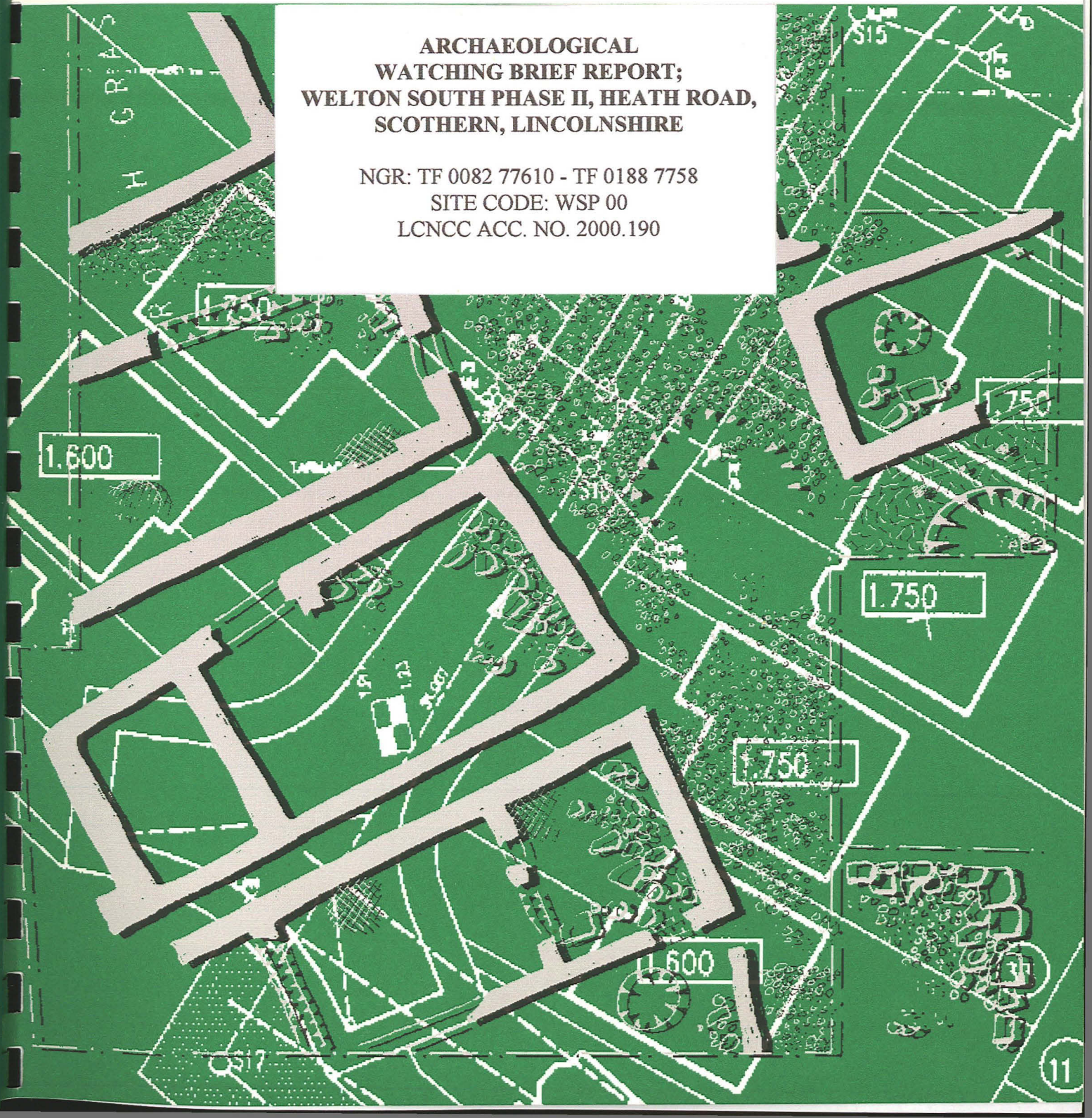
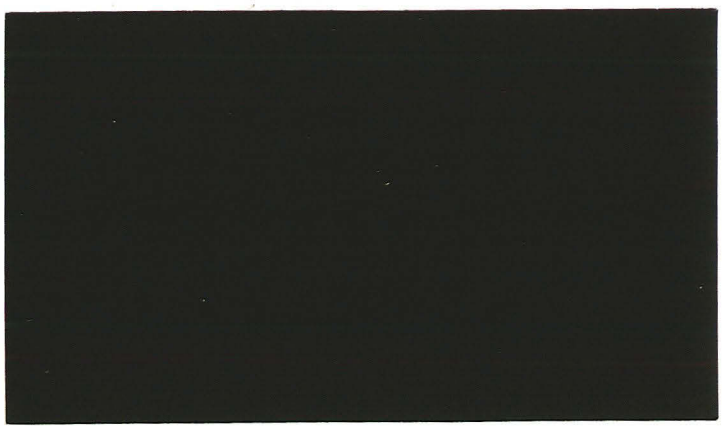
SMR
00/28

PRE-CONSTRUCT
ARCHAEOLOGY
LINCOLN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT; WELTON SOUTH PHASE II, HEATH ROAD, SCOTHERN, LINCOLNSHIRE

NGR: TF 0082 77610 - TF 0188 7758
SITE CODE: WSP 00
LCNCC ACC. NO. 2000.190





EVENT LI 1393
SOURCES LI6138/39
PRN 54531 LI80966
54532 LI80967

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT; WELTON SOUTH PHASE II, HEATH ROAD, SCOTHERN, LINCOLNSHIRE

NGR: TF 0082 77610 - TF 0188 7758
SITE CODE: WSP 00
LCNCC ACC. NO. 2000.190

5451

Report prepared for
Anglian Water Services Ltd.
by Chris Clay
November 2000

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
61 High Street
Newton on Trent
Lincoln
LN1 2JP
Tel. & Fax. 01777 228155

CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

Summary

- *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in selected areas during water main replacement along Heath Road, Scothern.*

- *The identification of archaeological features was hampered by the use of a rotary trenching machine to excavate the pipeline trench.*

- *A number of features were exposed, most of which have been interpreted as post medieval field boundary ditches, orientated north-south. Some of these can be correlated with field boundaries recorded on the 1904 Ordnance Survey Map, which have now been removed.*

- *The other features consisted of two possible north-south trackways, and a vague feature interpreted as a pit or ditch.*

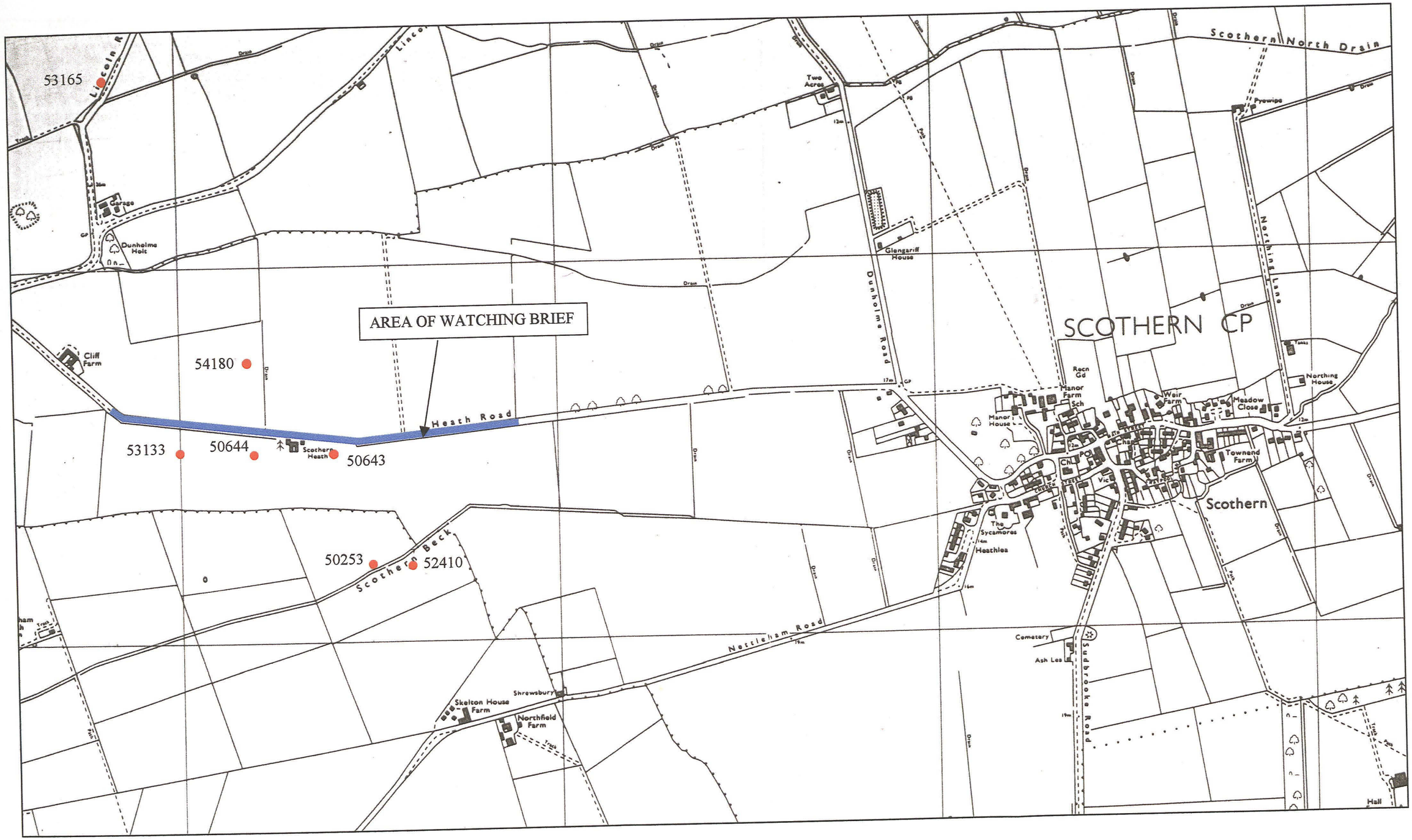


Fig 1: Site location showing area of watching brief and SMR find spots. Scale 1:10000
(OS Copyright Licence No: A1 515 21 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) were commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavations for a pipeline replacement scheme. The work was part of the Welton Phase II water main programme.

This report details the results of the fieldwork. It is written to conform to both national and local guidelines as set out in the Lincolnshire County Council document *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice* (LCC, 1998).

2.0 Planning background

No planning condition was attached to the scheme. However, part of the planned route fell within an archaeologically sensitive block of land (see below). There was a possibility therefore that the pipeline trench would disturb or damage archaeological remains. Acting on the advice of the Built Environment Team at Lincolnshire County Council, the client company agreed to fund an archaeological programme of observation, recording and reporting.

3.0 Location and description

The route of the pipeline runs from east to west along Heath Road, between Scothern and the A46. The monitored section was 1.1 km long, located between grid references TF 0188 7758 and TF 0082 7761 (fig.1).

This area is characterised by agricultural land, that gently slopes eastwards along Heath Road, from approximately OD+30m. The underlying geology is predominantly Snitterby Limestone formation, with drift deposits of Wragby Till at the eastern end of the pipeline (BGS, 1999).

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Information held at the County Sites and Monuments Record includes a number of entries relevant to the defined area. Some of these constitute isolated finds spots but others are associated with direct evidence of settlement, ranging from the Mesolithic to the Romano-British periods. They are summarised below alongside their SMR Primary Reference Number (PRN) and located on Fig.1: -

PRN	NGR (TF)	Description
50253	0150 7720	Scatter of Romano-British artefacts close to Scothern Beck, including pottery, a possible seal matrix and coins.
50643	0140 7750	Mesolithic flint blade.
50644	0120 7750	Early Neolithic to Later Bronze Age flint perforator.
52410	0160 7720	Three later prehistoric cropmark enclosures; two double-ditched and one with a circular building.
53133	0100 7750	Possible small enclosures among geological cropmarks.
53165	0080 7850	Neolithic stone axe.
54180	0118 7774	Double ditched linear cropmark; possible trackway.

5.0 Methodology

Groundworks commenced on 9th August 2000, approximately 800m east of the area to be observed. Work was intermittently monitored by Andrew Hardwick until it reached the specified stretch of pipeline on August 17th.

The pipe trench was 0.3m wide and 1.2m deep. It was excavated using a rotary trenching machine, which inserted the new pipe as soon as it had cut the trench. It was then rapidly backfilled by a conventional mechanical excavator. Initially the trench ran along the north edge of Heath Road, crossing to the south immediately west of Scothern Heath Farm. On both sides the trench was approximately 0.8m from the road edge.

All exposed plan and section surfaces were inspected for archaeological deposits. The sections were cleaned intermittently by trowel to determine geological horizons and to establish the shape, orientation and date range of any potential archaeological features. A colour photographic record was maintained, and section drawings of identified features were made at a scale of 1:20 and located on a 1:10,000 plan (appendix 12.2). The spoil deposited by the trenching machine was periodically examined for artefactual evidence.

6.0 Results

The uppermost stratigraphic layer consisted of a topsoil of dark brown sandy silt, context (001). This was 0.2m deep and overlay a paler subsoil, context (002), also 0.2m deep. Below these layers was the natural geology, (003), a compact deposit of yellowish brown silty sand with limestone inclusions.

Several features were identified immediately below the topsoil. They are described as follows and located on fig.2:-

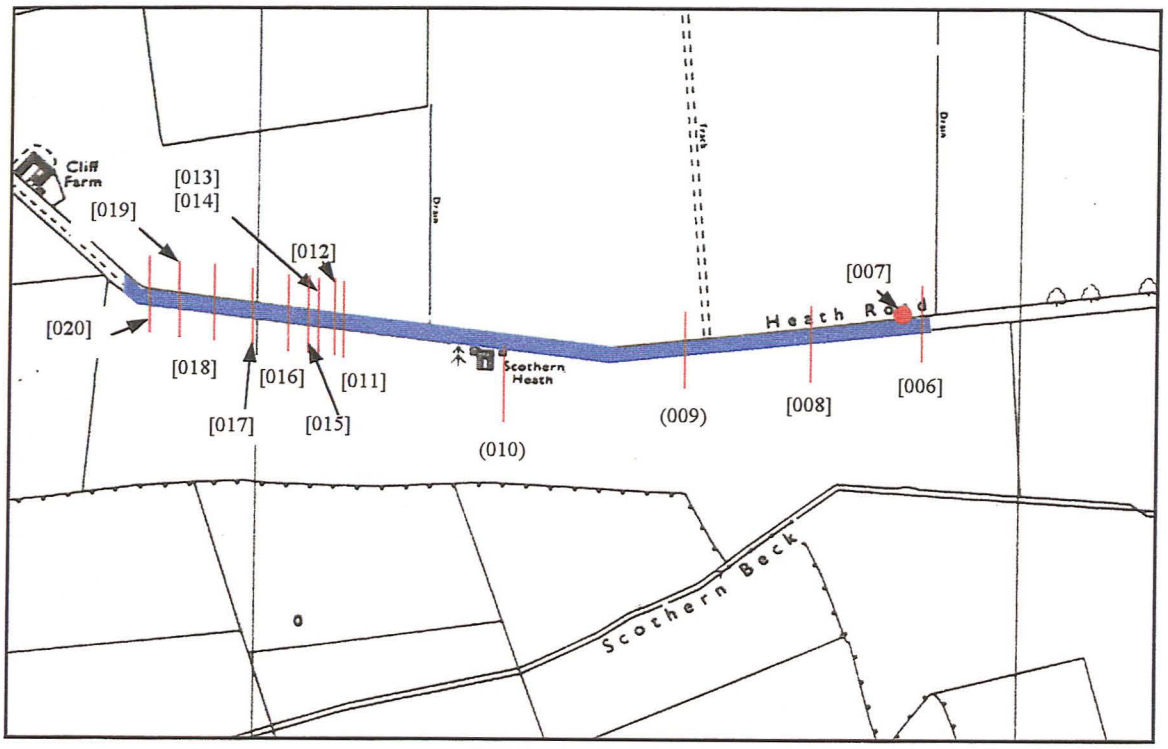


Fig.2: Location of features, showing approximate alignment (Scale 1:10,000).

[006]: A shallow sided north-south ditch, approximately 3 metres wide. Its two fills, (004) and (005) contained large amounts of building rubble as well as limestone blocks, and late post medieval/modern bricks. However, neither aretefactual evidence, nor the shape of the feature gave any indication of date or function.

[007]: As it is visible only in the south facing section of the trench, this feature may be a small pit. It was approximately 0.7m wide, by 0.15m deep, and appears to be stratigraphically earlier than the features described below, as it is sealed by subsoil (002).

[008], [011]-[020]: A series of morphologically similar ditches, all orientated north-south, and characterised by shallow sloping sides and a concave base. They ranged from 0.3 to 0.5 metres in depth and 0.7 to 1.68 metres wide. They were filled with loose sandy silts, similar to the topsoil, (001), and had all been subject to considerable disturbance by root action. No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features.

(009), (010): These two layers, 3.3m by 0.2m, and 2m by 0.05m respectively, both consisted of compacted, gravelly, sandy silt deposits, orientated north-south. Again, there was no associated dating evidence, although the compacted nature of the deposits suggest these may be former trackways.

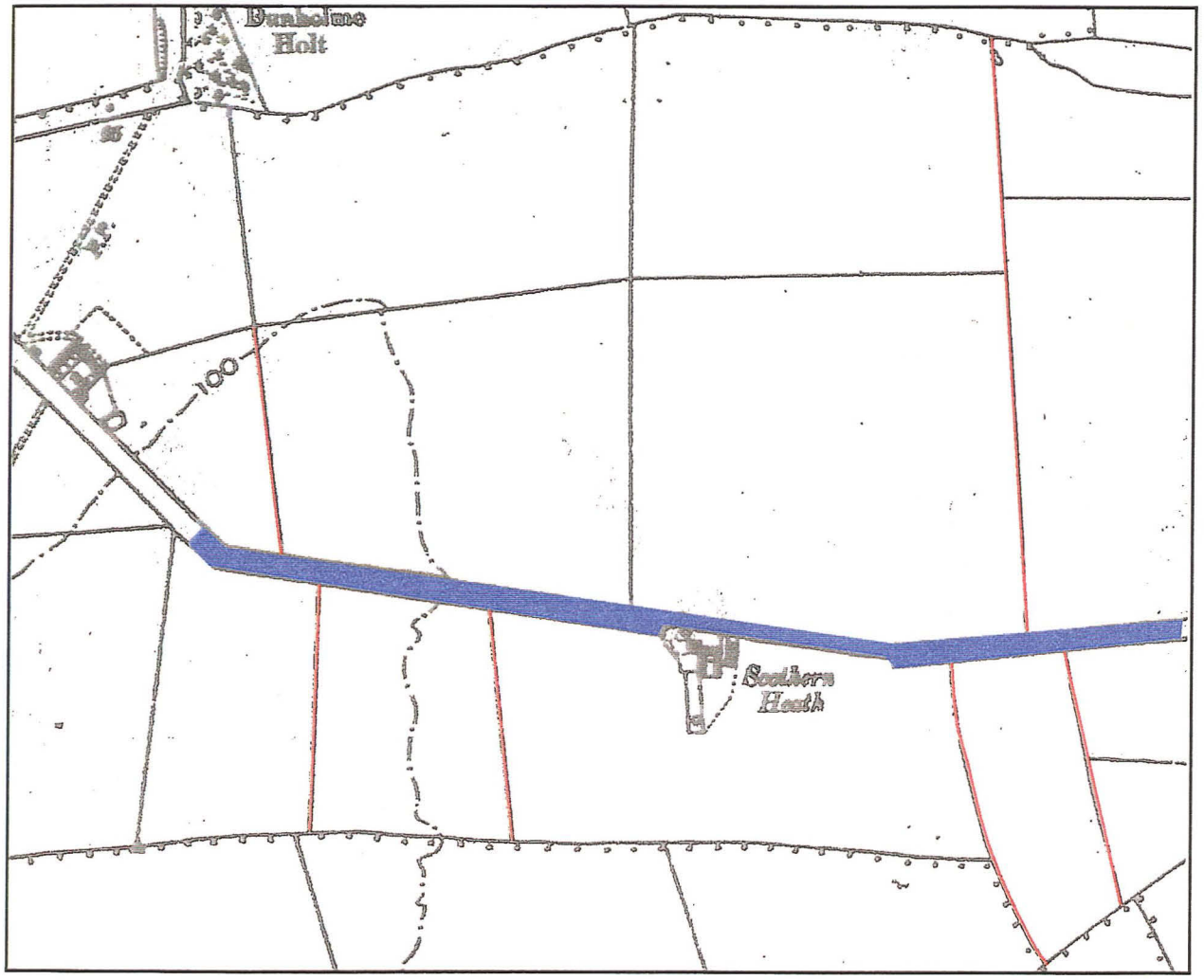


Fig.3: Extract from 1904 Ordnance Survey map. The field boundaries subsequently removed have been highlighted in red (Scale 6" to 1 mile).

7.0 Discussion and conclusion

The watching brief exposed a series of linear features. Where orientation could be determined, all features were aligned north-south, and were predominantly shallow ditches with bowl shaped profiles. Unfortunately, no dating evidence was found during the watching brief, making further interpretation difficult.

The considerable root disturbance in features [008] and [011] - [020], and the similarity of their fills to the modern topsoil, suggests that they are probably post medieval field boundaries. Fig.3, taken from a 1904 Ordnance Survey map (based on an 1886 survey), shows field boundaries which were present in 1886, which have now been removed. Some of these field boundaries appear to tie in with the location of the ditches detected in the pipe trench.

The remaining positive features, (009) and (010), were wide and shallow, both characterised by layers of densely packed gravel. These may be former trackways; (009) representing a realignment of the track shown on the modern Ordnance Survey map (fig.1), and (010), visible only in the south section, may be a trackway associated with the property at Scothern Heath, which is present on the 1904 Ordnance Survey Map (fig.3)

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

Several problems were encountered during this watching brief. Firstly, the pipeline trench was excavated by a rotary trenching machine, which caused the sides of the trench to be heavily scored, hindering the identification and interpretation of archaeological features.

Secondly, the small size of the trench, only 0.3m wide, made it difficult to clean and examine the sections. This problem was further enhanced by the trenching machine simultaneously excavating the trench and laying the pipe, which meant that only the upper 0.8m of the 1.2m vertical section was clearly visible.

Nevertheless, the fact that sub-surface field boundaries were detected, which were generally small features, does suggest that no significant archaeological deposits were traversed during this watching brief.

9.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Anglian Water Services Ltd. for their cooperation during this watching brief.

10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1999. *Market Rasen. England and Wales Sheet 102. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50000 Provisional Series.* Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey.

11.0 Site archive

The primary records for the site are currently in the possession of Pre-Construct Archaeology. The paper and photographic element of this report will be deposited with Lincoln City and County Museum within six months.

12.0 Appendices

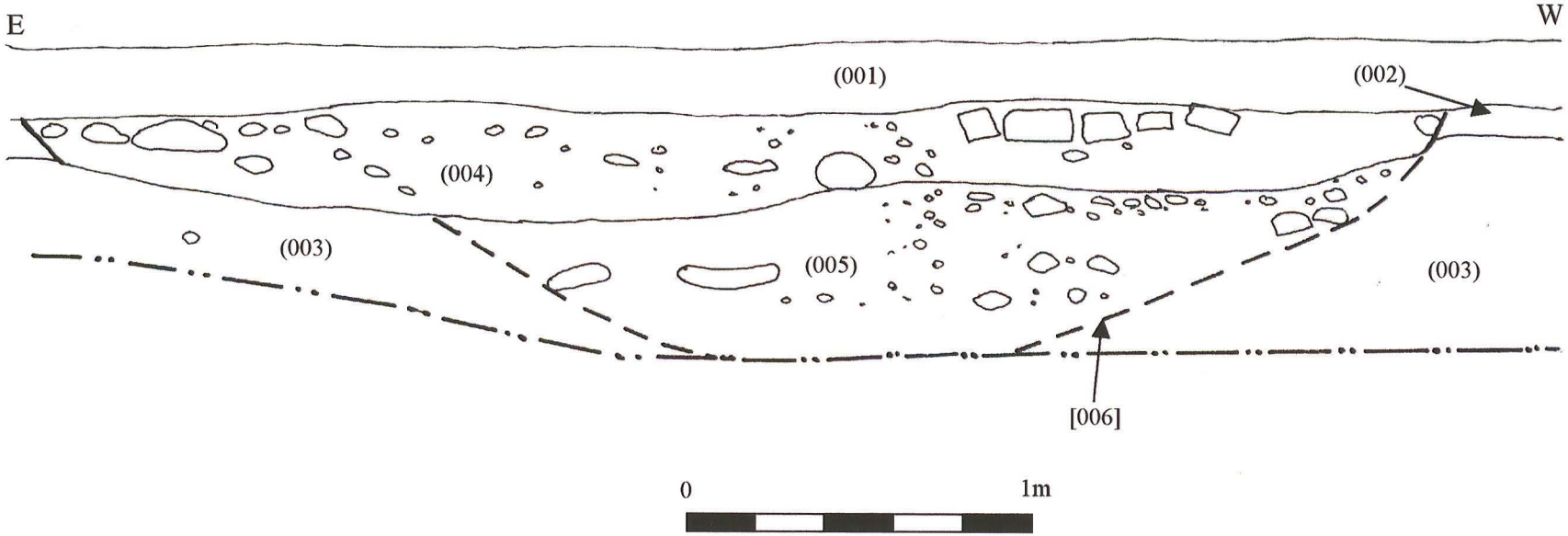
12.1 Colour plates

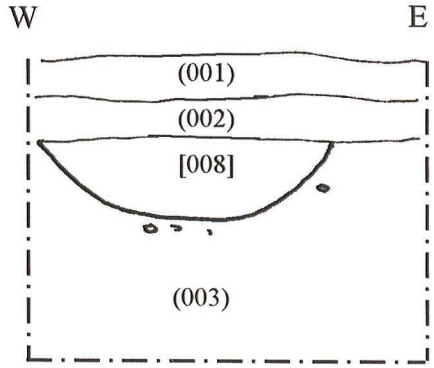
Plate 1: Working shot, showing simultaneous trenching and pipe laying (looking west).

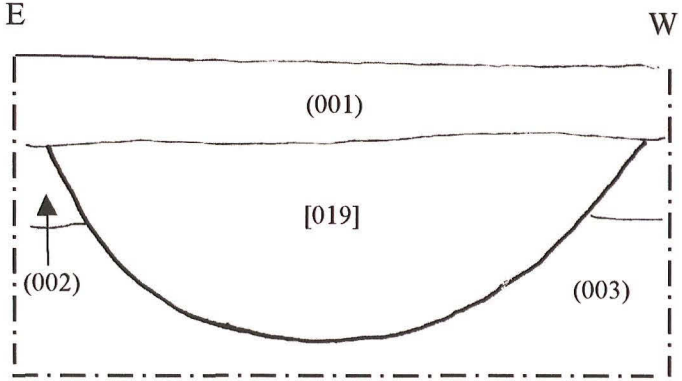
Plate 2: Gravel layer in (010), looking north

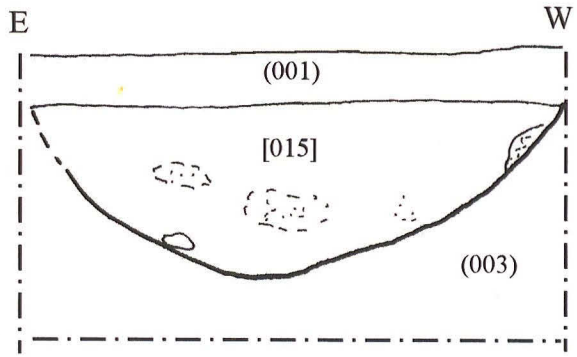
Plate 3: Ditch [008], looking north

12.2 Sample section drawings









12.3 List of archaeological contexts

Context	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Subsoil
003	Natural
004	Fill of [006], abundant rubble inclusions
005	Fill of [006], crushed limestone inclusions
006	Post medieval demolition dump
007	Ditch cut
008	Ditch cut
009	Possible trackway
010	Possible trackway
011	Ditch cut
012	Ditch cut
013	Ditch cut
014	Ditch cut
015	Ditch cut
016	Ditch cut
017	Ditch cut
018	Ditch cut
019	Ditch cut
020	Ditch cut