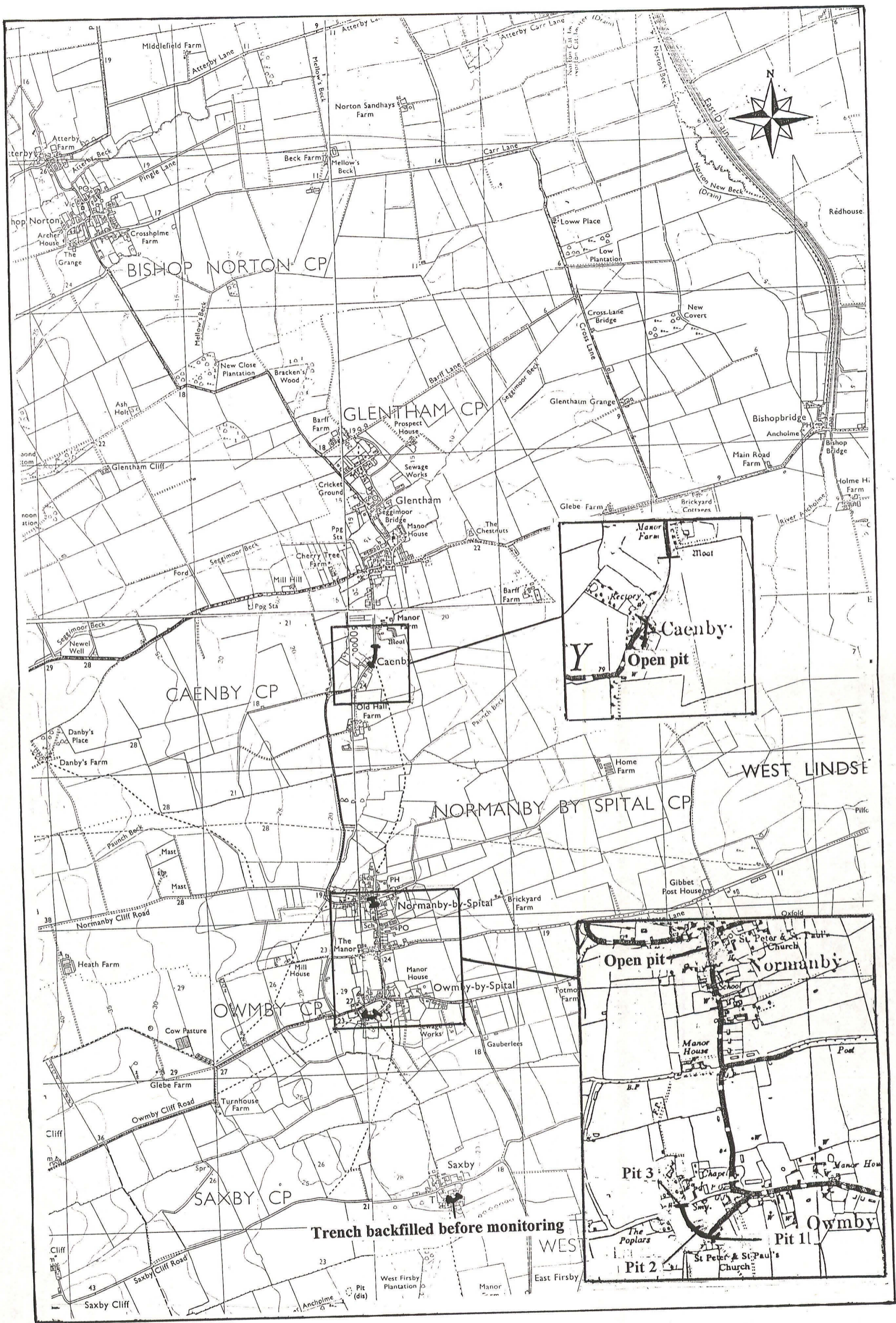


Fig. 1 Monitored areas at scale 1:25,000 (insets at 1:10,000)

## 1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken for Anglian Water Services Ltd. during water mains replacement in the area around Glentham, North Lincolnshire. Monitoring took place on an intermittent basis in selective areas along the route, specifically in the settlements of Owersby, Osgodby, Caenby, Normanby, Owmbly and Saxby, between 10 August 1999 and 13 March 2000.

Work 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

The settlements lie in the north of the county, between approximately 10km and 18km north – northeast of Lincoln, at approximately SK 005864 to SK 075988. Caenby, Normanby by Spital, Owmbly and Saxby form a tight group of parishes immediately east of Roman Ermine Street (now the A15). Owersby and Osgodby are immediately northeast of this location.

In each parish, specific areas of potential archaeological significance were identified by the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section. These are listed as follows:

**Saxby.** A section of the route passing close to the parish church.

**Owmbly.** A section close to the church of St Peter & St Paul.

**Normanby by Spital.** A short section close to St Peter's (redundant) Church.

**Caenby.** A short, 180m section close to the rectory.

**Osgodby.** A 600m long east-west section located approximately 1km south of the village.

**North Owersby** A broad area within and to the north and west of the village.

## 3.0 Planning background

The excavations for the water mains replacement scheme were not subject to any form of planning requirement.

## 4.0 Archaeological and historical background

The monitored areas lie close to Ermine Street, a major Roman road running north south from London and passing through Lincoln to the Humber at Winteringham. Several Romano-British settlements have been found along its length. Excavated sites have also revealed evidence of late prehistoric occupation.

The church at Saxby, dedicated to St Helen, was rebuilt as the parish church and mortuary chapel for the Earls of Scarborough in 1775 and restored in 1869.

The route passes close by St Peter's Church, Normanby and the church of St Peter and St Paul, Owmbly, both of which date from the Norman period, and the rectory at Caenby. In each case there was the possibility of associated medieval settlement remains being disturbed by the scheme.

Prehistoric and Romano-British artefacts have been recovered around Osgodby, including (close to the present water main) excavations south of the village.

Remains spanning the Romano-British, Saxon and medieval periods have been recovered around North Owersby. These include Romano-British pottery scatters to the north and west of the village, earthworks of medieval settlement remains near Tattershall Farm and medieval pottery around the periphery of the village.

## 5.0 Methodology

The watching brief was undertaken on an intermittent basis by Mr C. Palmer-Brown, Mr J. Snee, Mr J. Albone, Mr L. Newton, Mr R. Mouraille and the writer between 10 August 1999 and 13 March 2000. Site visits were made when informed by the contracting company (Morrisons Construction Ltd) of works taking place.

The pipeline construction cut through modern road surfaces and road verges. Works employed both open cut and pipe-bursting techniques. This resulted in a combination of long soil sections and small intermittent pits, the latter approximately 1m square. The open cut sections were very narrow, approximately 0.25m in width.

Fieldwork consisted of the following basic elements:

- The inspection and intermittent cleaning of all exposed plan and section surfaces.

- Limited rapid excavation for finds as dating evidence, and to clarify the nature and orientation of archaeological features.

- Scale drawing of any archaeological features in plan and in section.

Context descriptions of exposed deposits were entered on standard watching brief record sheets and a colour photographic record was kept throughout.

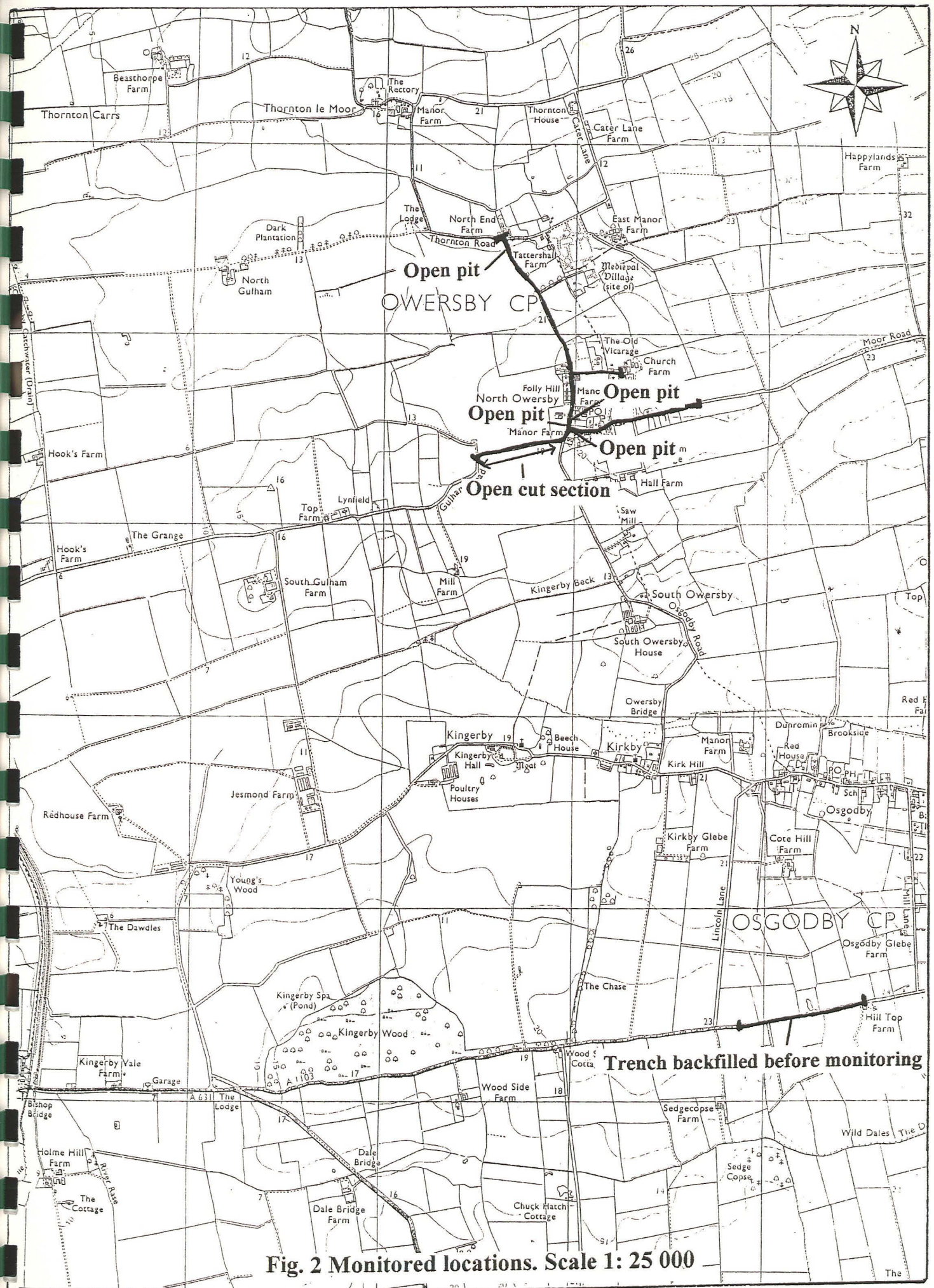


Fig. 2 Monitored locations. Scale 1: 25 000



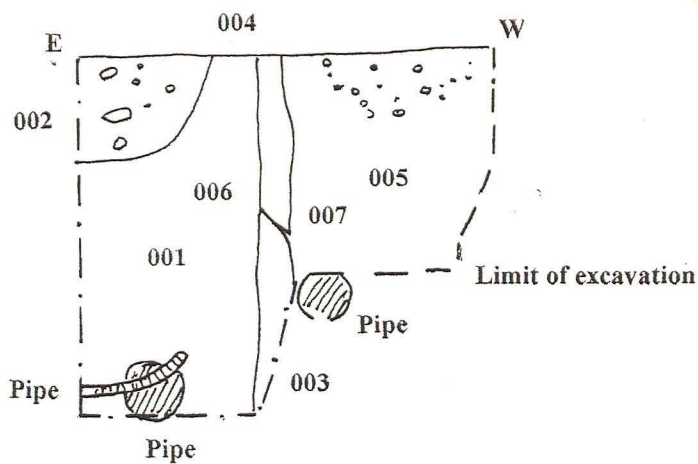


Fig. 3 Section of Pit 2, Owmbly (Scale 1:20)

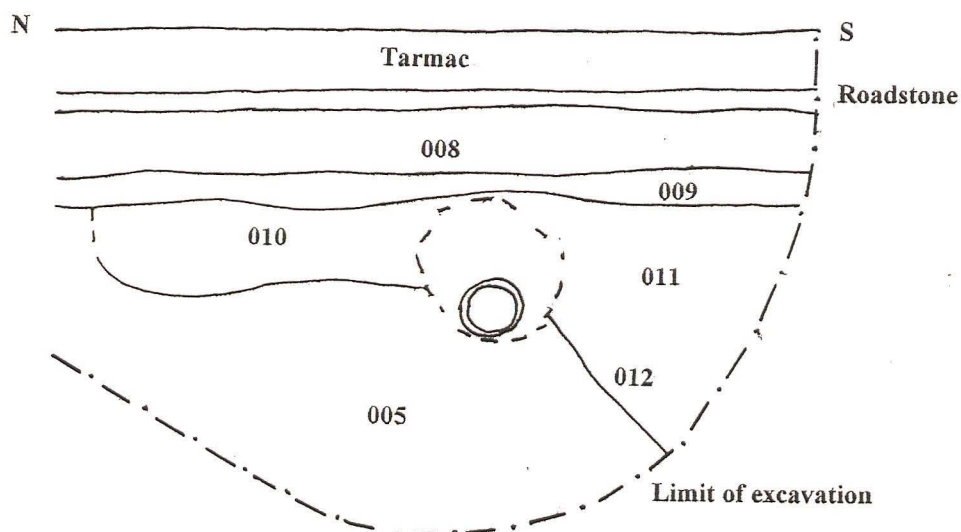


Fig. 4 Section of Pit 3, Owmbly (Scale 1:20)

#### List of contexts, Owmbly

- 001 Backfill of service trench; brown/yellow silty-sand
- 002 Edge of road surface
- 003 Natural sand
- 004 Remnant topsoil between two services cuts
- 005 Backfill of service cut; yellow/brown sandy-silt
- 006 Service cut
- 007 Service cut
- 008 Remnant topsoil
- 009 Subsoil; mid brown clayey-silt
- 010 Modern backfill; mottled brown clayey-silt
- 011 Fill of 012; dark brown clayey-silt
- 012 Probable feature, aligned east-west

## **6.0 Results**

### **6.1 Saxby**

Work in this area was concluded without archaeological monitoring (PCA were not informed of developments). It is understood from the contractors that pipe-bursting techniques were employed, involving minimal disturbance.

### **6.2 Owmbly**

Three trenches were monitored in the vicinity of the church. All were noted to be significantly disturbed by modern services and limited inspection of section faces was possible.

Trenches 1 and 2 (Fig. 3) were noted to contain only layers of modern road/ service backfill material.

Trench 3 (Fig 4) exposed similar modern deposits and an earlier feature that was aligned east-west. Very little of this was visible and therefore its date, extent and significance remain uncertain.

### **6.3 Normanby by Spital**

A 1m x 1m x 1m access pit close to the church was monitored and found to contain only layers associated with modern road construction; tarmac 0.2m deep over sand and gravel layers to a total depth of 1m. The plan surface was obscured by an existing water main.

### **6.4 Caenby**

Again, monitoring was limited because only one access pit 1m x 1m x 1m remained open on arrival in the village (Fig. 1). The others had been backfilled prior to monitoring (PCA were not informed). The pit section revealed only road makeup layers – tarmac over layers of redeposited yellow sand and pea-grit. Conversation with contractors on site suggested that much the same stratigraphy had been present in the other access pits, although this could not be confirmed.

### **6.5 Osgodby**

Monitoring of excavations was not possible in this area, as works were concluded before PCA was notified.

### **6.6 North Owersby**

Two test pits and two access pits were inspected within the village along the north-south orientated road. Additionally, an open-cut section running east west to the southeast of the village was monitored (Fig.2).

The pits exposed a basic stratigraphy of tarmac 0.25m deep, stone road build-up 0.15m deep and natural yellow clay, mixed with limestone, in excess of 0.60m deep. No archaeological features were noted. The open-cut section exposed stratigraphy as follows:

Topsoil 0.30m deep. A dark brown friable sandy clay with stone and chert inclusions.

Brown/yellow sandy clay 0.09 – 0.10m deep.

Compact clean yellow sandy clay with occasional stone fragments in excess of 0.65m deep.

Identification of archaeological features was made difficult by the restricted width of the excavated section, i.e. 0.25m.

A possible medieval pottery sherd was recovered from the spoil close to the west end of the monitored section.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

No unambiguously archaeological remains were found in association with the groundworks for the water main replacement scheme. With the possible exception of a feature noted in Owmbly, only natural soil horizons and road construction deposits were exposed.

The largely negative result may be attributed in part to the nature of the excavations. The use of drilled access pits across much of the route rather than open-cut excavation meant sections of less than 2m were exposed. Equally, where open cut excavation was employed, trenches were extremely narrow. In both cases the very limited section/plan surfaces exposed made archaeological deposits difficult to detect or determine. Additionally much of the route followed the modern road surface and simply exposed sections of road makeup and modern service trench backfill.

In several cases, work took place before an archaeologist could be present on site. This was because the agents of the client company did not inform Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) when works were taking place. Whilst it is possible that the scheme of works outlined above caused minimal, if any, disturbance to archaeological deposits, an opportunity to at least place the deposits exposed in context with adjacent remains was missed.

## **8.0 Acknowledgements**

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

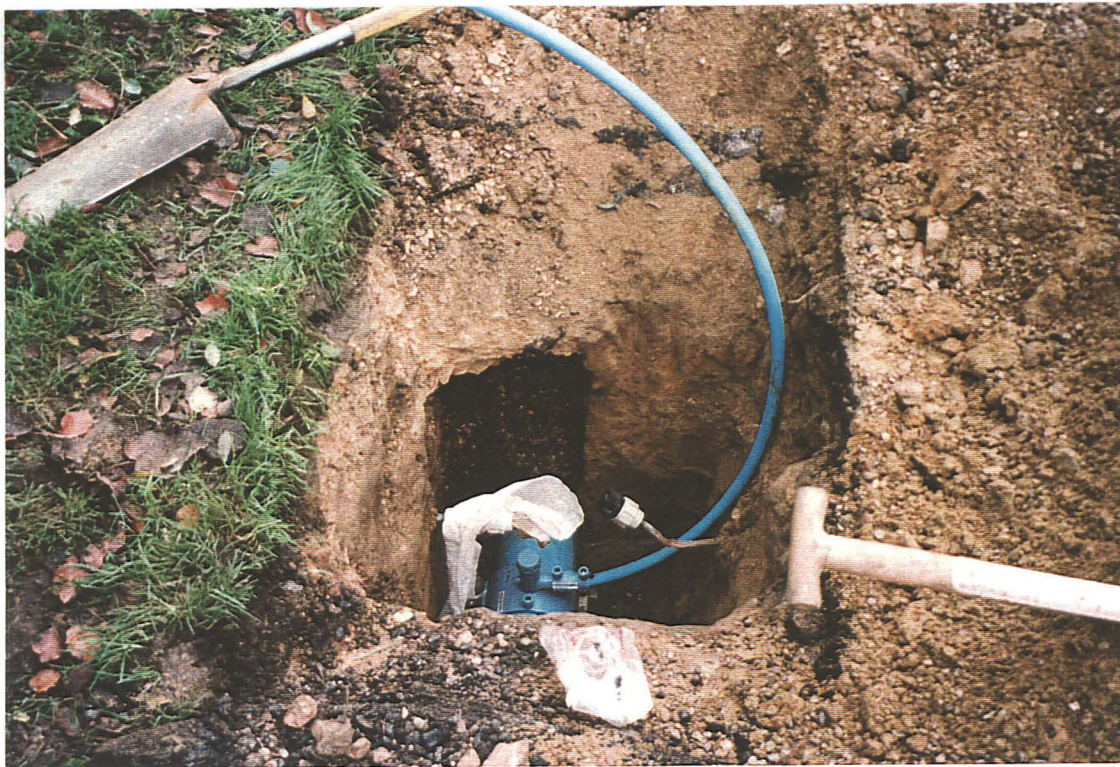
## **9.0 Bibliography**

Palmer-Brown, C.P.H., 1999 *Specification for an archaeological watching brief*,

*Glenthams area water main replacement scheme. PCA*

Pryor, F., 1997 *Discovering the past – Anglian Water and Archaeology*. Anglian Water

Appendix - Colour plates



**Plate 1.** 1m wide test pit at Caenby showing modern backfill, looking south-west



**Plate 2.** Backfilled trench at Osgodby (not monitored) looking east

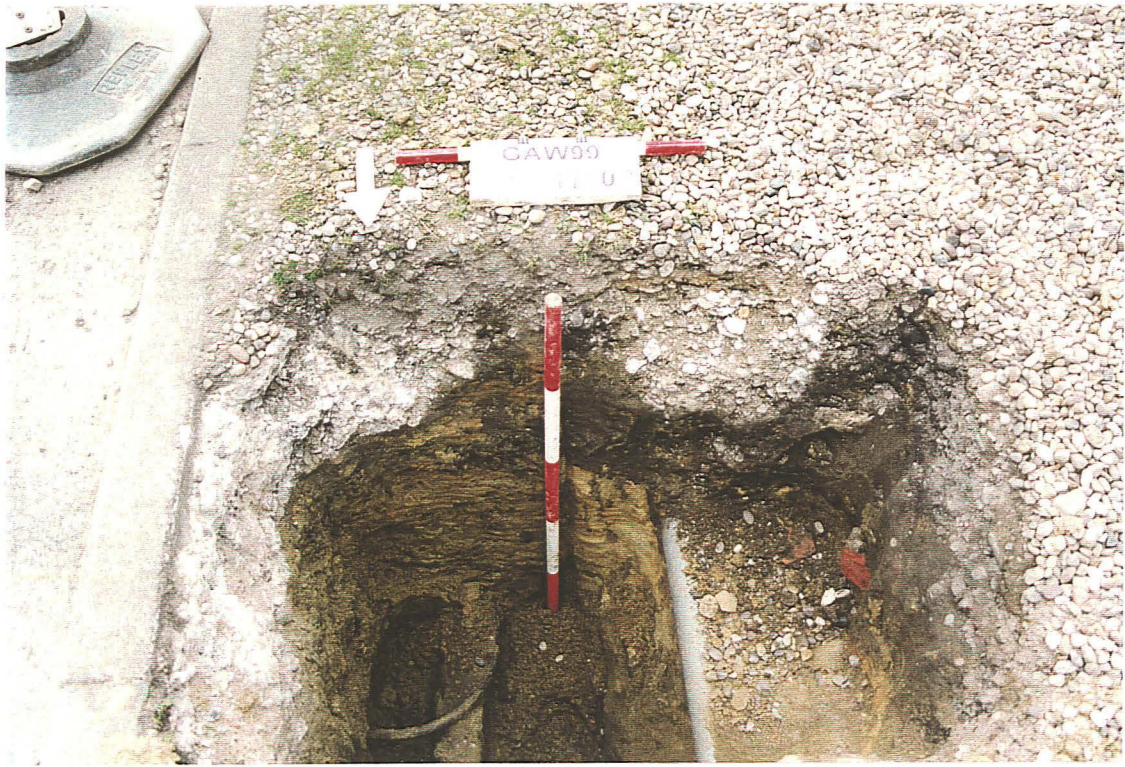


Plate 3. Trench 2, Owmbly by Spital, looking south



Plate 4. Trench 3, Owmbly by Spital, looking east