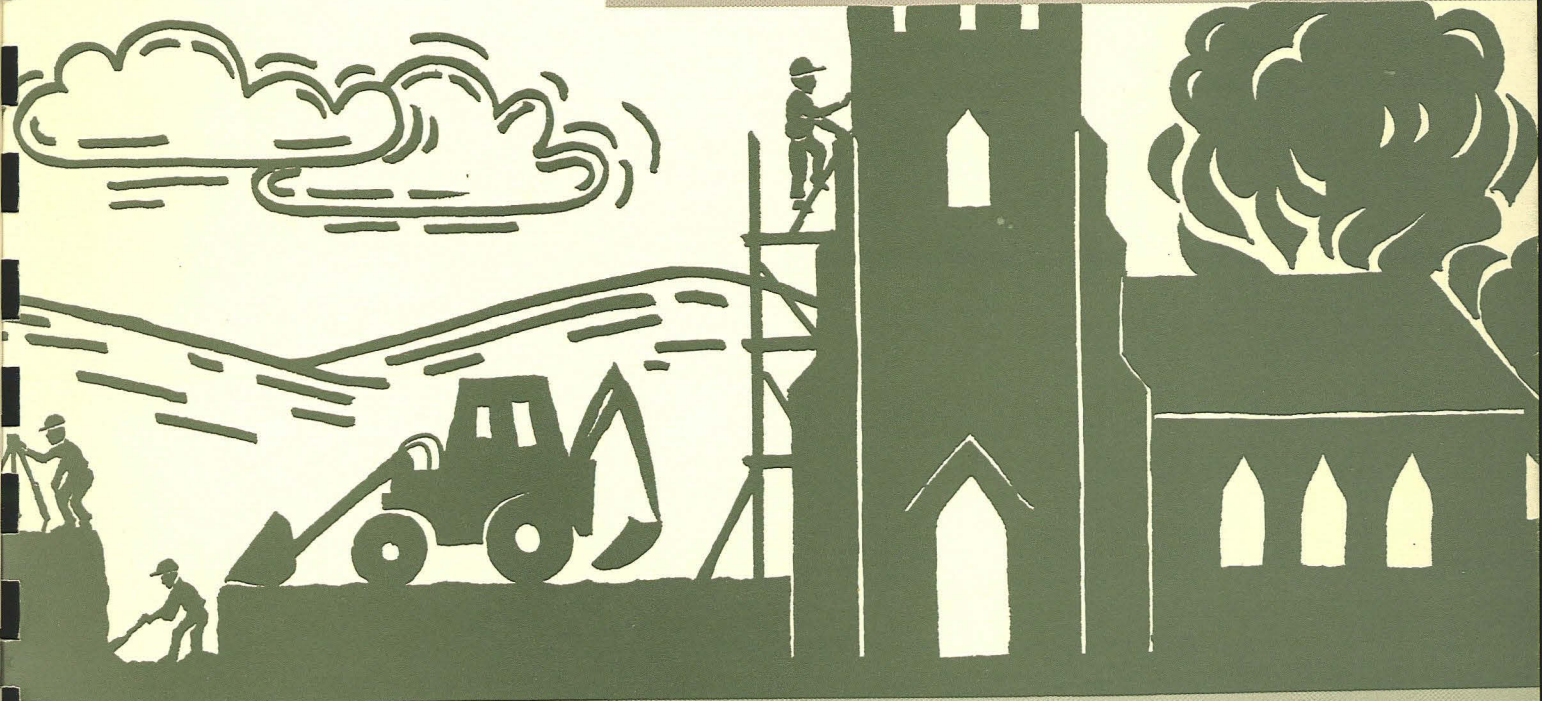


Archaeological Watching Brief at
Lincoln Road, Leasingham,
Lincolnshire.

June 1994 CCM Acc No 97.94



ADVANCING LINCOLNSHIRE'S PAST



ELI 7147

SLI 10972 10973

Negative

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
LINCOLN ROAD,
LEASINGHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
Anglian Water Services Ltd.

Report Compiled By
Paul Cope-Faulkner

June 1994

Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School,
Cameron Street,
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SLEAFORD,
Lincolnshire NG34 9RW
Charity No: 1001463. Company No:2554738 (England)

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a pipe trench for a water main relay along Lincoln Road, Leasingham, Lincolnshire.

The route of the pipe line traverses an area of significant archaeological interest. A Neolithic stone axe has been found west of the village, and finds of Roman pottery have been made both adjacent to and 1km from the route of the pipe line. An Anglo-Saxon spearhead and pottery have been found within the vicinity of the village, as has medieval pottery. Aerial photographs have identified a medieval moated site in the area. Undated finds include loom weights and a spindle whorl.

Layers of granite and limestone chippings, forming the make-up and foundation for the Leasingham bypass, were observed. In places the road foundation was formed from roughly hewn limestone blocks and in some areas the old road surface was visible at the base of the pipe trench. No earlier archaeological deposits were encountered.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

During September and October 1993, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a pipe trench for a water main relay along Lincoln Road, Leasingham (Between NGR TF 0535 4880 and TF 0445 5015). Leasingham is located in the civil parish of Leasingham, North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd. and carried out by Heritage Lincolnshire.

2.2 Topography and Geology

The village of Leasingham is situated approximately 3km north of Sleaford and 24km southeast of Lincoln (Fig. 2). Surrounding topography is relatively flat except where the pipeline crosses a stream. The area lies approximately 30m above sea level, dropping to 25m in the base of the stream valley. The pipeline route followed Lincoln Road, the A15, from the northwest corner of Leasingham village to the junction of the road to Cranwell village. Local soils are the Aswarby association, gleyic calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Leasingham village is located in an area of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric through to the medieval period. Prehistoric activity is represented by a fragment of a Neolithic polished stone axe (Group IV, Langdale series) from approximately 1km west of the village (NK36.7).

From *c.* 300m northwest of the village, quantities of Roman pottery (NK36.3) have been found. Roman pottery scatters have also been recorded 1km to the west of the village (NK36.12, NK36.15).

Anglo-Saxon activity is represented by a spearhead located in the vicinity of the village (NK36.13), and by fragments of pottery (which included medieval examples) located *c.* 50m from the start of the pipe line in the village (NK36.5).

A medieval moated site, identified from aerial photographic evidence, is situated approximately 1.15km west of the village. Undated artefacts from the area comprise two lead loom weights (NK36.22) found *c.* 260m south of Leasingham and a ceramic spindle whorl (NK36.4), located 150m

west of the pipeline and less than 100m north of the village. In the village, the church of St Andrew has 12th century features and other buildings have 16th and 17th origins (Pevsner and Harris, 1989, 431).

3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to identify surviving archaeological deposits and, if present, record them in detail to enable their date, function and origin to be determined.

4. METHODS

A mechanical excavator was used in the construction of the pipe line trench, which measured 0.6m wide and averaged 1.1m in depth. See Fig. 3 for the location of the recorded sections. The sides of the trench were cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains prior to recording the sections. Each archaeological deposit or feature was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at scale 1:20. Additionally, the natural geology was recorded.

5. RESULTS

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

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	20th century archaeological deposits

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Natural deposits were only identified in sections 1 and 2 (Fig. 4). These consisted of deposits of oolitic limestone (3 and 7), sealing silty sand (4) in section 1 and a grey clay deposit (8) in section 2.

Phase 2 20th Century Archaeological Deposits

Sealing the oolitic limestone was a layer of granite chippings (2 and 6), below the present road surface (1 and 5). This layer was not observed north of Leasingham.

Beyond the village, where the trench cut through the verge along the western edge of the A15, a tarmac road surface (12 and 21) was observed at the base of the trench (Fig.5 Section 4). This was sealed by a dumped layer of clay (11 and 20), on top of which was a layer of limestone chippings (10 and 19). Above this layer a clayey silt deposit indicates the modern verge topsoil (9 and 18). Approximately 1km north of the village (Fig. 5 Section 3), roughly hewn limestone blocks measuring *c.* 0.6m by 0.8m, were observed (17), covered by a dumped layer of clay (16). Limestone chippings (15) sealed the dumped clay deposit, and this deposit was in turn sealed by a layer of clayey silt (14) that comprised the present roadside verge.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural layers of oolitic limestone sealing silty sand and grey clay (phase 1), were observed where the pipe trench was excavated near the village.

The tarmac surface visible at the northern and southern extremes of the trench, where it cut through the verge, represents the original road before the level of the

highway was raised. This was undertaken by building up the surface with a variety of deposits including limestone blocks.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigation of the pipe trench along the route of Lincoln Road, Leasingham established that natural deposits consisting of grey clay, silty sand and oolitic limestone occur within 0.4m of the present ground surface within the village. Natural deposits were not encountered north of Leasingham village. Along the route of the pipe trench north of the village, modern deposits associated with the construction of the Leasingham bypass were observed.

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
Site Assistant: David 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 13

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989 *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England* (2nd edition, revised Antram, N)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

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

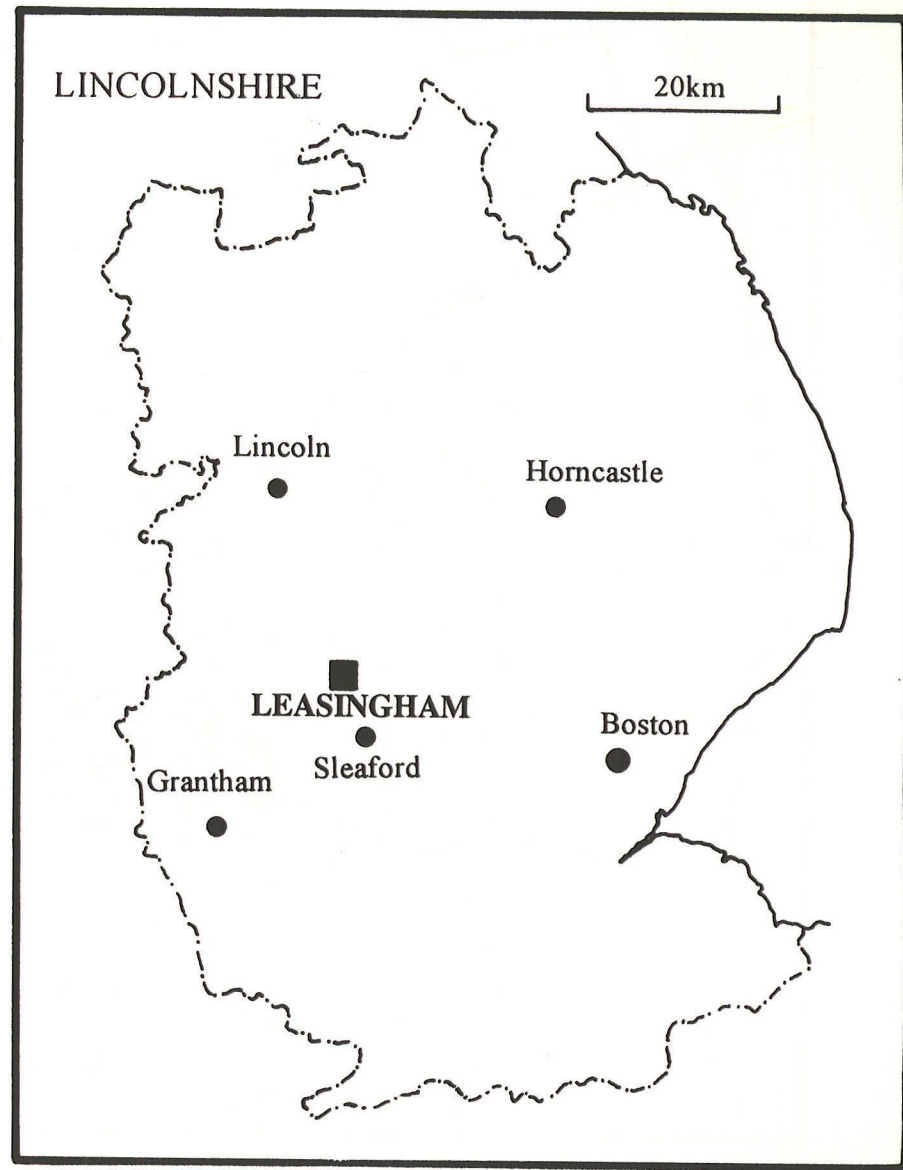
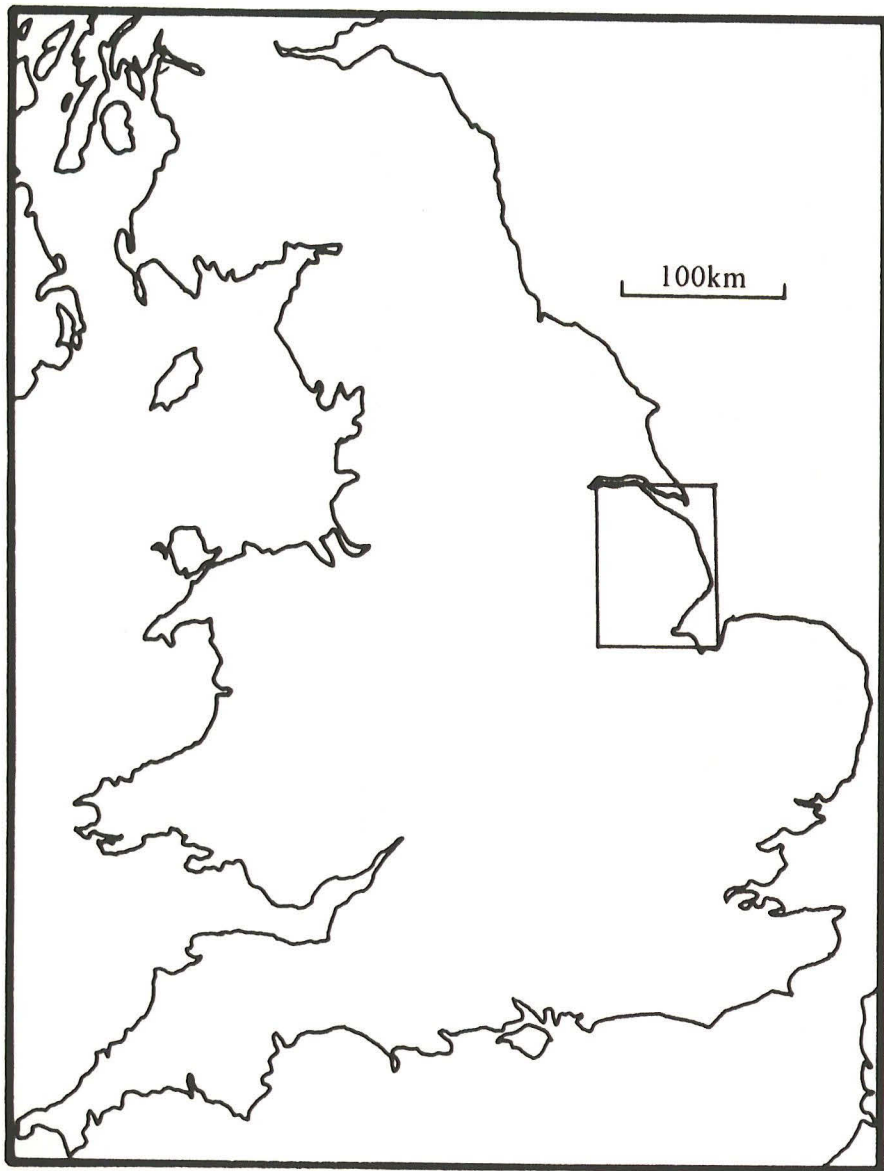
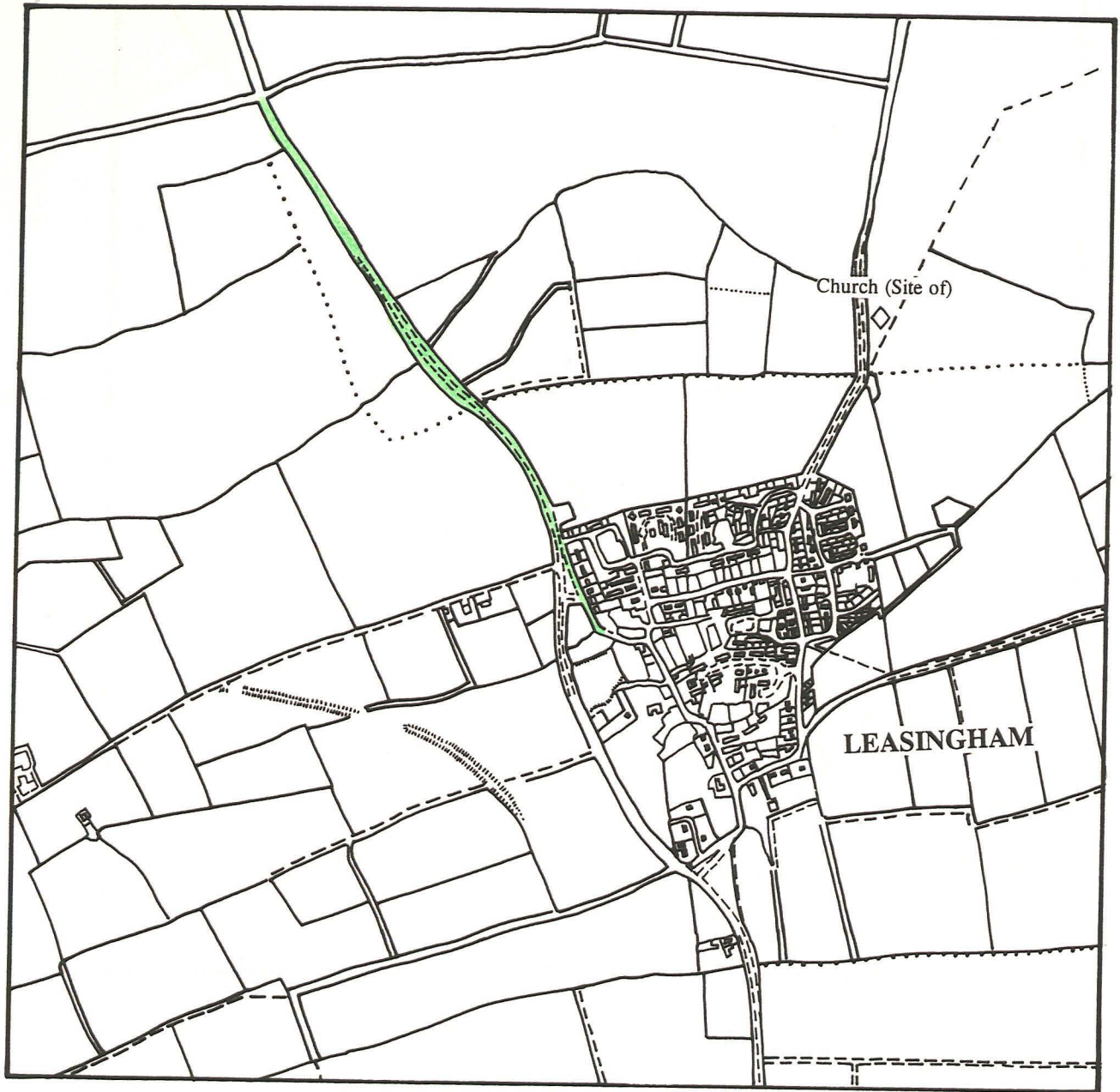


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



Route of Pipeline

Fig. 3 Location of Recorded Sections



0

1km



 Recorded Section

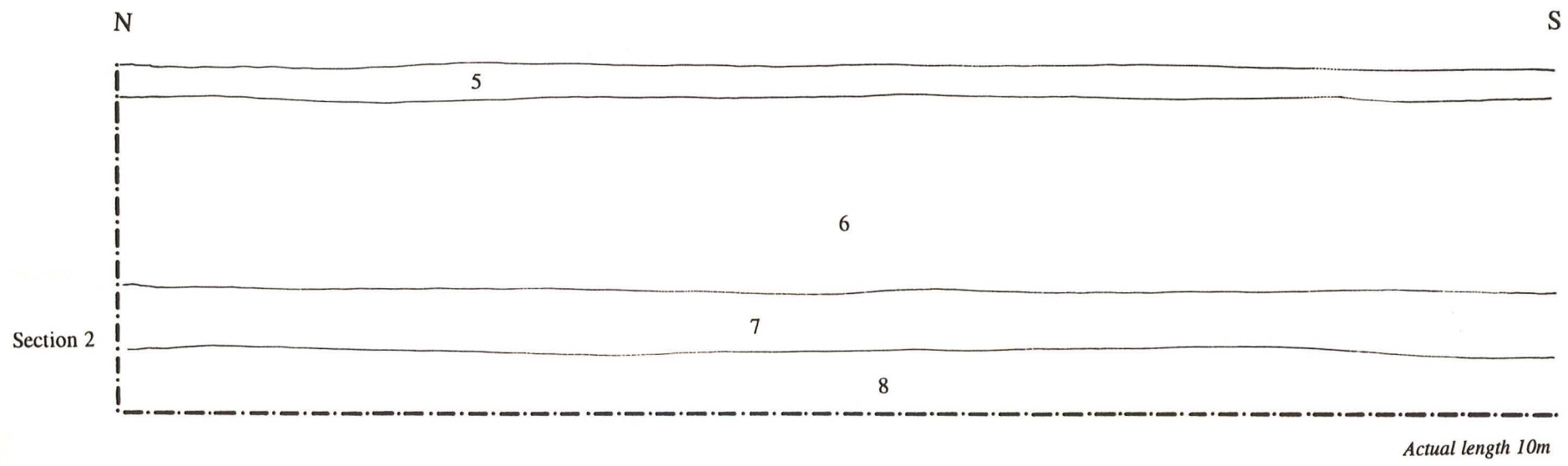
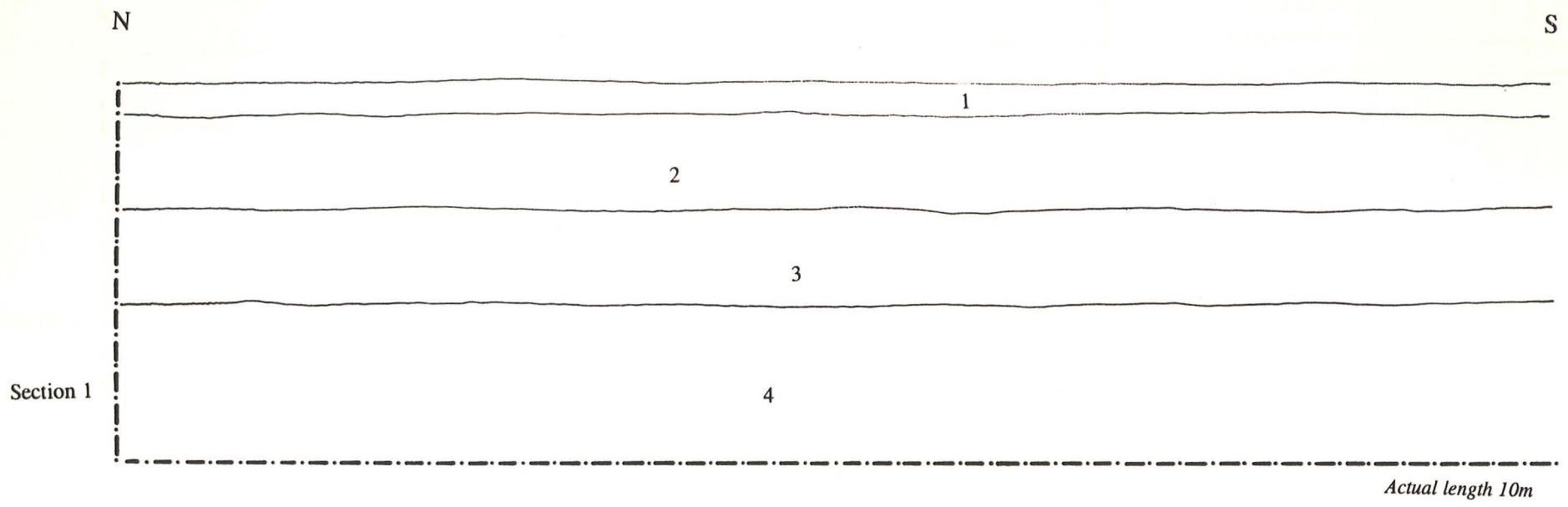
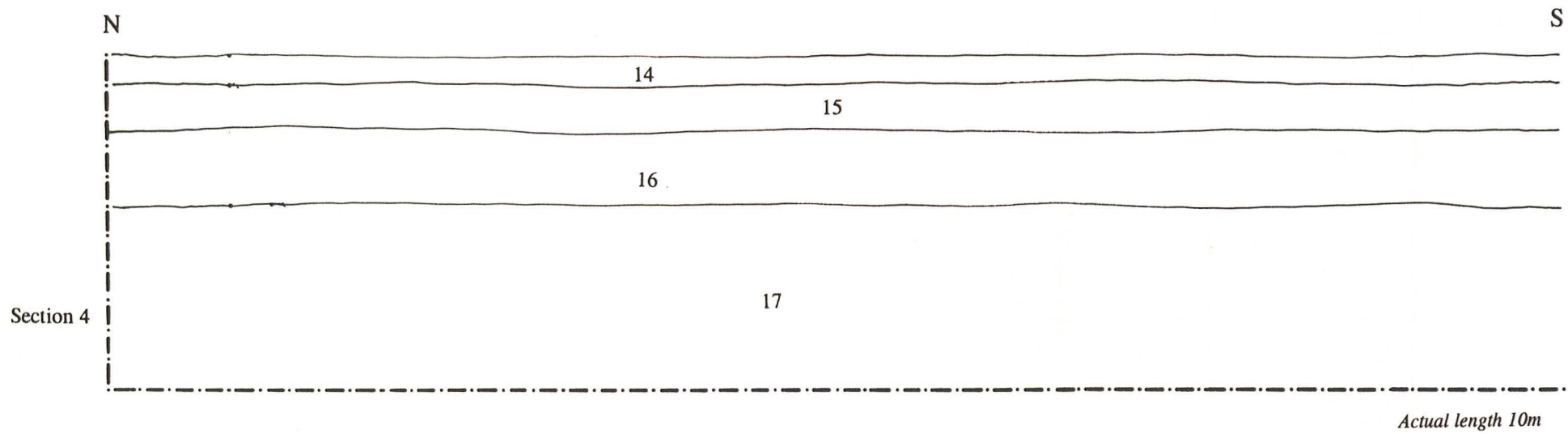
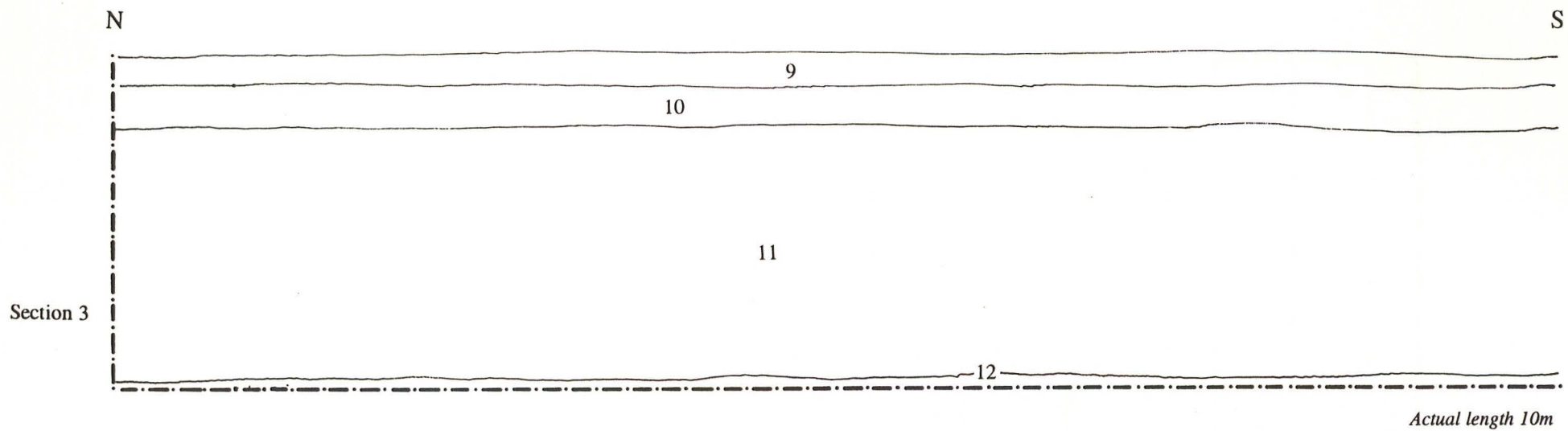


Fig. 4 Section 1 and 2



Section 5 is the same as section 3.

Fig. 5 Section 3 and 4

APPENDIX 1

Context Summary

1, 5	Tarmac, 0.10m thick.	Modern Road Surface
2	Granite Chippings, 0.30m thick.	Build up deposit for road.
3, 7	Limestone, 0.20 - 0.30m thick.	Natural Deposit.
4	Silt sand.	Natural deposit.
6, 10, 15, 19	Limestone chippings, 0.15 - 0.60m thick.	Build up deposit for road.
8	Grey Clay.	Natural Deposit.
9, 14, 18	Clayey silt, 0.10m thick.	Topsoil.
11, 16, 20	Redeposited clay, 0.85m thick.	Build up deposit for road.
12, 21	Tarmac.	Previous road surface.
17	Limestone blocks, c. 0.6m by 0.8m in size.	Build up deposit for road.

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 21 Context records
- 1 Photographic records
- 5 Scale drawings
- 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: 97.94