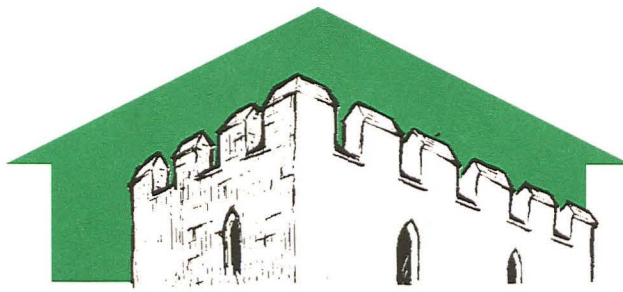


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# PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

L I N C O L N

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
REPORT  
ERMINE STREET, NAVENBY,  
LINCOLNSHIRE.

CENTRAL LINCS TRUNK MAIN  
REHABILITATION , PHASE I

NGR: SK 9940 5720 – SK 9928 5812  
LCCM ACC. NO. 2000.141



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Report Prepared for  
Anglian Water Services Ltd.  
by Jim Rylatt  
October 2000

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## Summary

- An archaeological watching brief took place between Green Man Road and the area to the south of Highfields, Navenby, Lincolnshire, during excavations for the replacement of a water main
- Information relating to Ermine Street and the Romano-British roadside settlement at Navenby has added significantly to data collected through a programme of investigation that has been taking place since 1994
- Important archaeological remains were exposed as a result of the works, including segments of the Roman road known as Ermine Street and rubble representing the remains of contemporary buildings
- A possible prehistoric cultivation horizon and a series of post-medieval quarry pits were also examined

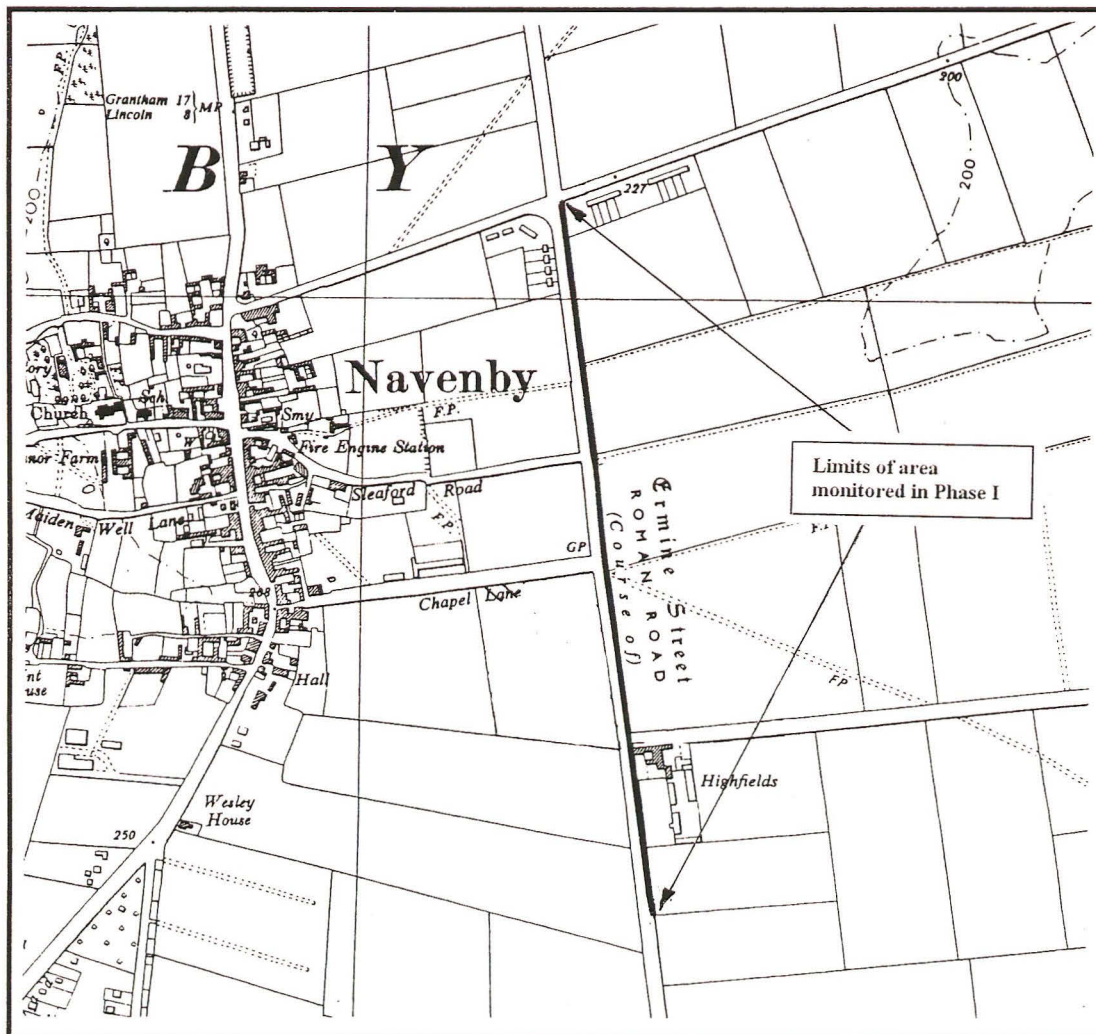


Figure 1: Area of investigation at 1: 10000  
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## 1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out, for Anglian Water Services Ltd., during the replacement of the Central Lincolnshire trunk main, as it passed through Navenby. The trunk main follows the eastern edge of the major Roman road known as Ermine Street and was deemed likely to traverse important archaeological remains on the edge of the village.

In consideration of the impacts to the archaeological resource, which can and do take place as a result of such developments, and in accordance with the terms vested in the Water Act of 1989, Anglian Water Services Ltd. agreed to fund a programme of investigation in line with their own conservation policy.

The watching brief was carried out during February 2000 and the results are documented in this report.

## 2.0 Location and description

Navenby is in the administrative district of North Kesteven, lying approximately 11 km south of Lincoln. While the centre of the modern village is situated on the edge of the Lincoln Cliff escarpment, Ermine Street is set back by some 0.5km, on the dip slope to the east (figure 1). It is thought to represent a Roman formalisation of a major prehistoric trackway (the Jurassic Way) (May, 1976). Where it passes through Navenby, Ermine Street is now known as 'High Dike'.

The solid geology of the area examined during the watching brief, consists of Crossi Bed Lincolnshire Limestone (B.G.S., 1973). A thick mantle of cornbrash, a regolith formed from the parent bedrock by freeze-thaw processes, covers this. Previous excavations undertaken within the immediate vicinity of Ermine Street have demonstrated that soil depth can vary considerably.

The area covered by this project, lies between SK 9940 5720 (c. 68m OD), SK 9932 5776 (c. 65m OD) and SK 9928 5812 (c. 70m OD).

## 3.0 Archaeological and historical background

The County Sites and Monuments Record database for Navenby is extensive, and is summarised here in narrative form.

The Roman site at Navenby was first recognised in 1965, following a programme of fieldwalking by pupils from the local primary school, under the guidance of their head teacher. Concentrations of Romano-British pottery, building materials and coins were picked up over a wide area on both sides of Ermine Street, leading to a suggestion that Navenby was possibly the site of a Roman posting station (Whitwell, 1966: 45 – this is an extrapolation based upon Navenby's location halfway between the Roman fort at Ancaster, to the south, and the Legionary Fortress at Lincoln (*Lindum*), to the north). Subsequently, other researchers have postulated that, in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, Navenby may have been the focus of military activity centred upon a fort (e.g. Jones, 1980).

The above hypotheses remain unsubstantiated and require further investigation. However, the data that has been collected since the mid-1960's suggests that the nature of occupation at Navenby was far more complex than originally anticipated, with millennia human activity preceding the Roman occupation.

Surface artefact scatters, particularly worked flints, indicate that human activity can be traced back to the Neolithic or Bronze Age in many areas of the parish. Additionally, recent work on the south side of Chapel Lane has demonstrated the presence of a cemetery; which appears to have originated in the Middle Bronze Age and retained a resonance as a ritual focus into the middle Anglo-Saxon period; an episode spanning around two thousand years (Palmer-Brown, 1999).

A number of pits containing post-Deverel Rimbury pottery (late Bronze Age/early Iron Age transition) have been discovered c. 300m to the south-east of the cemetery on Chapel Lane. They have been detected during two phases of work associated with a housing development (Palmer-Brown, 1997; Palmer-Brown & Rylatt, 1999) and are situated closer to Grantham Road than Ermine Street.

A series of archaeological investigations in the Chapel Lane area have produced evidence of settlement, including features that probably originated in the late pre-Roman Iron Age. An evaluation in 1994 (Palmer-Brown, 1995) revealed part of a large native-type settlement enclosure containing circular buildings. Excavation of part of the enclosure ditch produced sherds of coarse hand made pottery of Iron Age tradition; however, there was no way to determine whether this material was produced prior to, or following, the Roman conquest.

It has been established that in the later Roman period, both sides of Ermine Street were lined with substantial stone (or stone founded) buildings. The remains of these structures lie in an area approximating to that examined by this watching brief; they appear to correspond to a familiar pattern of ribbon development bracketing Roman roads. Some of the buildings examined were the product of more than one phase of construction, suggesting a sustained period of occupation (*ibid.*). A number were relatively well-appointed and incorporated plastered walls and floors.

It is important to note that recent work has failed to identify Roman remains dating to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. All of the buildings discussed above have been dated to the later Roman period and, whilst it could be argued that earlier activity may be found beneath the levels thus far investigated, it is noteworthy that absolutely nothing relating to the Conquest period has thus far been identified in the investigations of the 1990s. This situation corresponds with the extensive record held in the County SMR, which does not document any Roman material pre-dating the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

## 4.0 Methodology

The watching brief was undertaken over a relatively short period of time, following an initial site visit on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2000. R Mouraille, C. Palmer-Brown, and J Rylatt conducted the fieldwork between 3<sup>rd</sup> February and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2000. Twelve site visits took place.

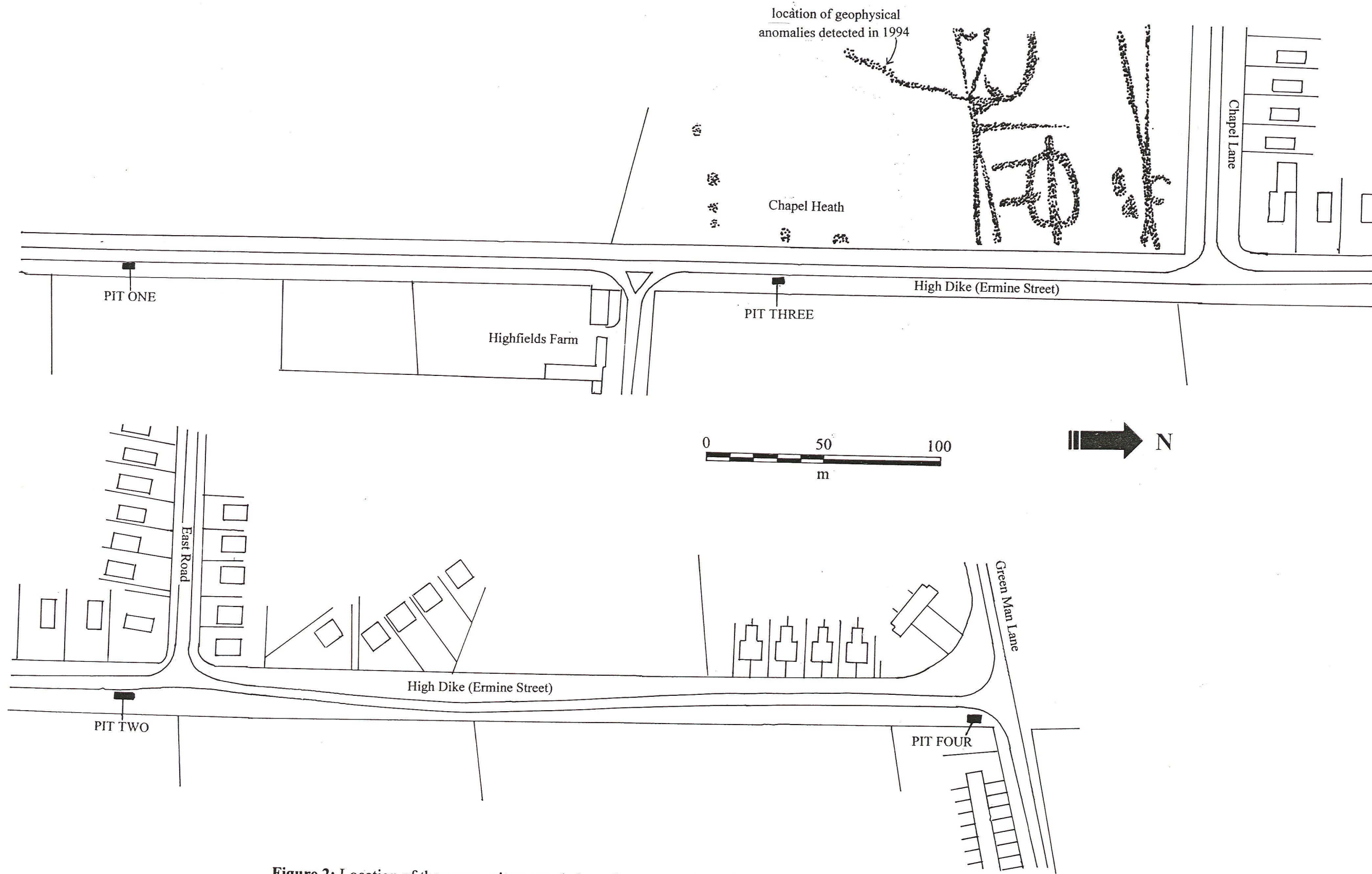
The site contractors were replacing the existing steel trunk main with a thermoplastic pipe, which utilised its metal predecessor as a protective sleeve. The plastic pipe was inserted in c. 500 to 600m lengths. This necessitated the excavation of a series of pits in order to access the steel pipe (figure 2). The angle at which the pipe needed to be fed into its sleeve required the holes to be quite large – in the order of 5 x 2.5m to 9 x 3m, all being around 2m deep. The contractors informed PCA when the scheme approached the designated area and arrangements were made for an archaeologist(s) to record the exposed archaeological deposits, following machine excavation of the access pits.

The fieldwork element comprised a thorough inspection of all the section surfaces exposed as a result of the pipe replacement scheme. Initially, a narrative account was maintained using standard record sheets. When the nature and quantity of the archaeological deposits became apparent, detailed scale drawings were produced of all exposed sections, where safe to do so. The drawings were thoroughly annotated to supplement the records made on the record sheets and further detail was captured in a series of colour photographs. Where exposed during cleaning, dating evidence was recovered from the sections, but excavation into these vertical surfaces was very limited due to the depth of the pits and the potential instability of the sides.

Artefactual remains recovered from the site were washed and processed prior to their submission to researchers specialising in the examination of archaeological materials. The results of these investigations have been included as independent appendices to this report, and the general conclusions of such accounts have been integrated into the main text.

It should be noted that a small number of stratified animal bone fragments were recovered during the course of the watching brief, but the numbers were insufficient to provide any significant palaeo-economic data. Consequently, these remains were not submitted for specialist analysis, but will be included as a component of the permanent site archive.





**Figure 2:** Location of the access pits opened along the eastern edge of High Dike, Navenby.

## 5.0 Results

Four pits were opened in this phase of work, but these were not numbered sequentially (e.g. from south to north). Rather, they are numbered in the order in which they were investigated; thus, Pit Three, inspection of which had to be abandoned, is actually situated between Pit One and Pit Two (figure 2).

### 5.1 Pit One: South of Highfields (SK 9940 5720)

(see figure 3)

The western edge of this pit was located approximately 0.7m east of the edge of High Dike. It was parallel sided, and measured c. 6.0m north-south by c. 2.35m east-west. The sides were relatively compact and stable and it was not necessary to insert steel-plank shoring. The hole had a maximum depth of c. 2.1m, of which c. 1.9m represented stratified archaeological deposits. The trench cut to contain the earlier steel water pipe ran through the centre of Pit One, effectively removing any stratigraphic relationships between the east and west facing sections. While it is possible to suggest that some contexts are visible on both sides of Pit One, the majority appear to be restricted to one side or the other. Consequently, each side will be discussed separately.

#### *East Facing Section*

The uppermost layer was a dark grey-brown sandy silt loam topsoil, (001), c. 0.3m deep. This sealed a creamy-white deposit of finely crushed limestone, (002), which was c. 0.1m deep. This deposit was fairly clean and uncontaminated by other material. It was visible along the whole length of the section and had horizontal upper and lower interfaces with other contexts. It is likely that this represents material deposited to create a post-medieval to early modern road, although the date of this remains uncertain. A metallised surface capping this deposit was not visible, suggesting that it was only ever a limestone track, but it is equally possible that this represents the extreme eastern edge of the layer and that a metallised surface exists a small distance to the west.

A mid- to dark grey clayey silt, (003), lay beneath (002). This layer, c. 0.2m deep, was slightly mottled and contained small quantities of charcoal and limestone pebbles. It also contained a thin lens of burnt daub toward the southern end of the section. It is feasible that (003) is a buried soil, sealed when the putative road (002) was constructed.

The lower interface of (003) rests upon a very stony deposit, (025). This interface is horizontal suggesting that it may, at one time, have been truncated by ploughing. In contrast, the lower interface of (025) undulates markedly, such that the deposit varies in thickness from 0.1 – 0.25m. Virtually all of the coarse components were sub-angular fragments of limestone, the majority having a maximum dimension of less than 0.15m, which are contained by a matrix of mid greyey-brown sandy clayey silt. The stone is differentially distributed, representing c. 60% of the deposit at the southern end of the section and c. 35% at the northern end. As much of this rubble is tabular, the majority sits horizontally, but it appeared too sparse and uneven to

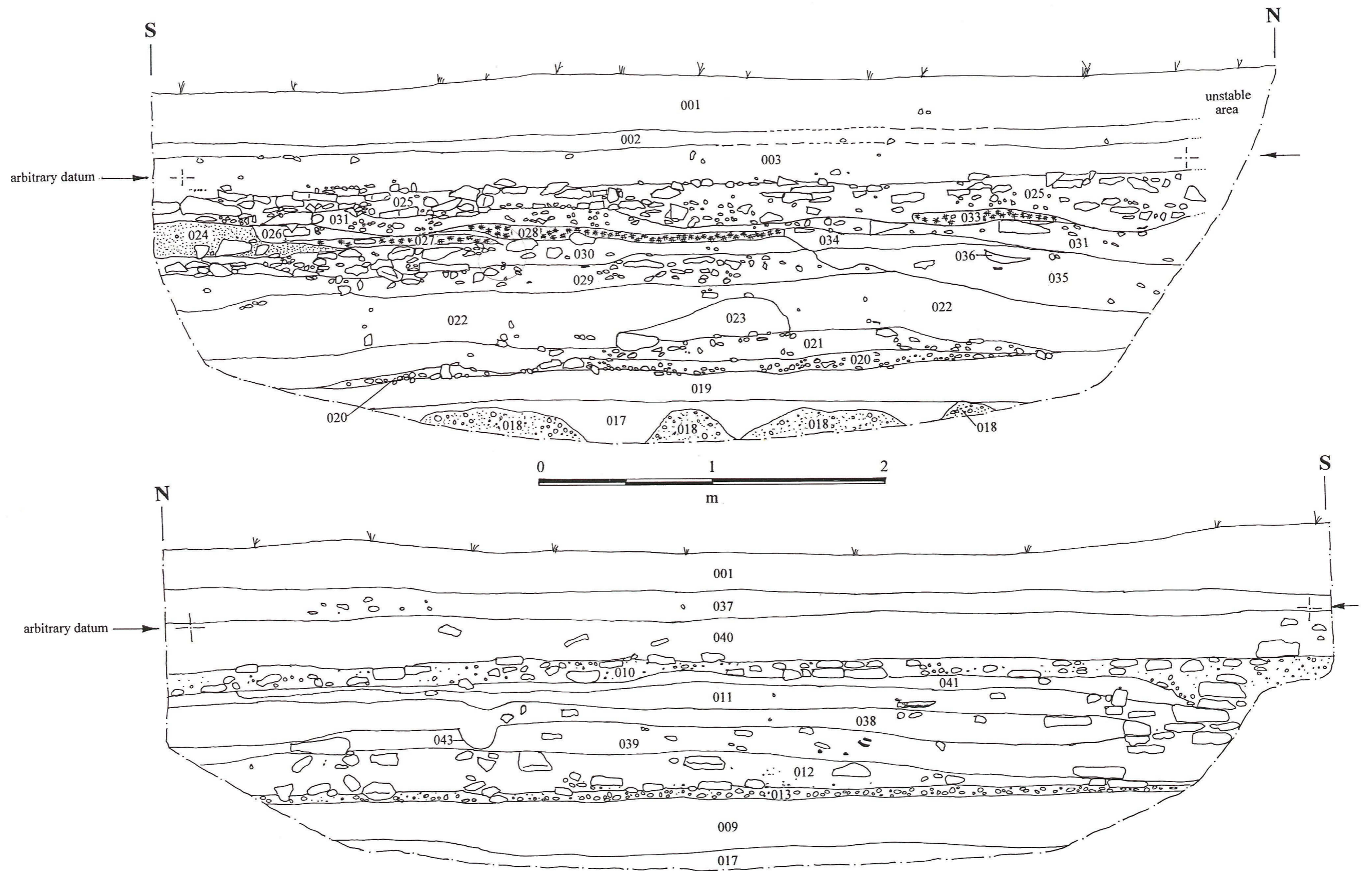


Figure 3: Pit One - (a) (top) East facing section; (b) (bottom) West facing section.

represent a deliberate surface, such as would be associated with a road. It is probable that this deposit was created during the destruction of Roman structures, the largest stones having been removed for reuse elsewhere. Several fragments of pottery were recovered from the layer; most were of a fairly general later Romano-British provenance, but one sherd came from a vessel of 4<sup>th</sup> century manufacture. The latter provides a fairly loose *terminus post quem* for the hypothesised phase of destruction.

At the northern end of the section, (025) slumps into a slight depression (see [042] below), sealing a small deposit of highly organic material, (033). This is a dark grey lens of silt and comminuted charcoal. (025) and (033) seal a mottled, pale greyish-yellow layer of silty sand, (031), which contains pebble-sized fragments of limestone. This, in turn, seals a c. 0.08m thick dark-grey to black deposit of ash, silt and comminuted charcoal, (028), the latter representing a much higher proportion of the material than in (033). The upper and lower interfaces were extremely well defined and close examination of (033) revealed the presence of several fine lenses of pale grey ash (c. 0.002m thick). It is possible that (033) represents the remains of several bonfires. However, the upper surface of the underlying layer, (030) did not appear to be oxidised; consequently, the likelihood of *in-situ* burning remains questionable.

A thin lens of sandy silt, (032), separates (028) from a further charcoal rich deposit, (027). This in turn overlies a moderately compacted deposit of orangey-yellow crushed limestone and limestone gravel, (024), at the southern end of the section. This is a fairly clean and homogenous deposit, but does contain a few pieces of limestone rubble.

(024) also overlies (030), a mid-grey sandy clayey silt c. 0.15m deep. This deposit also contained a large amount of limestone rubble, and as with (025) (above), most pieces had a maximum dimension of less than 0.15m and were concentrated toward the southern end of the section. Again, it seems likely that this deposit was created during the destruction of Roman structures. Below (030) is a pale to mid-grey sandy clayey silt, (029), also c. 0.15m deep. This contained moderate quantities of quite smallish limestone rubble, generally of less than 0.08m maximum dimension, which was fairly evenly distributed throughout the layer.

(029) was situated above three contexts, (021), (022) and (023), of differing texture, which shared the same pale-orange colour. Together, they formed a deposit c. 0.45m in depth, which may have been deliberately dumped in one event, to raise the ground surface. The northern end of the upper deposit, (022), appears to have been cut into by a large shallow pit or a ditch orientated north-east to south-west [042] – there are slight indications that the southern edge of a ditch may have been exposed near the end of the west facing section (see figure 3a). The existence of this feature remains uncertain, as it was only possible to see its southern edge, and only then in two-dimensions. However, it does also appear to truncate contexts (029), (030) and (028), suggesting that it is 0.45m deep and greater than 2.45m wide.

The primary fill, (035), of the possible feature, [042], contained the base of a late 2<sup>nd</sup> century Central Gaulish samian bowl of type 31 form.

A thin, but more or less continuous, band of small to medium sized, water-rounded quartzite pebbles, (020), was sealed by (021). (020) was generally one or two stones

thick (c. 0.06m deep) and formed a reasonably horizontal surface. Around 5-10% of the material was small sub-rounded to sub-angular limestone rubble, with a maximum dimension of less than 0.1m. The quartzite pebbles are not found locally and were probably imported from a nearby river valley. While it proved impossible to expose any of this layer in plan, its constituents matched those forming layer (230)/(255) in Pit Two (see below). (255) was exposed in plan and almost certainly proved to be the surface of Ermine Street, therefore it is possible to infer that (020) is also part of a Roman road.

Below (020) was a greyey to reddy-brown sandy silt, (019), which contained occasional flecks of charcoal. Rusty mottles were visible in this, c. 0.16m deep, deposit, suggesting that the layer had originally contained a reasonably high concentration of organic material, which had decomposed to form ligands. It is tentatively suggested that this layer is a prehistoric soil buried when the road was constructed. The lower interface of (019) was horizontal, again, possibly indicative of ploughing, and was situated above natural deposits (017)/(018). The latter are the fissured cornbrash and the red-brown silty clay sand that fills these fissures (*q.v.* Palmer-Brown & Rylatt, 1999).

#### *West Facing Section*

As with the east facing section, the uppermost layer was a dark grey-brown sandy silt loam topsoil, (001), c. 0.25m deep. This sealed a mid-brown sandy clayey silt, (037), containing occasional small pieces of limestone rubble. While the upper interface was horizontal, the lower interface dipped toward the north, resulting in (037) varying in thickness from c. 0.10m to 0.19m.

Below (037) lay a c. 0.28m thick layer of dark brown sandy clayey silt, (040). It contained occasional pieces of limestone rubble, charcoal and bone and is probably equivalent to (003) (see east facing section above).

A deposit, (010), composed of 40-60% limestone, set in a matrix of mid-grey brown sandy clayey silt lies beneath (040). Most of the fragments of limestone were sub-angular, with a maximum dimension of less than 0.2m. It seems likely that (010) is the same as deposit (025) - exposed in the east facing section, as it shares many of the same characteristics. These include the irregular and uneven distribution of the rubble, which suggests that it is not part of a deliberately constructed road surface, and an undulating lower interface, resulting in variations in depth from 0.04 - 0.16m. Once again, this seems to indicate that the deposit was created during the demolition of a Roman structure.

A pale greyish-yellowish brown layer of silty sand, (041), containing moderate quantities of grit and occasional pebble sized fragments of limestone was sealed beneath (010). It was unevenly distributed across the exposed section, being c. 0.1m deep toward the southern end, before thinning and finally disappearing c. 1.0m short of the northern end. It is probable that this is the same material as (031) (see east facing section above).

A deposit of fairly homogenous brownish-yellow silty sand, (011), was situated below (041). This consisted largely of limestone-derived sands, which contained occasional

fragments of limestone rubble, charcoal and pottery: the latter included one residual sherd of (Central Gaulish?) samian produced in the mid 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century. The distribution of (011) resembled that of (041), as the depth decreased from c. 0.16m toward the south, before disappearing c. 0.5m from the northern end of Pit One. The lower interface of the underlying deposit, (038), undulated noticeably, resulting in this mottled yellowish to greenish-brown, sandy clayey silt varying in depth from 0.09–0.25m. Seven sherds of pottery were recovered from (038), which provide a date in the 4<sup>th</sup> century for production and probably also for deposition.

Beneath (038) were two deposits, which should be considered together, (039) and (012). They both had a similar pale orangey-brown colour, but differed in texture – the lower deposit having a higher proportion of clay. Together, they formed a deposit c. 0.45m in depth, which, due to the homogeneity of each layer, may have been deliberately dumped in one event. A small pit, post-hole or gully, [043], appears to have been cut into the upper deposit (039) some 1.6m from the northern end of the section. It is probable that (039) and (012) are respectively equivalent to (022) and (021).

Beneath (012) was a thin and somewhat discontinuous band of small to medium sized, water-rounded quartzite pebbles, (013). Where present, (013) had reasonably horizontal upper and lower interfaces, but was generally only one or two stones thick (a maximum of c. 0.05m deep). Interspersed among the pebbles were occasional small fragments of sub-rounded to sub-angular limestone rubble, with a maximum dimension of less than 0.1m. Deposit (013) is directly comparable with the layer (020), exposed in the east facing section, and is likely to be the surface of Ermine Street. Its slightly intermittent nature may be due to damage, such as rutting caused by wheeled traffic, or could be an indication that the section face lies near the eastern edge of the Roman road.

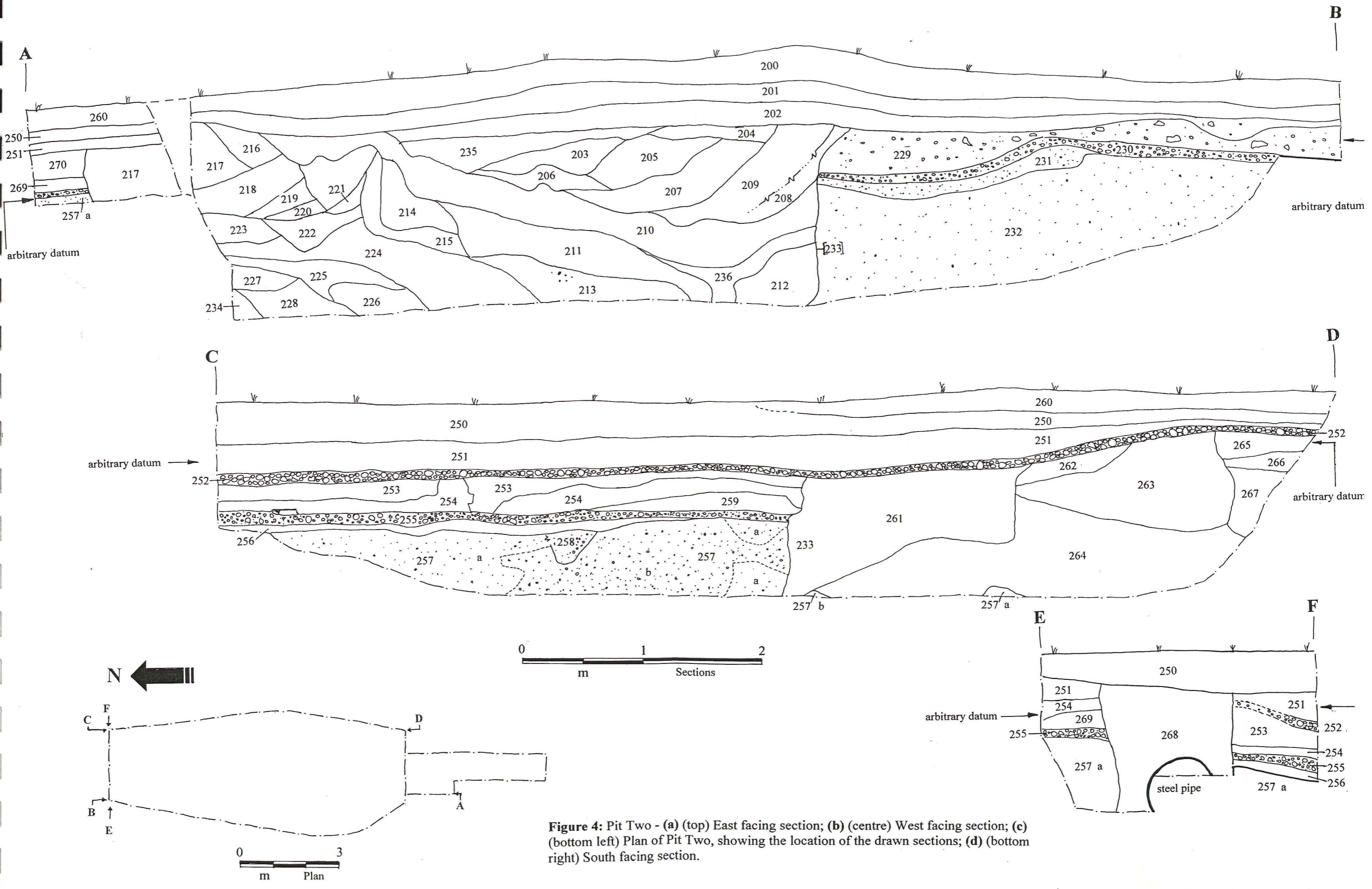
Sealed below (013) was a mottled dark reddy brown sandy silt, (009). This layer was c. 0.2m deep and contained occasional flecks of charcoal, pieces of ironstone and grit sized fragments of limestone. It is likely that this layer corresponds to (019), the putative prehistoric soil identified in the east facing section. Both the upper and lower interfaces of (009) were relatively horizontal. This suggests that the naturally deposited red-brown silty clay sand, (017), which underlies (009) has been truncated, again, a possible indicator of ploughing.

Three copper alloy Roman coins were recovered from Pit One, all dating to the late 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. One was stratified, in (016), being a House of Constantine commemorative issue of c. 330-5. The other two were recovered from the spoil heap, one a *follis* probably of the early 4<sup>th</sup> century, while the other may be another issue of the House of Constantine.

## 5.2 Pit Two: Between Chapel Lane and East Road (SK 9933 5775)

(see figure 4)

The western edge of this pit was located approximately 1.0m east of the edge of High Dike. It was trapezoidal in plan, widening toward the centre of the longer sides, measuring c. 2.20m east-west at the ends and c. 3.40m in the centre (figure 4c). The



**Figure 4:** Pit Two - (a) (top) East facing section; (b) (centre) West facing section; (c) (bottom left) Plan of Pit Two, showing the location of the drawn sections; (d) (bottom right) South facing section.

main north-south axis of the pit was c. 9.60m long, but there was a narrow, ramped extension, c. 4.2m long, made at the southern end of the pit to allow access for the pipe. The sides were relatively compact and stable in the northern half of the pit, but there was some slumping in the southern part during the interval that the trench was open. However, it was not necessary to insert shoring. The hole had a maximum depth of c. 2.15m, but the base of the archaeological deposits was not reached in the southern half of the trench. As with Pit One, the earlier steel water pipe had been laid in a trench that had removed the stratigraphic relationships between the east and west facing sections.

#### *East Facing Section*

The topsoil was a mid-dark grey-brown sandy silt loam, (200), c. 0.26m deep. This sealed a yellowy grey-brown sandy silt, (201), which contained some charcoal, burnt clay and iron. Unlike other deposits, both of these contexts were present along the whole of the exposed north-south section, sealing the archaeologically significant deposits. Beneath (201) was a friable, pale yellowish-brown sandy silt, (202), which extended to within c. 1.70m of the southern end of the trench, overlying much of the disturbance in this area.

Deposits sealed beneath (202) were very different in the northern half of the trench from those toward the south. In the latter area there were twenty-nine deposits exposed {(203)-(228) & (234)-(236)} that were filling one, or possibly more, large cut(s) [233]. These fills ranged from relatively small lenses, such as (220) – c. 0.5m long by c. 0.12m deep – to relatively extensive spreads, such as (210) - c. 4.6m long by c. 0.42m deep. Many contained fragments of limestone rubble, in varying densities, but tile fragments were also a component of these deposits. Two fragments of tile and a sherd of pottery were recovered from these deposits, all proving to be of Roman manufacture.

The northern edge of [233] was vertical, but started to round off c. 0.2m from the base of Pit Two, suggesting that the bottom of the feature was not too far beneath the limit of the excavation. A small section of the southern edge of [233] was also exposed in the pipe-feeder extension; this was also near vertical, but slightly concave, which may indicate that [233] was left as an open hollow for some time, during which areas of the sides subsided.

The lower surface of (202) rested upon a very stony deposit, (229), for the most northerly 4.40m of the access pit. This interface rose upward slightly with progression toward the north, but was penetrated by an indentation c. 0.6m across and c. 0.18m deep near the north-western corner. In contrast, the lower interface of (229) was level toward the north, but dipped into a dished depression some 0.30m deep toward the junction with [233]. The coarse components were sub-angular fragments of limestone, the majority having a maximum dimension of less than 0.15m. The bulk of this rubble was tabular and sat horizontally, but this appears to have created a relatively uneven upper surface. There is a possibility that this material constituted the surface of a road or track, but alternatively it may represent a destruction deposit created during the robbing of derelict Roman structures for building stone.



Beneath this rubble layer was a deposit of small to medium sized, water-rounded quartzite pebbles, (230), which was up to c. 0.12m thick. A small proportion of this layer comprised sub-rounded to sub-angular limestone rubble, having a maximum dimension of less than 0.1m. It was possible to clean back the overlying deposits exposed in the section to reveal a strip of (230), c. 0.20m wide, in plan. This was shown to be a relatively flat, compact surface, the upper plane of which showed some evidence of wear. It is with a high degree of confidence that this stratum is interpreted as a Roman road. As with Pit One, these pebbles did not appear to be a component of the local geology and are thus likely to have been imported especially for the purpose of creating a road surface.

The southern end of the surviving section of road (230) was bedded on a deposit of yellow gritty sand, (231). This appears to have been placed into a depression in the natural deposit, (232), to level the ground prior to the construction of the road. However, this was only partially successful as either insufficient quantities of (231) were deposited, or it subsequently subsided as a result of compaction caused by traffic.

The underlying natural, (232), contrasted with that exposed in Pits One and Four. There was no visible limestone brash, but rather, a relatively fine-grained reddish-orange sand, which contained virtually no coarse inclusions.

#### *West Facing Section*

At the northern end of Pit Two, the uppermost layer was the same mid-dark grey-brown sandy silt loam, (250) - c. 0.32m deep, noted in the section opposite, as (200). However, at the southern end of the pit this layer was partially truncated and overlain by a mottled mid to dark brownish-grey sandy silt, (260). This deposit was not homogenous and appeared to be composed of a series of fairly discrete blocks of material. The nature and location of (260) indicates that it is spoil derived from the excavation of the trench containing the steel water main, in c. 1979.

Beneath (250) was a yellowish grey-brown sandy silt, (251), which extended the full length of the trench, but varied in thickness from c. 0.05m at the south, to c. 0.25m at the northern end. The coarse components contained within (251) were comparable with those in the equivalent layer (201).

Beneath (251) was a thin band of pale yellowish-brown limestone rubble and occasional quartzite pebbles, (252). These sub-angular to sub-rounded stones were closely set, with the interstices filled by material derived from (253), below. The relatively even character of the upper surface of (252) and its absence in the east facing section, implies that this layer represents a north-south orientated road or trackway. Deposit (252) overlies the fills of one or more quarry pits, one of which, (261), contained a sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century creamware. This indicates that the surface can be assigned an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century provenance.

The probable metallised surface, (252), sealed a moderately plastic and slightly mottled mid grey-brown sandy clayey silt, (253). Coarse components included occasional to moderate quantities of charcoal, tile, pebbles and grits; there were also a small number of discrete blocks of yellowish sandy material. While the upper interface was

horizontal, the lower interface undulated markedly, resulting in (253) varying in thickness from c. 0.01m to 0.29m. It should be noted that (253) was the latest deposit, still *in-situ*, truncated by the excavation of the quarry pits located at the southern end of Pit Two. A single sherd of mid 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century Romano-British pottery was recovered from this layer, but it is probable that it was redeposited, as a fragment of a 4<sup>th</sup> century vessel came from (255), below. The interface between deposit (253) and the track surface (252) exhibited no evidence of any spoil from the quarries. Therefore, it is probable that the contemporary ground surface was truncated and levelled immediately prior to the construction of (252).

Layer (253) was situated above a very stony deposit, (254), which was equivalent to (229). This was almost totally comprised of sub-angular blocks of limestone rubble of up to c. 0.25m maximum dimension. Most of the rubble was tabular and sat horizontally, but some lay at an angle or was placed on end; this suggests that the stone was thrown down rather than placed, implying that it was a destruction deposit formed by the robbing of derelict Roman buildings. The interstices of (254) were filled by material similar to (253), and a further analogous stone-free deposit, (259), was situated beneath the rubble toward the centre of the trench.

A deposit of small to medium sized, water-rounded quartzite pebbles, (255), up to c. 0.12m thick, was situated beneath (254)/(259). A proportion of this layer comprised sub-rounded to sub-angular limestone rubble, having a maximum dimension of less than 0.1m. As with the portion exposed in the east facing section, i.e. (230), it was possible to clean back the overlying deposits to reveal a strip of (255) in plan. Again this was a relatively flat surface, which showed evidence of wear, strongly indicative of use as a road.

The exposed northern end of road (255) was bedded on a deposit of pale greyey-yellow silty coarse sand, (256), which is comparable with (231). The varying thickness of (256) suggests that it was deliberately deposited to level the ground surface prior to the construction of the road. The interface with the quartzite pebbles of (255) was defined by a c. 0.005m thick band of rusty staining; this was probably formed by surface water percolating through the road's metalling and drawing small particles of decaying vegetable matter with it.

The fill of a probable feature, [258], was sealed beneath (256). This appeared to be a small pit, posthole or gully c. 0.43m wide and c. 0.27m deep, with a truncated 'V'-shaped profile, having a narrow, flat base. The fill, a mid orange-brown sandy clayey silt, contained moderate quantities of grit and rounded quartzite pebbles, but no artefactual material. The natural, (257), into which it was cut, appeared to be of two relatively distinct types. The first, (257)a, was a relatively fine-grained reddy-brown silty sand, with occasional smallish coarse components. The other, (257)b, was a mid brown to cream sand and gravel mix (c. 50% of each). The sand was the orangey material in (257)a, and the gravel was rounded to sub-rounded limestone fragments less than 0.01m in diameter.

As noted above, the southern half of the trench had been heavily disturbed by the excavation of one or more quarry pits, which have been assigned the same number, [233], as the equivalent features in the east facing section. There were far fewer individual fills than revealed c. 3m to the west – i.e. seven (261) to (267); it was also

noted that there was a reduction in the quantity of limestone rubble within these west facing fills. Pottery, brick and tile fragments were recovered from these deposits. While some were Roman wares of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century or later, there was one sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century creamware in (261), which indicates that the earlier material is redeposited. The near vertical edges defining fill (261), and also those of (263), imply that some or all of these pits were back-filled quite quickly.

A copper alloy coin was recovered from the spoil heap, this being an issue of Constantius of AD 337-341.

### **5.3 Pit Three: Between Heath Road, Navenby and Chapel Lane (SK 9937 5746)**

The location of this pit has been recorded, but it proved impossible to produce any form of archaeological record. It was the smallest of the four pits examined, being c. 5m north-south by c. 2.5m east-west. Both of the vertical sections (i.e. the east and west facing sections) were completely masked by braced steel-plank shoring. The ground workers reported that there was a large quantity of stone present in the section, which was disturbed and destabilised by the bucket of the mechanical excavator. This necessitated the immediate insertion of support to prevent the sections from collapsing.

The north and south facing sections sloped at c. 30 degrees to the vertical, were covered by over-burden and also proved to be relatively unstable. A large portion of both was composed of backfill within the cut made for the original steel trunk main. Access to the base of the pit was by ladder and movement was constrained by the bars bracing the shoring. As a consequence it was decided that there was an unacceptable level of risk of injury and the pit was not entered by the field-team.

The excavations of 1994 (Palmer-Brown, 1995) were conducted in the field situated directly to the west of pit three. Both the data retrieved from that episode of archaeological investigation, and the evidence recovered from Pits One and Two (see above), would suggest that a significant quantity of archaeological material was exposed in Pit Three.

### **5.4 Pit Four: At the Junction of High Dike and Green Man Road (SK 9928 5812)**

*(see figure 5)*

As originally excavated, this pit was c. 4.5m north-south by c. 2.5m east-west; it was subsequently extended toward the north, finally measuring c. 6.0m long. The area of the northern extension had been heavily disturbed, (405), by the insertion of a large concrete block and a valve, part of the works associated with the earlier steel pipeline. Additionally, the southern c. 3.6m of the pit was shored by braced steel planking on both the east and west facing sections.

This left a strip of visible, stratified deposits c. 0.75m wide, which was sandwiched between the shoring and the disturbances at the northern end of the pit. These deposits were archaeologically sterile, the only evidence relating to human activity being a deposit of limestone rubble, (401), c. 0.08m thick sandwiched between the modern

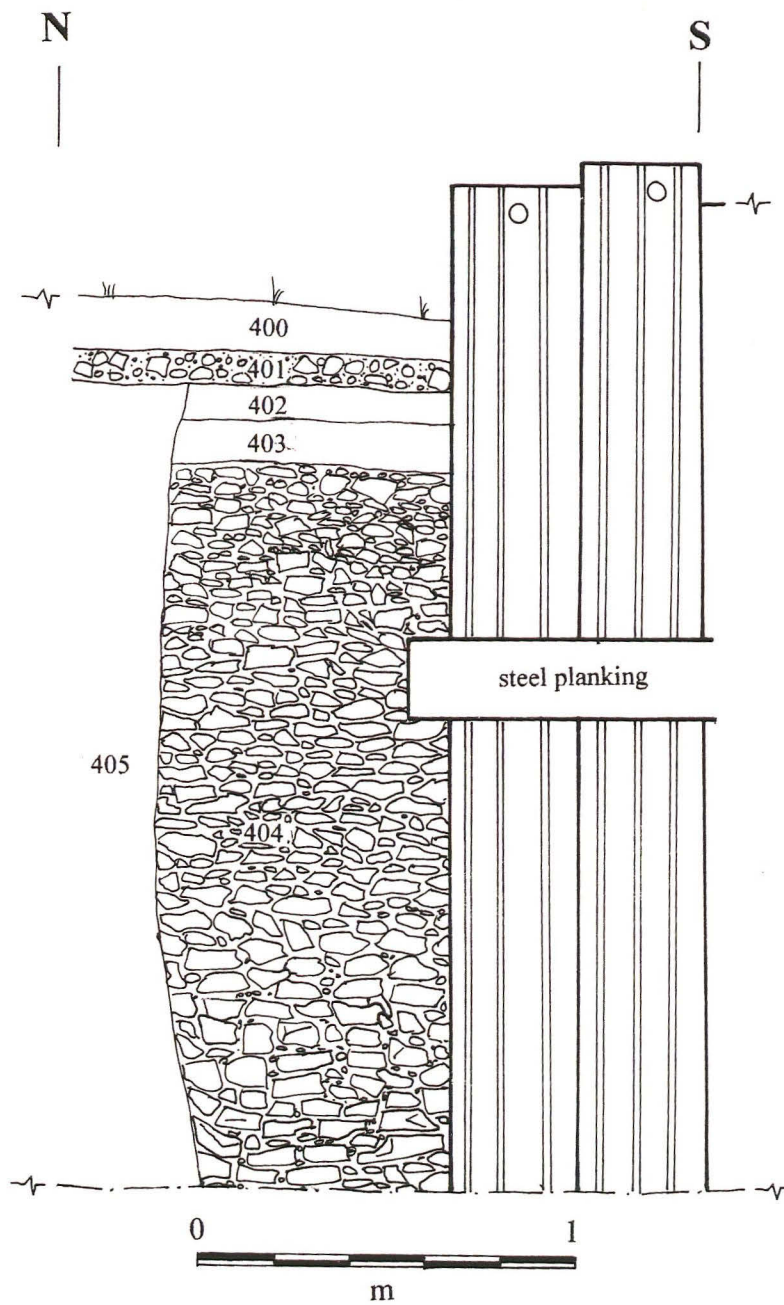


Figure 5: Pit Four – West facing, representative section.

topsoil (400) and its recent predecessor (402). The rubble deposit (401) is a remnant of the spoil generated during the insertion of the steel pipe and valve.

Below the buried topsoil, (402), is a well-developed and fairly homogenous sub-soil, (403) of c. 0.1m depth. This sits directly upon clean creamy-yellow limestone rubble, (404), generally, having a maximum dimension no bigger than 0.1m near the upper interface. The rubble was set in a matrix of creamy coloured sand, the product of degrading limestone. This is a naturally formed deposit of limestone brash, the uppermost c. 1.9m of which was examined. It is notable that the size of the limestone rubble increased with depth, having a maximum dimension of up to 0.25m at the base of the section; the blocks also became less tabular and more greyey-white toward the base of the pit.

There was no evidence of the Roman road, which is believed to pass through Green Man Road at this point. However, during a previous pipeline replacement along the western edge of High Dike, it was noted that there was a considerable amount of modern disturbance at this point (Snee & Palmer-Brown, 1999). These earlier trenches, for a water main and a gas main, may have largely obliterated the Roman deposits in this location.

## 6.0 Discussion and conclusions

The data recovered during the watching brief provides insights into both the form of Ermine Street and of the flanking Romano-British settlement at Navenby. Additionally, while the programme of work only entailed the opening and investigation of a small number of pits within the area of the Roman small town, the depth of stratigraphy (at up to 1.80m of archaeological interest), and the artefactual material contained within these deposits, suggests that the nature of the archaeology on the eastern side of High Dike, and its level of preservation, equals that of the deposits already investigated on Chapel Heath (*q.v.* Palmer-Brown, 1995; 1997).

Aside from the Roman and post-medieval deposits, there was very little evidence for human activity. However, it is significant that there was a deposit, (019), below the earliest road surface, (020), that showed indications of anthropogenic modification. Iron staining suggested that the deposit had once had a high organic content, and the incorporation of flecks of charcoal throughout the layer suggests that this material had been 'turned' or dug-over on one or more occasions. Moreover, this deposit was comparable with the modern soils examined in the fields to the west (e.g. Palmer-Brown & Rylatt, 1999), as it had a similar thickness, rested directly upon the cornbrash natural, and had a horizontal interface with the latter, which in the modern example is a product of plough truncation of the natural deposits.

Consequently, it is suggested that (019) represents a soil buried when Ermine Street was constructed. As this road was the main corridor for military expansion and consolidation northwards into the county, it is likely to have been constructed at an early stage of the occupation, around the middle of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (Whitwell, 1992). While no dating evidence was recovered during this programme of work to support this hypothesis, the road surface certainly appears to pre-date all other Romano-British activity. This effectively suggests that the incorporation of charcoal into (019) pre-dates the mid-1<sup>st</sup> century. This provides tentative evidence of prehistoric activity, possibly cultivation, which may be associated with late Iron Age enclosures situated c. 300m to the north-west (Palmer-Brown, 1995).

A similar argument can be used to provide a tentative date for a small pit or gully exposed in the west facing section of Pit Two. Dating evidence was not recovered from the fill of this feature, but it lay directly beneath material probably laid down as bedding for the Roman road surface, (255).

The nature of the road surface, (020)/(255), is also of considerable interest. This was largely manufactured from unmortared, water-rounded, sub-oval quartzite pebbles, of up to 0.05m long, laid directly upon the ground surface. Walking over fields to the east and west of High Dike demonstrates that there is only a very sparse distribution of similar pebbles. This factor combined with evidence from previous excavations, which have revealed that there are no drift deposits and the ploughsoil in these areas often sits directly upon the regolith, makes it possible to state that the metalling for the road is likely to have been imported. The source is likely to remain unknown<sup>1</sup>, but

<sup>1</sup> Logic would suggest that the quarries were located in the direction from which the road was constructed, so that carters could utilise the finished section to ease transportation. However, it remains impossible to establish whether this section of road was built from north to south (e.g. by the garrison at Lincoln), or from south to north, the direction of movement of the invading forces.

the quarries must have been quite extensive as the volumes of material involved must be truly astounding. Similar surfaces were detected in both Pit One and Pit Two, which are c. 580m apart. To merely cover this distance would have involved the movement of hundreds of cartloads of stone, and the task becomes even more impressive when considering the extent of the road to the north and south of the study area.

box 99/k The pebble road surface (020)/(230)/(255) also appears to have been detected by a watching brief conducted during the replacement of a water main running along the western edge of the High Dike, running parallel to, and c. 10m from, the present scheme of works (Snee & Palmer-Brown, 1999). Two test pits, 6.5, located c. 85m south of Pit Two, and 6.6, c. 14m closer, contained surfaces composed of quartzite pebbles and limestone fragments resting upon natural deposits. As neither an eastern nor western edge was found to this metalling during either phase of work, and assuming they all represent parts of the same structure, it is suggested that this early road exceeded 13m in width.

No evidence of a second metalled was detected in Pits One and Two, but this is not the case with respect to test pits 6.5 and 6.6. In the former, a layer of medium sized cobbles, (614)a, sealed the earlier surface. In 6.6 the two surfaces were very similar in character, but were separated by a deposit of sand. This fundamental difference between the number of deposits on the east and west sides of High Dyke suggests that the later road was either narrower than its predecessor, or had migrated slightly toward the west. The eastern side of this later surface presumably lies beneath the modern road.

There is a body of evidence to indicate that the width of Ermine Street changed along its course, and that this must reflect both chronological and spatial variation. Sections of the road have been exposed at a variety of places, including Appleby, Broughton, Ingham Lane, Lincoln and Scampton. Examination has demonstrated that the width varied between c. 4.2m and 6.2m, with the mean lying at 6.0m (Whitwell, 1992). This would suggest that the surfaces examined on the eastern and western sides of the road at Navenby either belong to different phases, or are part of an exceptionally wide section of the road. In the former scenario, we could be observing another example of lateral migration. However, an argument can also be presented for the existence of a wider carriageway at this location.

A section through the Roman road surface was exposed at Coleby Heath, c. 4km to the north of the Romano-British small town at Navenby. This was constructed from compacted limestone fragments to form a cambered surface c. 8.7 m wide (Snee & Palmer-Brown, 1999). A further excavation, c. 360m to the north of the Coleby Heath crossroads, was carried out in 1980 (Chowne, 1987). This revealed two phases of surfacing and an associated ditch defining the western side of the carriageway. The second surface was c. 7.5m wide and had been constructed directly over the original *agger*, which exceeded 15m in width.

Other recent excavations indicate that there was some form of nucleated settlement bracketing the road at Navenby, which had attained the size of a Romano-British 'small town' by the 4<sup>th</sup> century. This settlement has an Iron Age precursor (Palmer-Brown, 1995), which may indicate some form of continuity of occupation from late

prehistory through the Roman period. This indigenous settlement may have acted as a catalyst for the development of the site shortly after the conquest, also resulting in the enhancement of the road.

It was only possible to examine one east-west section through the road, so the evidence amounts to a single partial profile, but as has been noted elsewhere along Ermine Street (Whitwell, 1992), the road surface appears to have had a significant camber. It rose toward the western edge of Pit Two, an increase of c. 0.4m height in c. 2.3m of lateral movement.

Another factor common to Pits One and Two is the presence of significant quantities of limestone rubble in the strata sealing the road surfaces. There can be little doubt that this is demolition material representing the remains of Romano-British structures. This was the conclusion also reached with respect to a layer of large limestone rubble discovered in pit 6.5, located on the western side of High Dike (see above - Snee & Palmer-Brown, 1999).

There was only one layer in Pit Two that contained significant quantities of limestone rubble. The majority of the stone was sub-angular, tabular and generally had a maximum dimension of less than 0.15m, although pieces up to 0.25m long were noted. In Pit One there were two layers of rubble. The lower deposit, (030), contained a large quantity of sub-angular limestone rubble. Most of this was again fairly small and was noticeably denser in the southern half of the layer. The upper deposit, (025)/(010), is larger than (030), being up to 0.25m deep in places. Randomly disposed fragments of limestone, of the same order of size, represented up to c. 60% of the deposit. Again, this material was differentially distributed, with greater quantities occurring toward the south. This localised distribution of stone suggests that it originated from a structure situated immediately to the south or south-east of Pit One.

Pottery recovered from (025)/(010); was of a later Romano-British provenance, with one sherd providing a more specific 4<sup>th</sup> century date. It is difficult to know how to view this cultural material, as there is inevitably some ambiguity as to its origins. One possibility is that it may be directly associated with the demolition of the structures, in which case, this event would have taken place toward the end of imperial control, potentially being associated with the general abandonment of the settlement. Another supposition is that this material is derived from occupation horizons; the demolition of the buildings obviously involved the reworking of some materials, including the stone and timbers, so it is entirely possible that deposits abutting these structures were also disturbed. The corollary of this latter argument, is that the demolition event resulting in the creation of (025)/(010) could have occurred at any time after the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

It is difficult to adjudge which of these proposals is more likely, but there is one aspect of the deposit that may provide circumstantial evidence to support the second hypothesis. It is evident that in all cases, the demolition deposits were composed of relatively small fragments of limestone. However, excavations on Chapel Heath (e.g. Trench 4 – Palmer-Brown, 1995) have shown that significantly larger pieces of stone were utilised in the construction of the Romano-British buildings at Navenby. Consequently, it seems likely that the rubble layers represent a residue of stone robbing events, the largest stones having been removed for reuse elsewhere.



With this in mind, it is profitable to consider where the stone was being reused. Navenby contains a number of buildings of some antiquity, which are constructed from Lincolnshire Limestone (Rostron, 1973; Pevsner & Harris, 1989). With the exception of the medieval church, these structures were erected in the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, possibly suggesting that prior to this period the local domestic building tradition was primarily centred on construction in timber. If this were the case, then the transformation of Navenby into a settlement of stone houses appears to offer the first opportunity in which the robbing of stone, rather than its complete removal, would have proved a profitable exercise. The survival of upstanding Roman remains into the post-medieval period is not unprecedented in the county; John Leland commented upon the exposure of stone structures at Ancaster during the 16<sup>th</sup> century (Chandler, 1993). Therefore, it is not inconceivable that in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the verges of the High Dike consisted of a multitude of low, grassy banks and mounds. The absence of dating material derived from the period between the cessation of Roman activity and the 18<sup>th</sup> century within Pits One and Two, would also suggest that this area was little utilised during this period.

The composition of the rubble layers provides further insights into the nature of the settlement. Very little tile was observed or recovered from any of these deposits. If the roofs of these structures had been tiled, dereliction and robbing would have generated a multitude of small fragments, even if the larger pieces had been removed for reuse elsewhere. Consequently, it is concluded that most, if not all, of the buildings in the settlement had organic roofing materials, such as thatch or wooden shingles. Further support for this theory comes from the single identifiable fragment of tile, which appears to be a bonding tile, utilised to help strengthen masonry walls (Appendix 12.2). The presence of the latter may also indicate that the stone walls stood proud of the ground surface and were not merely sleeper walls for a timber-framed superstructure.

The presence of rubble spreads in both Pit One and Pit Two suggests that the intervening space was completely built up in the later Roman period. This would equate to a settlement in excess of 600m long. While Pit Four appears to demonstrate that the small town did not reach as far as Green Man Road to the north, its extent to the south is more uncertain. Work carried out since 1994, primarily in the area contained between Ermine Street and Chapel Lane, has shown that in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century to later 4<sup>th</sup> century AD the west side of Ermine Street was occupied by an extensive ribbon development (Palmer-Brown, 1995). This development was of several different phases, and the stone buildings incorporate internal floors and plastered walls. There is now some corroborative evidence for a similar disposition on the eastern side of the road.

The complex of pits exposed at the southern end of Pit Two is also of some interest. They appear to have been excavated for the extraction of a fine-grained reddy-orange sand present in this area. This must be a highly localised deposit, as it has been demonstrated that limestone brash is the uppermost natural deposit in areas to both the north and south; it therefore seems probable that this material represents the fill of a peri-glacial palaeo-channel. These pits were relatively deep and had especially steep sides, despite the propensity of the remaining natural deposits to collapse. This suggests that they were immediately backfilled. Several pieces of Romano-British

ceramic were recovered from the fills, but the sherd of 18<sup>th</sup> century creamware provides the most likely date for this activity. It is therefore possible that the sand was being extracted to be used as a constituent of mortar, which coincides with the known date for the construction of houses in village. Furthermore, the pits appear to continue beneath the modern road, either suggesting that at that time it followed a slightly different course, or that the limited nature of the sand deposits made them sufficiently important to temporarily impede the carriageway.

## 7.0 Effectiveness of methodology

Each of the pits described in this document had been located over the area of ground previously disturbed by the insertion of the earlier steel water main. However, the latter had been placed into a continuous trench, c. 1.0m wide, whereas the pits were somewhat wider, removing material from either side of the trench fill. Effectively this resulted in the extraction of c. 16m<sup>3</sup> of stratified archaeological deposits from Pit One and c. 28m<sup>3</sup> from Pit Two.

The methodology employed resulted in the examination of each two-dimensional vertical surface, where it was safe to do so. However, while this exposes the full range of deposits present in any narrow vertical sequence, it also reduces the possibility of recovering secure dating material from any particular one, by removing adjacent areas of the deposit. Additionally, the investigation of small areas of a deposit in section is probably less useful than seeing a similar area in plan, if it is necessary to determine exactly what this material represents.

However, the only real alternative methodology would have been total excavation by hand of each of the pits. This would have involved the movement of large amounts of spoil, much from the homogenised and essentially sterile deposits filling the pipe trench. Furthermore, it would have considerably increased the timescale of the archaeological fieldwork. When these factors are considered, it becomes questionable as to whether a better understanding of what were essentially very small keyholes through the extensive archaeological deposits at Navenby would have justified this form of intervention.

The fieldwork conducted enabled the depth of stratified archaeological deposits to be established, and also provided further dating for Roman activity in this area. Additionally, it provided more indications as to the extent and nature of that activity. Consequently, it is proposed that this programme of work has satisfactorily achieved its objectives.

## 8.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) express sincere thanks to Anglian Water Services Ltd. for funding this programme of investigation. In particular, thanks are expressed to Mr R. Smedmore for his assistance during the project.

The cooperation of the contractors is also gratefully acknowledged, specific thanks being extended to Mr R. Dennison of Dean and Dyball and to the ground workers employed by Subterra.

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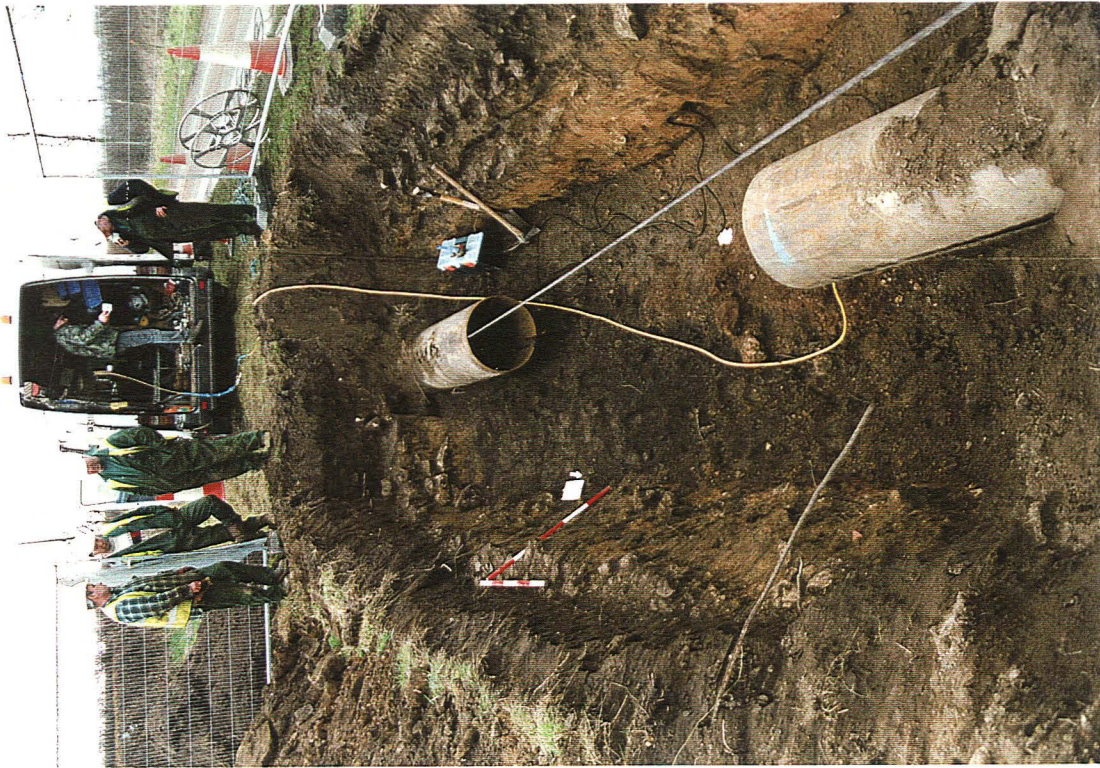
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**II**

## **10.0 Site Archive**

The site archive for this project is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincoln City and County Museum (physical) and the Lincolnshire Archives Office (documentary) within six months. Access to the archive may be granted by quoting the global accession number 2000.141.

# 11.0 APPENDICES

## Appendix 11.1 Colour photographs



**Plate 1:** Pit One – general view taken during a hull in the programme of archaeological recording, resulting from an examination of the existing pipeline, looking south.



**Plate 2:** Pit One – west facing section, looking north-east.



Plate 3: Pit One – east facing section, looking west.

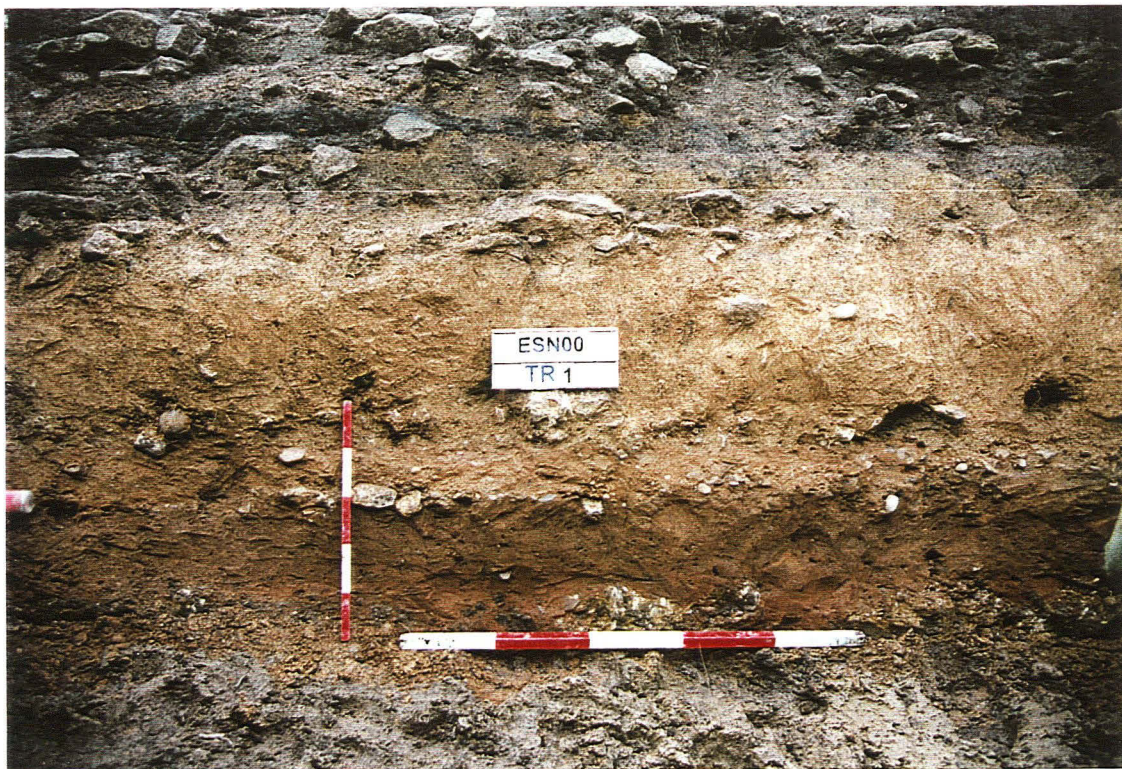


Plate 4: Pit One – close up of the base of the east facing section, showing the Roman road surface (020), situated at the interface between the orangey-brown ?buried soil, (019), and the yellowy material, (021), looking west.

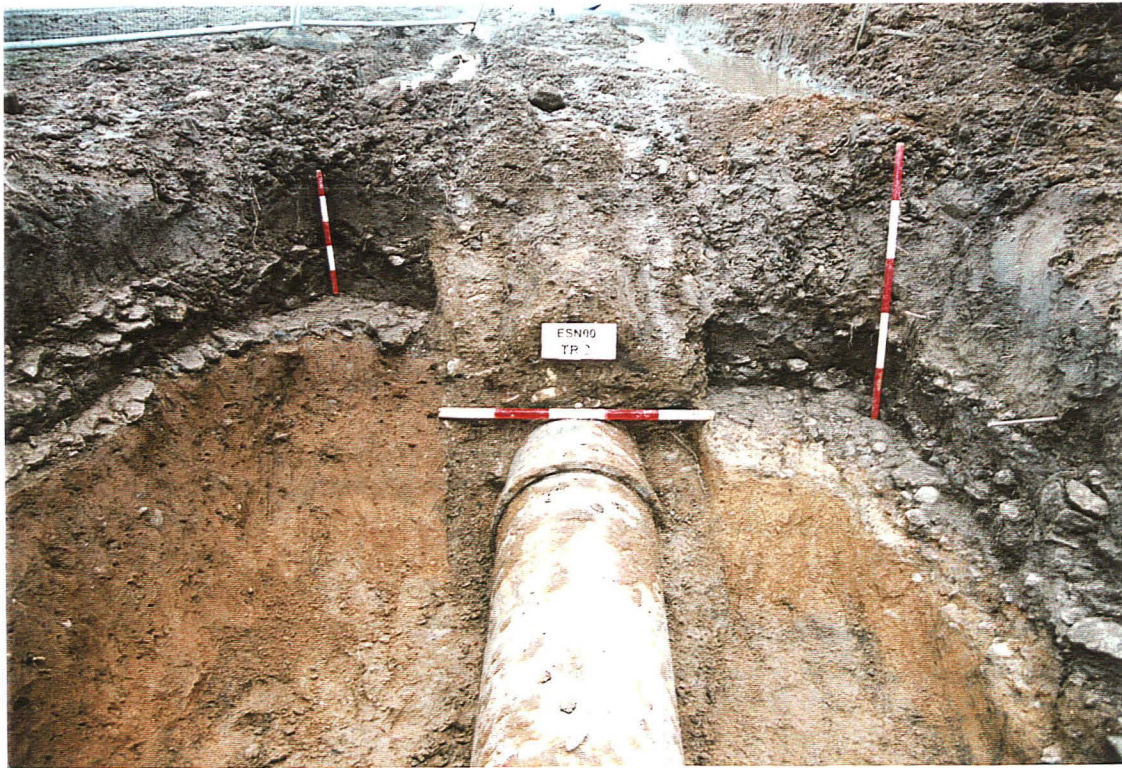




**Plate 5:** Pit Two – east facing section, looking west. Note that the fills of the quarry pit(s), [233], are of a distinctly different nature to the earlier, truncated deposits on the right hand third of the picture.



**Plate 6:** Pit Two – west facing section, looking east. Predominantly showing the fills of the quarry pit(s), [233], with earlier deposits in the left hand quarter of the picture.



**Plate 7:** Pit Two – south facing section, looking north. The steel trunk main and the fill of the pipe trench occupy the centre of the picture. The two vertical scales are resting directly upon exposed sections of the Roman road surface, (255); the eastern section is much lower as a result of the camber of the road.



**Plate 8:** Pit Two – east facing section, looking west. Close up of the north-west corner of the pit, showing the exposed surface of Ermine Street, with the vertical scale resting directly upon it. Overlying this surface is a substantial deposit of limestone rubble, (229).

**REPORT 64 ON THE POTTERY FROM NAVENBY, ESN00****for PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

by Margaret J. Darling, M.Phil., F.S.A., M.I.F.A.

22 June 2000

**QUANTITY AND CONDITION**

The pottery came from 25 contexts and unstratified, and amounted to 139 sherds weighing 2.250kg. The condition is generally good, although some contexts produced sherds which were abraded. The average sherd weight was 16g. No problems are anticipated for long term storage. The pottery has been archived using count and weight as measures according to the guidelines laid down for the minimum archive by *The Study Group for Roman Pottery*. A copy of the database is attached (and can be supplied on disk), and will be curated for future study. The separate dot finds numbers for certain sherds related to their location on the section drawing are recorded in the last field of the database, and are listed with individual dates in Appendix 1.

The pottery quantities and dating by context is shown on Table 1.

**Table 1 Quantities, dating and comments.**

Cxt	Sherds	Weight	Date	Comments
U-S	17	415	TO VL4	Some abrasion
001	25	351	4C PROB	Flint flake;slag frag
002	1	1	3-4C	
003	8	63	3-4C PROB	
004	18	147	L3-4	
006	3	48	ML2-3	Some abrasion
011	3	42	M2-3	
016	15	222	4C PROB;POSTRO	
021	2	12	ROM	Tile only
022	1	26	ROM	
025	11	385	4C	Some abrasion
027	1	9	ROM	
028	1	5	ROM	
029	1	3	ROM	
030	1	11	ROM	
031	1	4	M1-2	Some abrasion
035	5	145	L2+	
038	6	169	4C	Some abrasion
040	6	36	ROM;?LATE	
040-P1	1	7	3-4C?	
221	1	2	ROM	Tile only
224	1	63	ROM	Tile only
234	1	7	ROM	
253	1	11	M1-2	
255	1	8	ROM OR ?4C	
263	7	58	3C+?	
Total	139	2250		

Only four contexts contained more than 10 sherds, many of the single sherd contexts being largely undatable. No sherd links were noted between contexts.

## OVERVIEW OF FABRICS

The fabrics represented are listed in table 2.

Fabric	Code	Sherds	%	Weight	%
Dressel 20 amphora	DR20	1	0.72	248	11.02
Dalesware shell-gritted	DWSH	2	1.44	85	3.78
Grey	GREY	86	61.87	1299	57.73
IA tradition gritty	IAGR?	1	0.72	4	0.18
Nene Valley colour-coat	NVCC	17	12.23	111	4.93
Nene Valley Parchment ware	NVPA?	2	1.44	30	1.33
Oxidized	OX	1	0.72	18	0.80
Post-Roman	PRO	1	0.72	2	0.09
Post-Roman?	PRO?	1	0.72	15	0.67
Samian Central Gaul	SAMCG	4	2.88	145	6.44
Samian Central Gaul?	SAMCG?	1	0.72	13	0.58
Shell-gritted	SHEL	9	6.47	103	4.58
Swanpool colour-coated	SPCC	1	0.72	14	0.62
Swanpool oxidized	SPOX	2	1.44	11	0.49
Swanpool oxidized?	SPOX?	1	0.72	36	1.60
Tile	TILE	9	6.47	116	5.16
Total		139		2250	

## DISCUSSION

The occurrence of vessels in colour-coated and oxidized fabrics from the late Lincoln Swanpool kilns, Dales ware, later Nene Valley colour-coated vessels all indicate that the predominant dating lies in the later Roman period, 3rd to 4th centuries. A number of the grey sherds are in a fabric containing a scatter of shell inclusions, noted in late groups in Lincoln. Some of the grey ware sherds are almost certainly from the late Swanpool kilns. A single amphora body sherd from a Spanish olive oil Dressel 20 came from 025, the fabric fitting the latest types imported up to the mid 3rd century. A relatively rare vessel is a dish copying the samian form 36 in Nene Valley parchment ware; colour-coated versions are known from the kilns at Stanground of the earlier part of the 3rd century, and these seem to be closer to the East Gaulish versions of the form. These also occur, however, at the Stibbington kilns, indicating a probable 4th century date. The 2nd century is represented by samian from Central Gaul (one sherd might be from East Gaul), including a base of a form 31 bowl with a complete potter's stamp. Only the occasional sherd is likely to be of earlier date; a single body sherd in an Iron Age tradition fabric (IAGR), akin to Trent Valley ware came from 031, but the fabric continues into the 2nd century. There is also a shell-gritted body sherd probably from a cooking pot, hand-made, from 253 which might be late Iron Age but could equally belong in the later 1st century.

The few tile fragments are too fragmentary for certain identification, although one fragment is more likely to be from a bonding tile or similar rather than a roofing tile.

A glazed post-Roman sherd occurred in 016, and a burnt base fragment from 001 may also be of post-Roman date.

The date-range of the pottery therefore could extend back into the 1st century, and continues through to the 4th century, probably to the latter half.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Only two vessels were considered to be possibly worth illustrating, a bead-and-flange bowl from 001 in a late grey fabric with a scatter of shell inclusions, and the copy of the samian form 36 in Nene Valley parchment ware, unfortunately unstratified.

\*\*A rubbing of the samian stamp should be submitted to Brian Hartley and Brenda Dickinson at Leeds for identification and recording in the Leeds Index of Stamps.

**\*\*6 July 2000 Report on samian stamp received from Brenda Dickinson.**

MERCUSSA I, 4b. Form 31. Reading: MER[C]USSEM (final E retrograde and ligatured with a splayed M). This stamp is known from Lezoux. There is no dating for this die, but other dies occur either side of AD160. He stamps forms 18/31R, 27, 79, 80 and Tx. Dating c AD 150-180.

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## APPENDIX 1

### Details of finds located on section drawings

Dot No	Cxt	Fabric	Form	Manuf+	Ves	Details	Shs	Wt	Date
001	002	NVCC	-	ROUZ	-	BS CHIP;POSS BOX;BOWL;THICK BKR?	1	1	3-4c
002	003	GREY	-	-	-	BS CHIP;RB CORE	1	2	3-4c?
003	025	GREY	BD	-	-	BS PROB FRAG BASE	1	3	Rom
004	030	GREY	BD	-	-	BASE FRAG	1	11	Rom
005	027	GREY	BD	-	-	BS	1	9	Rom
006	025	GREY	CLSD?	-	1	BSS TWIN GROOVES;BURNISH EXT	2	14	Rom
012	025	GREY	CLSD	-	-	BS	1	17	Rom
014	035	GREY	JBK?	-	-	BS GROOVED;WELL BURNISH EXT	1	6	Rom
015	025	GREY	JB?	-	-	BS ADJ BASE;POSS BWM?	1	24	3-4c
016	025	DR20	A	-	-	BS LATER FAB	1	248	EM3
017	035	SAMCG	31	NAME	1	FTRG/WALL;STMP MER..SS.M COMPLETE ABR	3	135	L2
018	025	GREY	CLSD	-	-	BS GRITTY FAB NR LCOA?	1	13	3-4c
019	003	GREY	CLSD	-	-	BS JBK?	1	10	Rom
020	025	SHEL	J	WM	-	BS OXID RB;PUNCT.BRACH	1	12	3-4c
021	025	GREY	-	-	-	BS VABR	1	4	Rom
021	025	SPCC	B?	-	-	FTRG BASE;GRY CORE;DKRED CC	1	14	4c
022	022	GREY	BD	-	-	BASE FRAG	1	26	Rom
025	029	GREY	J	-	-	BS L'SCALE INT	1	3	Rom

Cxt	Fabric	Form	Manuf+	Ves	D?	DNo	Details	Link	Shs	Weight	DotNo
001	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BSS	-	11	73	-
001	GREY	BFB	-	1	D	-	RIMSWALL;HOOK FLANGE;SCATTER SHELL INCLS;BURNISHED	-	3	148	-
001	GREY	BWM?	BIWL?	-	-	-	BS;TWIN GROOVES;BIWL BODY	-	1	46	-
001	GREY	JBK?	-	-	-	-	BASE SMALL PLAIN	-	1	12	-
001	GREY	JBK?	-	-	-	-	UPR PLAIN RIM 14CM DIAM	-	1	7	-
001	GREY	JCUR	-	-	-	-	RIM FRAG	-	1	7	-
001	NVCC	DPR	-	-	-	-	WALL PT RIM;CR FAB	-	1	12	-
001	NVCC	F?	-	-	-	-	BS NR BASE;CC EXT ONLY;CR FAB	-	1	11	-
001	PRO?	CLSD?	-	-	-	-	CR-BROWN BASE FRAG;WM;H.BURNT UNDERSIDE	-	1	15	-
001	SHEL	J?	-	-	-	-	CHIP ONLY;SOOTED;POSS DW	-	1	2	-
001	SHEL	J?	-	1	-	-	BSS;SOOTED;V SMOOTH INT;?WM	-	2	13	-
001	SHEL	JLS?	-	-	-	-	PLAIN RIM FRAG;DKGRY THRO	-	1	5	-
<b>001</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4C PROB</b>	-	-	-	-
001	ZZZ	-	-	-	-	-	FLINT FLAKE;SLAG FRAG	-	-	-	-
002	NVCC	-	ROUZ	-	-	-	BS CHIP;POSS BOX;BOWL;THICK BKR?	-	1	1	1
<b>002</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3-4C</b>	-	-	-	-
003	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BS CHIP;RB CORE	-	1	2	2
003	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BS OXID INT	-	1	1	-
003	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BSS	-	2	24	-
003	GREY	-	BL	2	-	-	BSS;TRACES BL DECOR	-	2	16	-
003	GREY	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS JBK?	-	1	10	19
003	GREY	JB	-	-	-	-	BS;BURNT POST FRAC?	-	1	10	-
<b>003</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3-4C PROB</b>	-	-	-	-
004	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BSS	-	7	40	-
004	GREY	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS SCATTER SHELL INCLS	-	1	4	-
004	GREY	JB	-	-	-	-	BS BASAL AREA;BURNISHED EXT	-	1	38	-
004	GREY	JB	BL	-	-	-	BS HARSH DKGRY FAB;TRACE BURNISH LINE	-	1	15	-
004	GREY	JCUR?	-	-	-	-	RIMFRAG	-	1	3	-
004	NVCC	-	ROUZ	-	-	-	BS THICKISH;BOX OR SIMILAR?	-	1	2	-
004	NVCC	BD	-	-	-	-	BASE;PT WALL;LTBN FAB	-	1	31	-
004	NVCC	BK	-	-	-	-	BS;CR FAB	-	1	1	-
004	NVCC	BK	ROUZ	2	-	-	BSS;BOTH RB FABS	-	2	2	-
004	NVCC	D	-	-	-	-	BS GROOVED INT;BLK CC;LATE PLATE?	-	1	9	-
004	NVCC	F?	-	-	-	-	BS;CR FAB;CC EXT ONLY	-	1	2	-
<b>004</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>L3-4</b>	-	-	-	-
006	GREY	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS NR BASE	-	1	22	-
006	GREY	DTR?	-	-	-	-	RIM VABR/PT WALL	-	1	8	-
006	OX	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS LTRB GRYISH CORE;GREY TYPE FAB	-	1	18	-
<b>006</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>ML2-3</b>	-	-	-	-
011	GREY	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS	-	1	12	-
011	GREY	J	-	-	-	-	BASE STRING;SMALL JAR	-	1	17	-
011	SAMCG?	BD	-	-	-	-	BS;ABR;POSS EG?	-	1	13	-
<b>011</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>M2-3</b>	-	-	-	-

016	DWSH	JDW	-	-	-	-	RIM FRAG	-	1	8	-
016	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BSS	-	6	74	-
016	GREY	B?	-	-	-	-	BS HARSH DKGRY;TRIMMED CHAMFER	-	1	57	-
016	GREY	DPR	-	-	-	-	RIM FRAG	-	1	3	-
016	GREY	JB	-	-	-	-	BASE PLAIN	-	1	52	-
016	NVCC	BK?	-	-	-	-	BS;CR-BN FAB	-	1	2	-
016	NVCC	BK?	ROUZ	-	-	-	BS;CR-BN FAB	-	1	1	-
016	PRO	-	-	-	-	-	GLAZED RB	-	1	2	-
016	SHEL	J?	-	-	-	-	BS SPARSE SHELL;LTRB INT;GRYBN EXT	-	1	16	-
016	SPOX	BD	-	-	-	-	ANGLED BS;GROOVE BELOW ANGLE	-	1	7	-
016	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	4C PROB;POSTRO	-	-	-	-
021	TILE	-	-	-	-	-	FRAGS;FINER FAB;DKGRY CORE	-	2	12	-
021	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	ROM	-	-	-	-
022	GREY	BD	-	-	-	-	BASE FRAG	-	1	26	22
022	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	ROM	-	-	-	-
025	DR20	A	-	-	-	-	BS LATER FAB	-	1	248	16
025	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BS VABR	-	1	4	21
025	GREY	BD	-	-	-	-	BS PROB FRAG BASE	-	1	3	3
025	GREY	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS GRITTY FAB NR LCOA?	-	1	13	18
025	GREY	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS	-	1	17	12
025	GREY	CLSD?	-	1	-	-	BSS TWIN GROOVES;BURNISH EXT	-	2	14	6
025	GREY	JB?	-	-	-	-	BS ADJ BASE;POSS BWM?	-	1	24	15
025	SHEL	J	WM	-	-	-	BS OXID RB;PUNCT.BRACH	-	1	12	20
025	SPCC	B?	-	-	-	-	FTRG BASE;GRY CORE;DKRED CC	-	1	14	21
025	SPOX?	B38	-	-	-	-	RIM;BROKEN FLANGE;PT WALL	-	1	36	-
025	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	4C	-	-	-	-
027	GREY	BD	-	-	-	-	BS	-	1	9	5
027	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	ROM	-	-	-	-
028	GREY	JBK?	-	-	-	-	BS THIN WALL	-	1	5	-
028	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	ROM	-	-	-	-
029	GREY	J	-	-	-	-	BS L'SCALE INT	-	1	3	25
029	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	ROM	-	-	-	-
030	GREY	BD	-	-	-	-	BASE FRAG	-	1	11	4
030	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	ROM	-	-	-	-
031	IAGR?	-	-	-	-	-	BS VABR;BURNT	-	1	4	-
031	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	M1-2	-	-	-	-
035	GREY	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS	-	1	4	-
035	GREY	JBK?	-	-	-	-	BS GROOVED;WELL BURNISH EXT	-	1	6	14
035	SAMCG	31	NAME	1	-	-	FTRG/WALL;STMP MER..SS.M COMPLETE ABR	-	3	135	17
035	ZDATE	-	-	-	-	-	L2+	-	-	-	-
038	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BS	-	1	21	-
038	GREY	CLSD	BSCRIB	-	-	-	BS SCRIBBLE DEC	-	1	9	-
038	GREY	JB	-	-	-	-	BASE PLAIN;VABR	-	1	110	-
038	NVCC	BK	-	-	-	-	BASAL ZONE W FIRING LINE;LTRB FAB	-	1	23	-

038	NVCC	BK?	ROUZ	-	-	-	BS CR-BN FAB	-	1	2	-
038	SPOX	BD?	-	-	-	-	BS BURNISH INT/EXT	-	1	4	-
<b>038</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4C</b>	-	-	-	-
040	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BSS	-	3	13	-
040	GREY	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS OCCASIONAL SHELL	-	1	12	-
040	GREY	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS RB INTERIOR	-	1	7	-
040	GREY	JBCUR	-	-	-	-	RIMFRAG	-	1	4	-
<b>040</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>ROM;?LATE</b>	-	-	-	-
040-P1	GREY	JB	-	-	-	-	RIM FRAG;HIGH BURNISH;BNK OR J?	-	1	7	-
<b>040-P1</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3-4C?</b>	-	-	-	-
040-P1	ZZZ	-	-	-	-	-	NOT CLOSELY DATABLE	-	-	-	-
221	TILE	-	-	-	-	-	FRAG NO SURFS	-	1	2	-
<b>221</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>ROM</b>	-	-	-	-
224	TILE	-	-	-	-	-	CORNER FRAG;THICK ?BOND;LT FAB	-	1	63	-
<b>224</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>ROM</b>	-	-	-	-
234	GREY	CLSD	-	-	-	-	BS	-	1	7	-
<b>234</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>ROM</b>	-	-	-	-
253	SHEL	CP?	HM?	-	-	-	BS SOOTED;HARD GRY FAB;SHSM	-	1	11	-
<b>253</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>M1-2</b>	-	-	-	-
255	GREY	J?	-	-	-	-	SHLDR FRAG;HARSH FAB	-	1	8	-
<b>255</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>ROM OR ?4C</b>	-	-	-	-
263	GREY	JH?	-	-	-	-	HDLE FRAG;CONCAVE FACE;J OR F?	-	1	15	-
263	NVPA?	CLSD	PA	-	-	-	BS CREAM;TRACE PA DIAGONAL LINE	-	1	4	-
263	TILE	-	-	-	-	-	FRAGS/CHIPS	-	5	39	-
<b>263</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3C+?</b>	-	-	-	-
U-S	DWSH	JDW	-	-	-	-	RIM	-	1	77	-
U-S	GREY	-	-	-	-	-	BSS	-	3	54	-
U-S	GREY	BFB	-	-	-	-	RIM/PT WALL	-	1	29	-
U-S	GREY	JB	-	-	-	-	BASE STRING	-	1	81	-
U-S	GREY	JB	BIWL?	-	-	-	BS;DEEPLY BURNISHED INTERSECT LINES	-	1	29	-
U-S	GREY	JB	BWL	-	-	-	BS;EXT SOOT	-	1	18	-
U-S	GREY	JDW	-	-	-	-	RIM	-	1	14	-
U-S	GREY	JNN	-	-	-	-	RIM/NECK;BURNISHED	-	1	21	-
U-S	NVCC	BD	-	-	-	-	THICK BS;VABR	-	1	7	-
U-S	NVCC	BK	-	-	-	-	BS;RB FAB	-	1	3	-
U-S	NVCC	F?	-	-	-	-	BS CR FAB;CC EXT ONLY	-	1	2	-
U-S	NVPA?	PLATE	PA	-	D	-	RIM/PT WALL;PA DIAG STRIPES RIM	-	1	26	-
U-S	SAMCG	BD	-	-	-	-	FTRG	-	1	10	-
U-S	SHEL	J	-	-	-	-	BS WM	-	1	18	-
U-S	SHEL	JDLS	-	-	-	-	RIM	-	1	26	-
<b>U-S</b>	<b>ZDATE</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>TO VL4</b>	-	-	-	-



# pottery archive esn00

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	part	date
016	BL	Black-glazed wares	?	1	BS	17-18th

## Appendix 11.3 Catalogue of small finds

### Ermine Street, Navenby (ESN 00)

Compiled from data provided by J. Mann, City and County Museum, Lincoln

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Dimensions (mm)</i>	<i>Description</i>
004	Fe	L: 58, W: 15	Fragment of a rectangular-section strip with rounded terminal, possibly bifurcated originally.
016	Cu alloy	Dia: 14	Coin. Constantinopolis? Obv. Helmeted bust?; Rev: Victory on prow? 4 <sup>th</sup> century (330-5?). Worn and chipped.
029	Fe	49 x 42 x 28	Irregular lump of slag.
031	Fe	L: 33.	Fragment of a narrow, rectangular-section strip, slightly curved.
261	Fe	L: 93	Nail, with rectangular cross-sectioned shank.
U/S Pit One	Cu alloy	Dia: 18	Coin. Bust visible on X-ray, but poor definition. Probably not a radiate issue so probably 4 <sup>th</sup> century.
U/S Pit One	Cu alloy	Dia: c. 28 Th: <1	Coin fragment. Dimensions suggest this could be a late 3 <sup>rd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> century <i>foliis</i> .
U/S Pit Two	Cu alloy	Dia: 15	Coin. Constantius - Obv: [FLIVL] CONSTANTIVS AVG bust laureate, rt; Rev: GLOR IAEXERC ITVS 2 soldiers standing, each holding a spear and leaning on shield, between them is a standard. 4 <sup>th</sup> century (337-41).

## Appendix 11.4 List of Archaeological Contexts

### Pit One

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	Layer	Topsoil
002	Deposit	Crushed limestone road surface
003	Layer	Possible buried soil, sealing rubble, same as (040)
004	-	Context abandoned
005	-	Context abandoned
006	-	Context abandoned
007	-	Context abandoned
008	-	Context abandoned
009	Layer	Possible buried prehistoric soil
010	Deposit	Rubble layer – a demolition deposit, same as (025)
011	Deposit	Contains small quantities of rubble
012	Deposit	Possible deliberate ground make-up deposit, same as (021)
013	Deposit	Roman road surface – Ermine Street, same as (020)
014	-	Context abandoned
015	-	Context abandoned
016	-	Context abandoned
017	Deposit	Natural, sand filling fissures in (018)
018	Layer	Natural, limestone brash
019	Layer	Possible buried prehistoric soil
020	Deposit	Roman road surface – Ermine Street, same as (013)
021	Deposit	Possible deliberate ground make-up deposit, same as (012)
022	Deposit	Possible deliberate ground make-up deposit, same as (039)
023	Deposit	Possible deliberate ground make-up deposit
024	Deposit	Discrete area of limestone derived sand and gravel
025	Deposit	Rubble layer – a demolition deposit, same as (010)
026	Deposit	Small pocket of material similar to (025)
027	Deposit	Lens of charcoal
028	Deposit	Lens of charcoal
029	Deposit	Lowest deposit containing any significant quantities of rubble
030	Deposit	Rubble layer – a demolition deposit
031	Deposit	Silty sand sealed beneath (025), same as (041)
032	Deposit	Lens of material separating (027) and (028)
033	Deposit	Lens of charcoal
034	Fill	Possibly the secondary fill of a pit or gully at the northern end of section
035	Fill	Possibly the primary fill of a pit or gully at the northern end of section
036	Deposit	Lens of clayey material within (035)
037	Layer	Subsoil
038	Layer	Material sealing rubble layer (039)
039	Layer	Possible deliberate ground make-up deposit, same as (022)

040	Layer	Possible buried soil, sealing rubble, same as (003)
041	Deposit	Beneath rubble layer (010), same as (031)
042	Cut	Possible pit or gully at the northern end of section
043	Cut	Possible pit or posthole toward the northern end of section

### **Pit Two**

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
200	Layer	Topsoil, same as (250)
201	Layer	Subsoil, same as (251)
202	Deposit	Post-medieval deposit
203	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
204	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
205	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
206	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
207	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
208	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
209	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
210	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
211	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
212	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
213	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
214	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
215	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
216	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
217	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
218	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
219	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
220	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
221	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
222	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
223	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
224	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
225	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
226	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
227	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
228	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
229	Deposit	Rubble layer – a demolition deposit, same as (254)
230	Deposit	Roman road surface – Ermine Street, same as (255)
231	Deposit	Possible make-up for (255), same as (256)
232	Layer	Natural – sandy material, same as (257)a
233	Cut	Quarry pit, probably 18 <sup>th</sup> century, cutting through Romano-British strata
234	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
235	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
236	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
250	Layer	Topsoil, same as (200)
251	Layer	Subsoil, same as (201)
252	Deposit	Road or track surface
253	Layer	Possible make-up for (252)

254	Deposit	Rubble layer – a demolition deposit, same as (229)
255	Deposit	Roman road surface – Ermine Street, same as (230)
256	Deposit	Possible make-up for (255), same as (231)
257a	Layer	Natural – sandy material, same as (232)
257b	Layer	Natural – gravely material
258	Fill	Fill of gully or pit sealed by the Roman road (255)
259	Deposit	Sediment between rubble layer (254) and Roman road (255 ), probably the same as (269)
260	Deposit	Spoil from excavation of pipe trench
261	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
262	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
263	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
264	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
265	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
266	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
267	Fill	Fill of sand quarry pit
268	Fill	Fill of water main pipe trench
269	Deposit	Sediment between rubble layer (254) and Roman road (255), probably the same as (259)
270	Deposit	Re-deposited natural

#### **Pit Four**

<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Description</i>
400	Layer	Topsoil
401	Layer	Redeposited limestone rubble
402	Layer	Buried topsoil
403	Layer	Buried subsoil
404	Layer	Natural
405	Fill	Fill of pipe trench

Matrix for Pit One

West Facing Section

East Facing Section

001

037

040

010

041

011

038

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