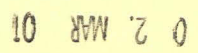


M1/04/01

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION  
OF BOREHOLES ACROSS THE CAR DYKE  
AT DUNSTON FEN  
DUNSTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(NCD 01)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES



EVENT LI 1673  
SOURCE LI 6435  
PRN'S 60706 LI 60706  
61524 LI 81334

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION  
OF BOREHOLES ACROSS THE CAR DYKE  
AT DUNSTON FEN  
DUNSTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(NCD 01)**

Work Undertaken For  
Mouchel Consulting Limited

February 2001

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

National Grid Reference: TF 0889 6323

A.P.S. Report No. 28/01



## 1. BACKGROUND

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Mouchel Consulting Limited to record four boreholes placed across the Car Dyke at Dunston Fen, Dunston, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference TF 0889 6323). The purpose was to determine the depth of the Car Dyke at this location so suitable strategies can be prepared for the proposed route of a gas pipeline between Hatton and Silk Willoughby.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

Coring was undertaken using compressor assisted Eijkelkamp coring apparatus. This method is outlined by Canti and Meddens (1998). The cores were lifted in complete 1m or 1.5m sections and then recorded using Archaeological Project Services' *pro forma* recording sheets. Positions of the boreholes and a profile across this portion of the Car Dyke were then surveyed by a Geodolite Total Station in conjunction with a Psion Datalogger.

## 3. RESULTS

### *Borehole 1*

This was located west of and adjacent to the modern drainage dyke. Natural deposits of coarse sand and calcareous gravel were encountered at a depth of 3.1m (2.4m OD). Infilling the Car Dyke was a sequence of sands, silts, organic silts, chalk, clayey silts and sandy silts.

### *Borehole 2*

This was located 2.87m west of Borehole 1. Natural was encountered at a depth of 2.87m (2.63m OD). Sands and silts were recorded as infilling the channel.

### *Borehole 3*

This was located 2.69m west of Borehole 2. Natural was encountered at a depth of 1.51m (3.95m OD).

### *Borehole 4*

This was located east of the modern drainage ditch and west of the road. Natural sands and gravels were encountered at a depth of 1.86m (3.48m OD). Infilling the channel was silty coarse sands and an organic silt.

## 4. DISCUSSION

Investigations of the Car Dyke at Dunston Fen have determined that the channel is approximately 14.5m wide and 3.1m deep. The width of the channel is within the range determined by previous excavations of the Car Dyke.

No evidence for a west bank was observed on the ground. There is a possibility that part of the eastern bank survives beneath the modern road. Within 200m of this investigation, both to the

north and south, banks become readily apparent and alongside Nocton Wood the earthworks are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No. 312).

This report has not discussed the nature of the sediments infilling the channel with any detail. Many of the fills are of, or contain, coarse sand, although organic silts were encountered. No deposits were thought suitable for Radiocarbon dating methods.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations of the Car Dyke at Dunston Fen established that the depth of the channel at this point was 3.1m below ground level. The lowest point of the channel is therefore at +2.40m OD.

## 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Lesley Lawrence and James Twohig of Mouchel Consulting Ltd. for commissioning the fieldwork and this report. Gary Wilson of Laing Construction Ltd. and Alan Pye of Transco provided access to the site. Tom Lane coordinated the work and edited this report. Fieldwork was undertaken by the author and Rachael Hall.

## 7. REFERENCES

Canti, M.G. and Meddens, F.M., 1998, 'Mechanical Coring as an Aid to Archaeological Projects', *Journal of Field Archaeology* Vol. 25

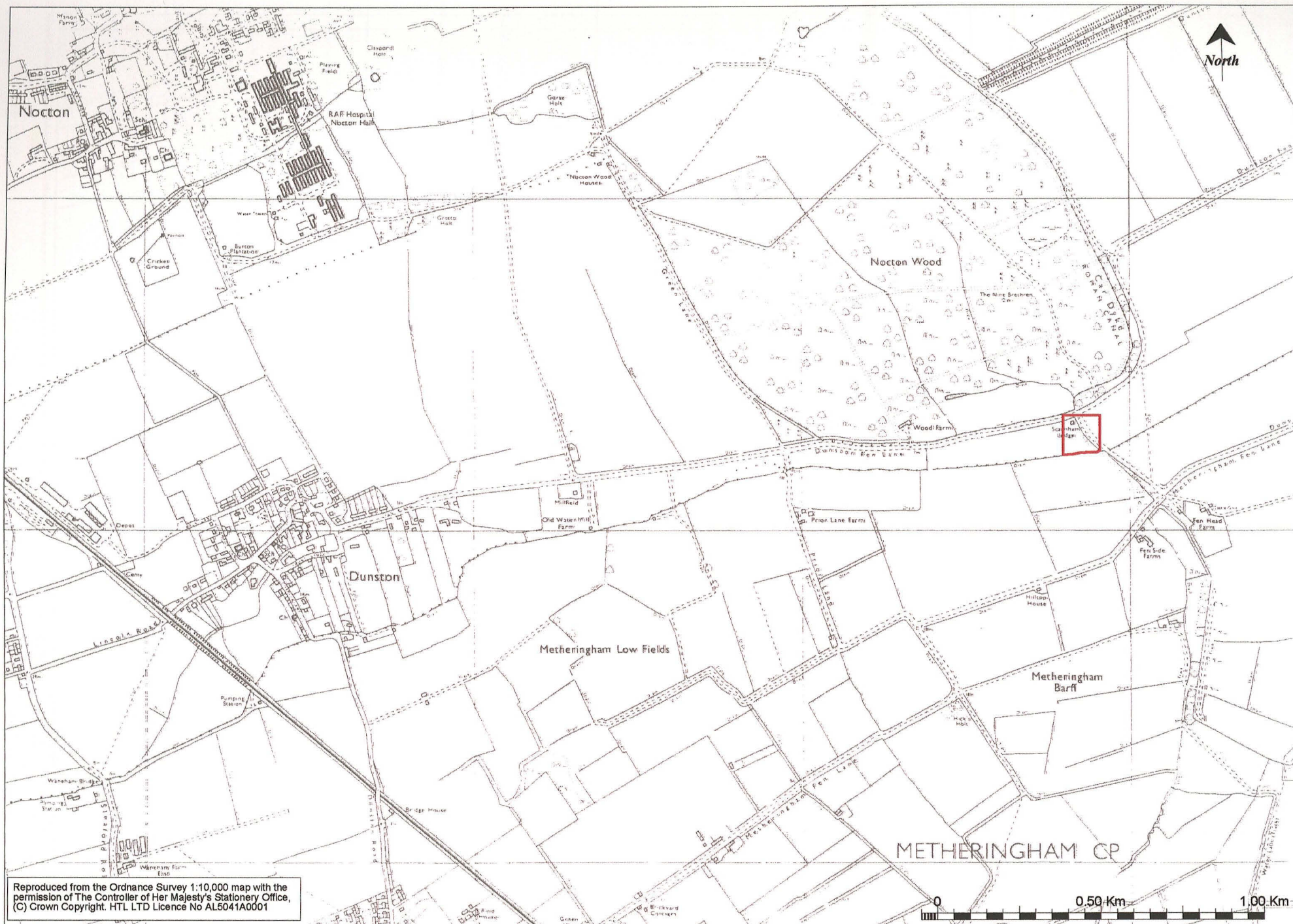


Figure 1 - Site Location Plan

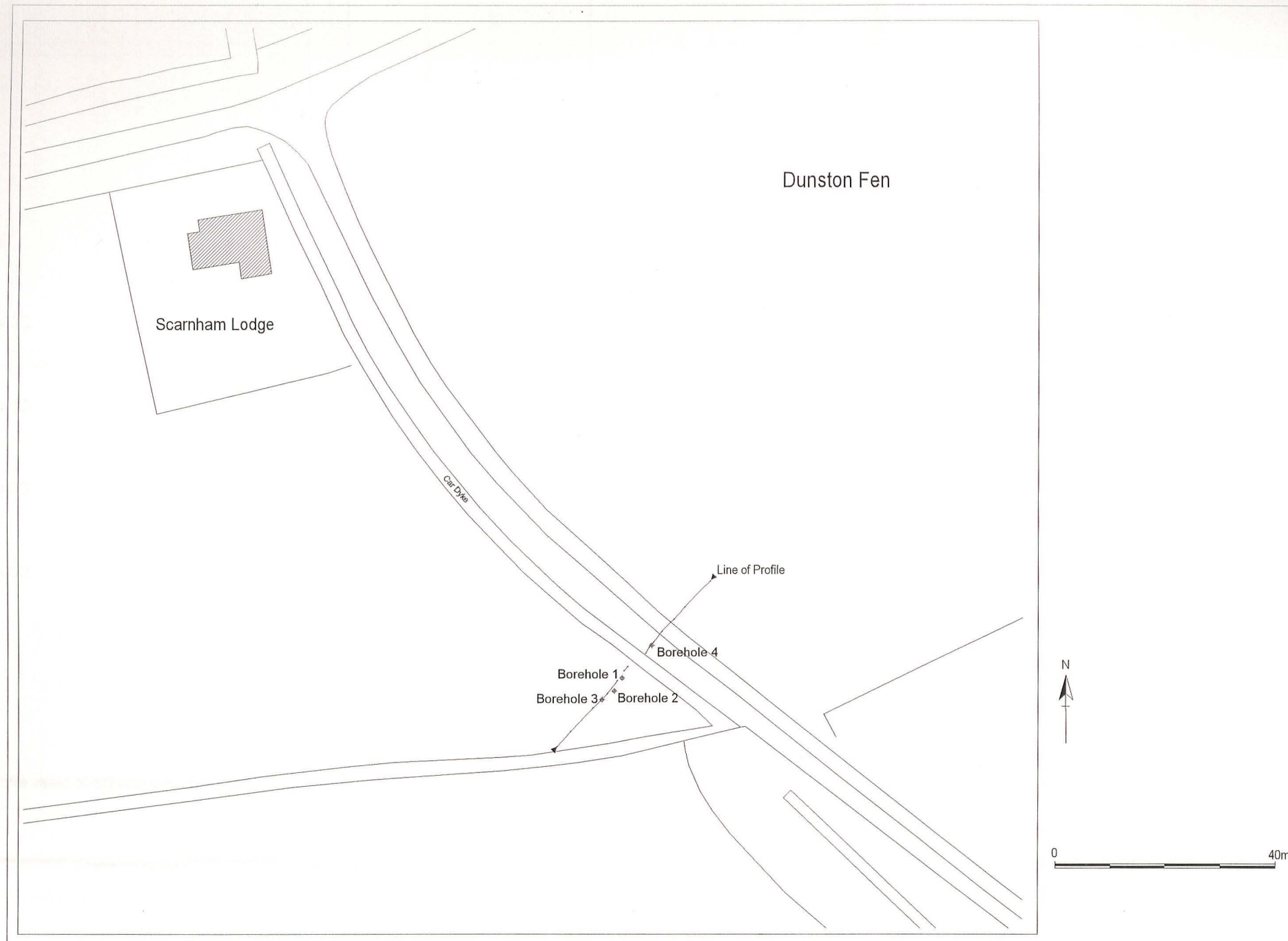


Figure 2 - Plan showing the location of boreholes and line of profile

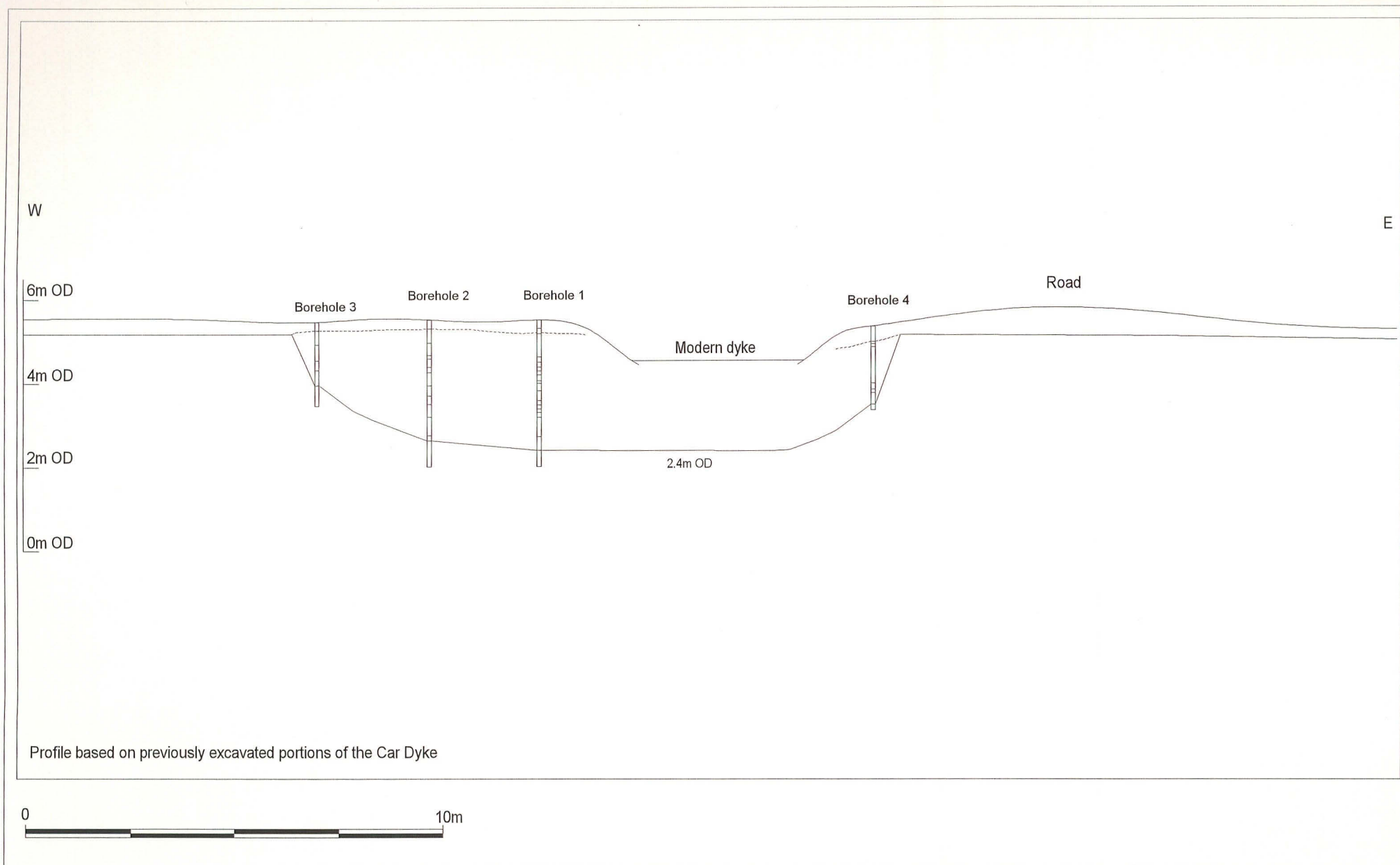


Figure 3 - Profile and borehole data from examination of the CarDyke at Dunston Fen