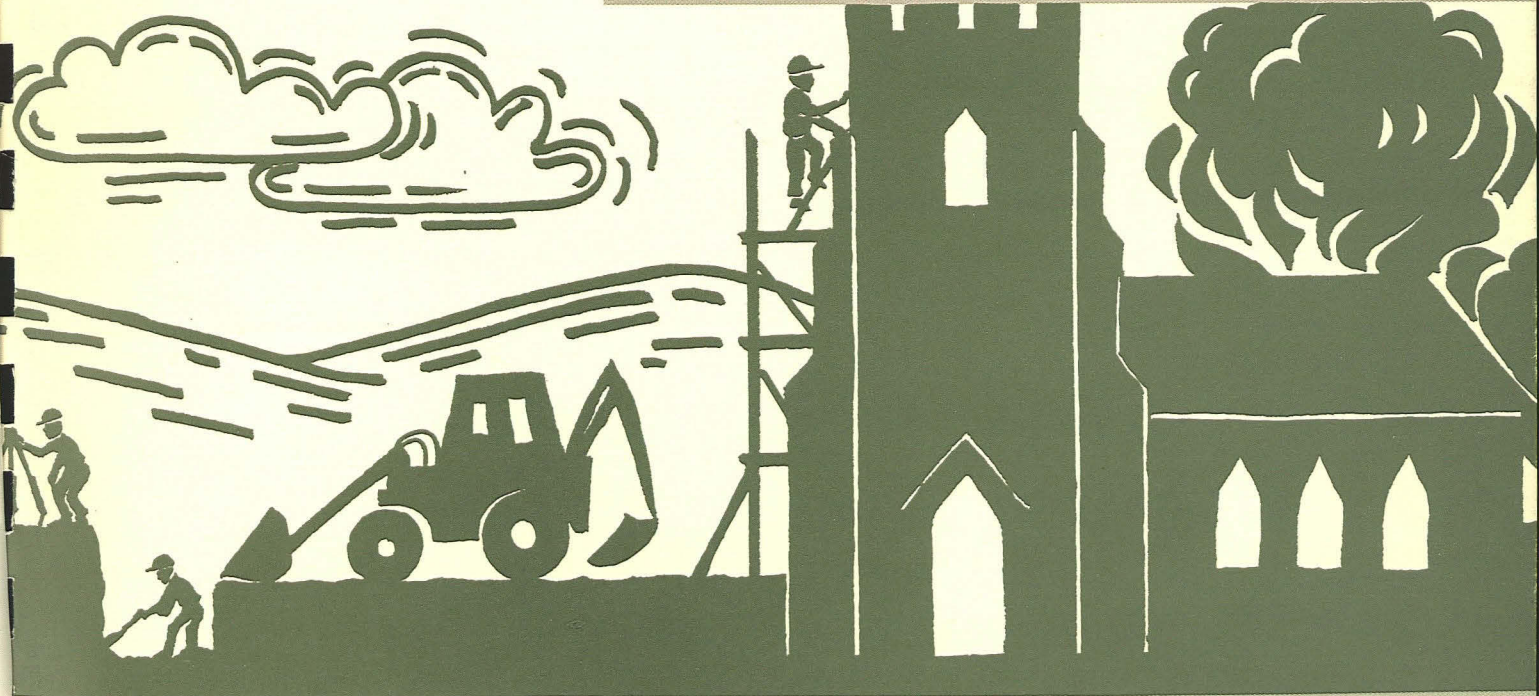


An Archaeological Watching Brief  
at Little Hale Drove, Little  
Hale, Lincolnshire.

May 1994 CCM Acc No 95.94



ADVANCING LINCOLNSHIRE'S PAST



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Negative

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
AT  
LITTLE HALE DROVE  
LITTLE HALE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For  
Anglian Water Services Ltd.

Report Compiled By  
Mark Dymond

May 1994

Heritage Lincolnshire  
The Old School,  
Cameron Street,  
Heckington,  
SLEAFORD,  
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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a water pipeline along Little Hale Drove, Little Hale, Lincolnshire.*

*The site lies in an area of significant archaeological interest. Located through the area on a south southwest to north northeast alignment is the Car Dyke Romano-British waterway. Artefacts dated to the Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods have been recovered from the immediate vicinity of the survey area. Aerial photographs reveal cropmarks of ditched enclosures and ring ditches, the latter probably represent Bronze Age burial sites.*

*Although the route of the pipeline crossed the Car Dyke no archaeological deposits or features were observed, due to the build up of deposits for the road and disturbance caused by a culvert built along the course of the Car Dyke.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

During August 1993 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of part of a water pipeline along Little Hale Drove (NGR TF 154 414 to TF 166 408). This work was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd, Northern Division and carried out by Heritage Lincolnshire.

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Little Hale Drove is situated 1.5km to the east of Little Hale village, in the civil parish of Little Hale, North Kesteven District (Fig. 1). The site lies 11km

southeast of Sleaford, 4km south of Heckington and 7.5km northwest of Donington (Fig. 2). The surrounding topography is relatively flat and lies about 10m above sea level with Little Hale Drove standing between 0.40m and 0.50m above the adjacent fields. Local soils belong to the Beccles 3 association and comprise fine loamy over clayey profiles (Hodge *et al* 1984, 121).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Little Hale Drove is located in an area of densely concentrated archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric to the medieval period. Prehistoric activity in the area is represented by a neolithic axe located *c.* 80m north of Car Dike Farm (NK37.21); Middle Bronze Age pottery, referred to as Billingborough Fen Excavation type pottery, has been recovered *c.* 220m north of Car Dike Farm (NK37.14). Iron Age activity is represented by a cluster of salterns (salt processing establishments) and other possible settlement sites located *c.* 1km southwest of Car Dike Farm in the civil parish of Helpringham (NK33.4, NK33.13, NK33.15, NK33.20, NK33.26, NK33.28). Three of these also have evidence of activity continuing into the Roman period (NK33.4, NK33.20 and NK33.28).

East of the Car Dyke and between Little Hale Drove (on the north) and Helpringham Eau (to the south), aerial photographs have revealed crop marks indicative of ditched enclosures, drove ways and ring ditches (NK37.5). These features represent prehistoric and/or Romano-British settlement and agricultural activity.

Other Romano-British activity in the area is represented by finds of pottery from five

locations clustered around NGR TF 165 415 (NK37.2, NK37.6, NK37.16, NK37.17 and NK37.20). Two of these, NK37.2 and NK37.17, have also produced evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the form of pottery fragments. Additionally, three complete Anglo-Saxon vessels have been recovered where the Little Hale Drove crosses the Car Dyke (NK37.11).

The medieval period is represented by a single sherd of green glazed pottery which, by itself, does not indicate sustained medieval activity.

### 3. AIMS

The aims of the watching brief were to locate and record any archaeological deposits present, and to determine their function, date and origin.

### 4. METHODS

The length of pipeline examined as part of the watching brief was mechanically excavated by a trenching machine, except in the archaeologically sensitive area where the route crossed the Car Dyke. Here the trench was excavated by a J.C.B. to allow the careful monitoring of the excavation. The trench measured *c.* 0.6m wide by 1.1m deep by 1.35km long. Sections of the trench were cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains. Each archaeological deposit or feature was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and a section drawn at a scale of 1:20. Additionally, the natural geology was recorded.

### 5. RESULTS

Records of the deposits recorded during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them. One phase was identified:

#### Phase 1      Modern deposits

These deposits comprise a grey-brown subsoil (2) frequently containing sub-rounded flint and limestone fragments. Overlaying this was a grey brown topsoil (1). No archaeological deposits were identified (Fig. 3 Section 1).

A culvert was observed on either side of the road at this point to facilitate the movement of water along Car Dyke. The top of the culvert arch lies *c.* 1.50m below the present ground surface. No evidence for the construction of this was seen in the pipeline trench.

Finds retrieved during the watching brief comprised a metal artefact and a "slag" object. Both have been provisionally identified as residue from a kiln. These artefacts were retrieved during the machining of the trench and were recovered from the spoil heap.

### 6. DISCUSSION

Topsoil and subsoil were the only deposits identified throughout the section of the pipe trench examined. The culvert seen on either side of the road suggests that archaeological deposits are likely to be disturbed. Because of the apparent build up to construct Little Hale Drove, evidence for archaeological features may exist at greater depths.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigation at Little Hale Drove, Little Hale, established that a modern deposit consisting of subsoil overlain by topsoil exists to within a depth of at least 1.1m.

No deposits associated with the cutting or filling of the Car Dyke were observed. At this location, the Car Dyke is ducted through a conduit beneath the present Little Hale Drove. The top of the culvert arch lies *c.* 1.50m below the present ground surface and no construction trench for the duct was observed in the 1.1m deep pipeline. This implies, therefore, that the culvert was constructed over the Car Dyke, then buried by the subsoil deposits that were recorded in the pipe trench.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Heritage Lincolnshire wish to thank Anglian Water Services Ltd for funding the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Steve Haynes coordinated the work and Dave Start edited this report. Nicola Nuttall, the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the relevant parish files.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes  
Supervisor: Dave Brown  
Post-excavation analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner and Mark Dymond

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984 *Soils and their Use in Eastern England*,

Soil Survey of England and Wales 11  
(Harpenden)

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed by 'NK' are the reference codes used by the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

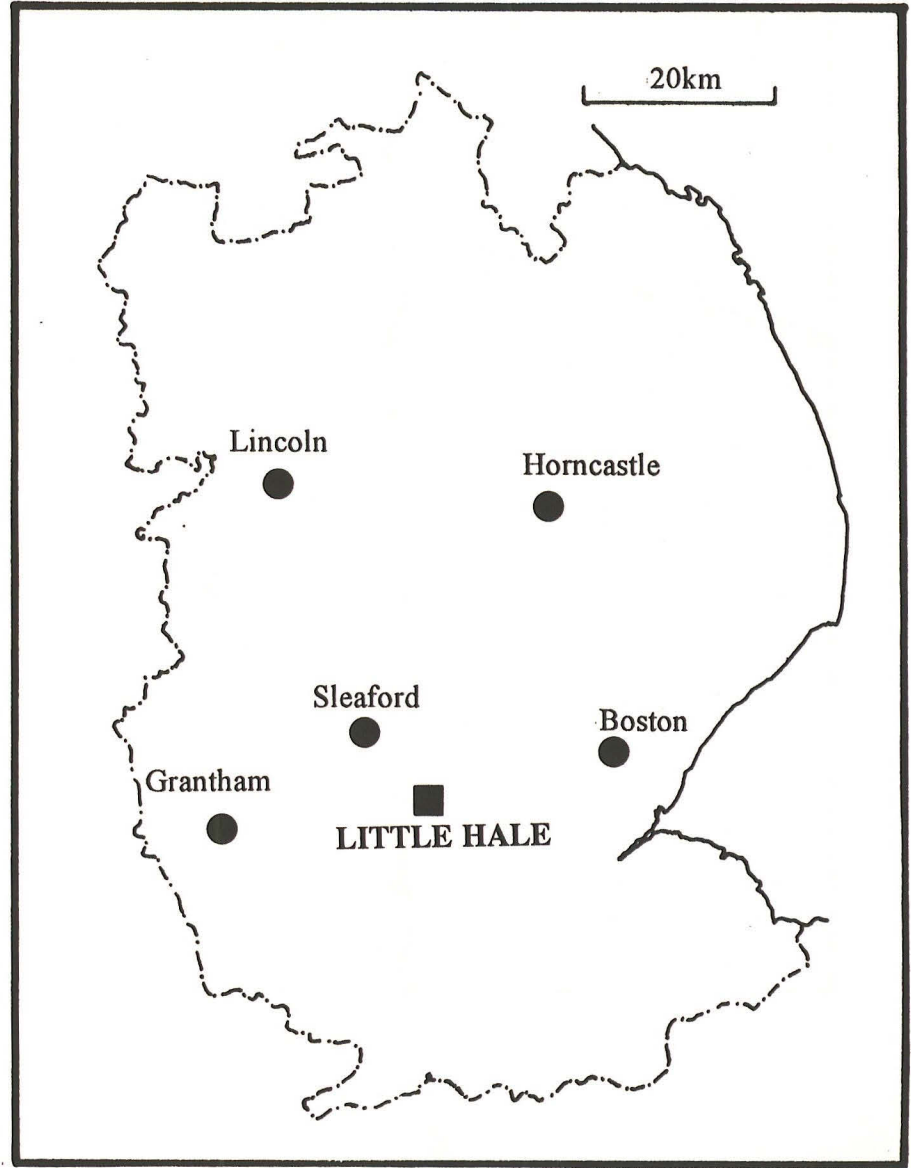
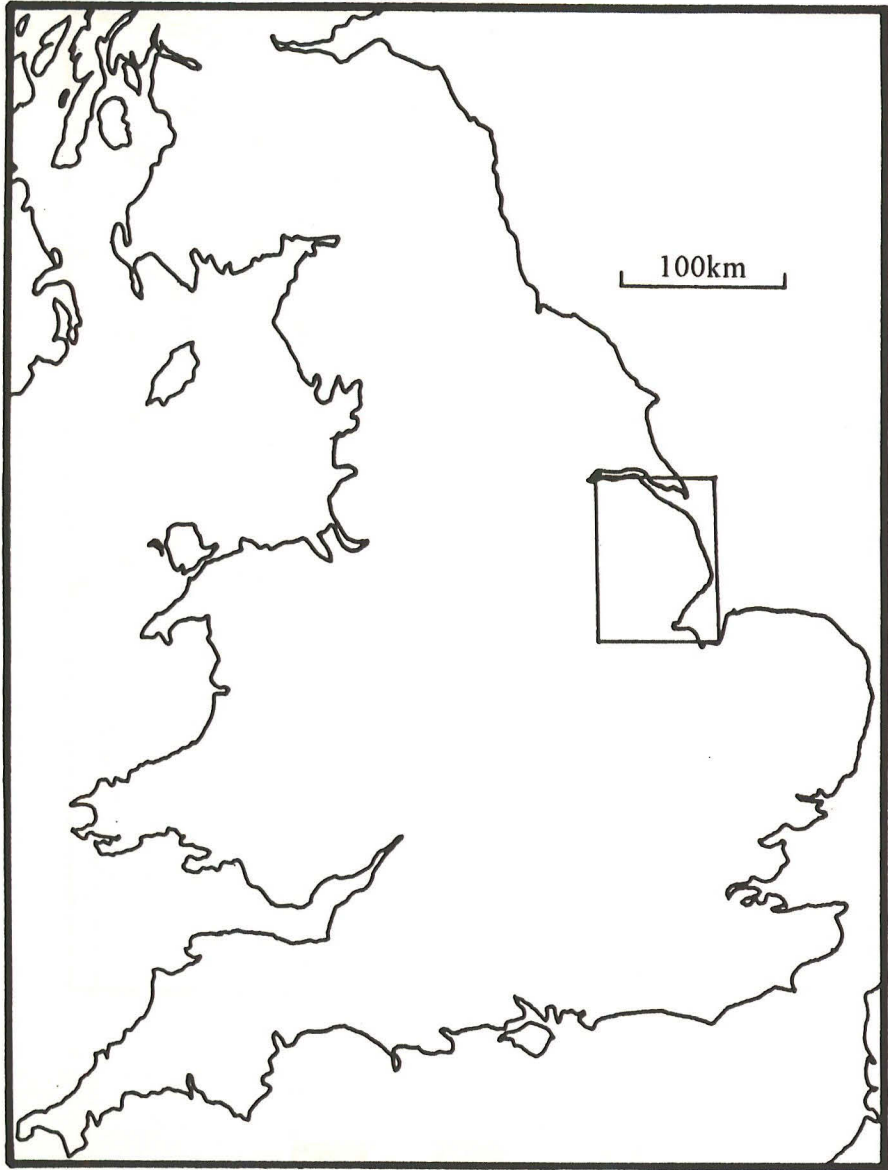
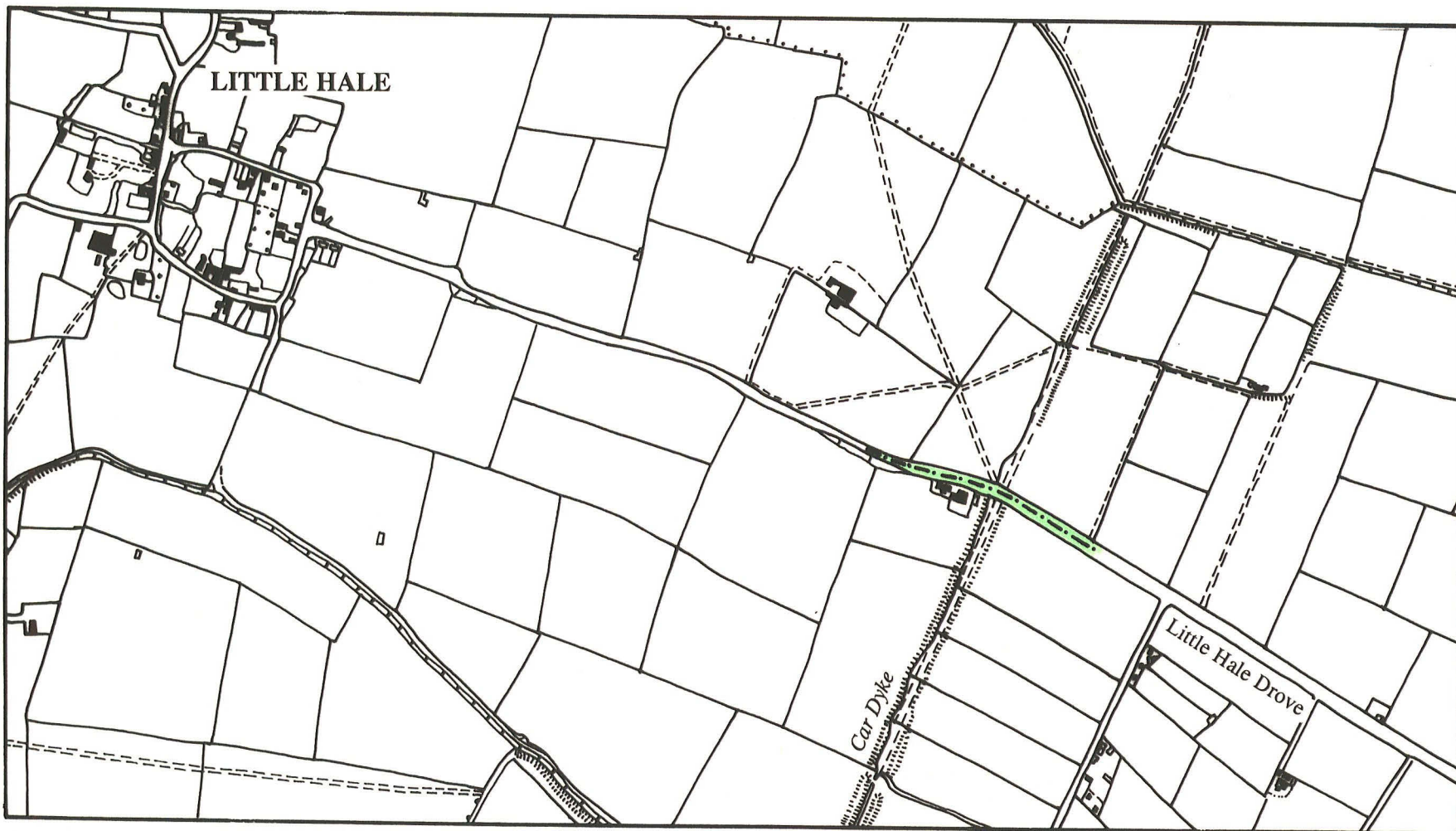


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

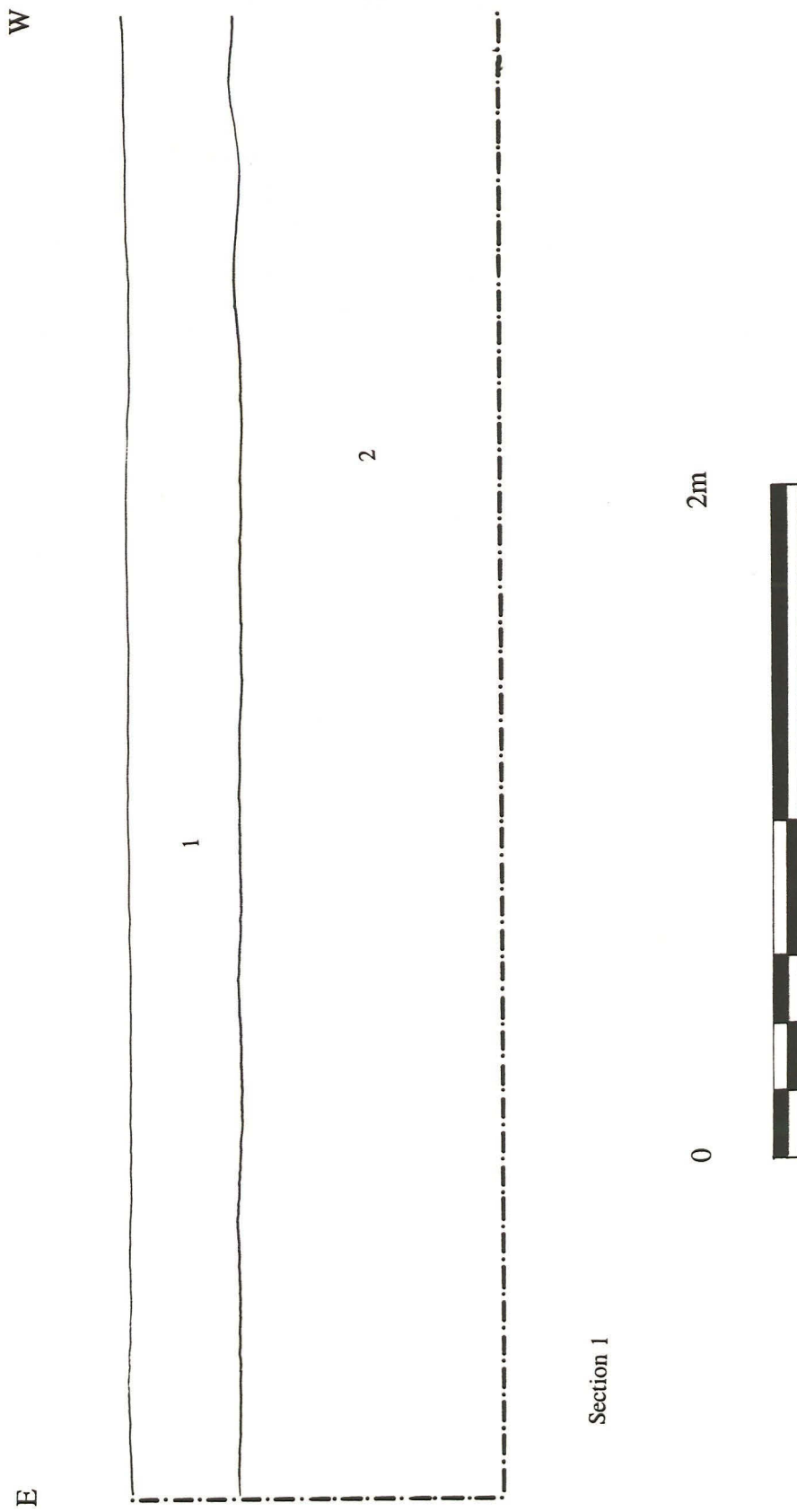




Route of Pipeline

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan

Fig. 3 Section 1



APPENDIX 1

Context Summary

1	Mid to dark grey brown silty clay, 0.32m thick.	Topsoil.
2	Mid grey brown silty clay, minimum thickness 0.80m.	Subsoil.

## APPENDIX 2

### The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 2 Context records
- 1 Photographic record
- 1 Scale drawing
- 1 Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records are currently kept at:

Heritage Lincolnshire  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 95.94