

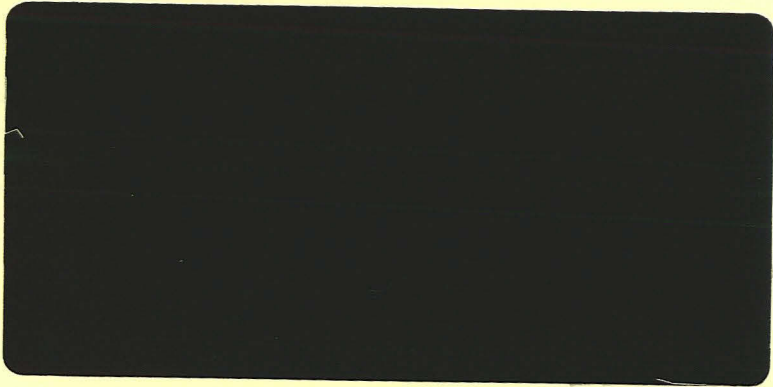
JB

M2/2

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF A WATER PIPELINE ALONG  
MAREHAM LANE,  
SPANBY, *Threackingham*  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(MLP 00)



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES



22  
6

Conservation  
Services  
07 MAY 2002  
Highways & Planning  
Directorate

Event U3004  
negative source L17743  
L17744.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF A WATER PIPELINE ALONG  
MAREHAM LANE,  
SPANBY, *Threackingham*  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(MLP 00)

Work Undertaken For  
Anglian Water Services Ltd

Report Compiled by  
James Albone MA PIFA

April 2002

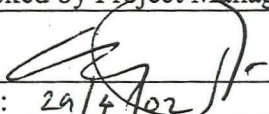
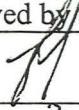
National Grid References: TF 0955 3815 and  
TF 0883 3903 - TF 0873 3947  
City and County Museum Accession No: 2000.149

A.P.S. Report No. 058/02



## Quality Control

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Supervisors	Denise Buckley, Rachael Hall, Jim Snee and Fiona Walker
CAD Illustration	James Albone
Photographic Reproduction	Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst	James Albone

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
 Gary Taylor	 Tom Lane
Date: 29/4/02	Date: 30-04-02

## CONTENTS

### List of Figures

1.	Summary .....	1
2.	Introduction .....	1
2.1	Definition of a Watching Brief .....	1
2.2	Planning Background .....	1
2.3	Topography, Geology and Soils .....	1
2.4	Archaeological Background .....	1
3.	Aims .....	2
4.	Methods .....	2
5.	Results .....	2
5.1	Phase 1: Natural Deposits .....	2
5.2	Phase 2: Undated Deposits .....	3
5.3	Phase 3: Modern Deposits .....	3
6.	Discussion .....	3
7.	Conclusions .....	3
8.	Acknowledgements .....	3
9.	Bibliography .....	3
10.	Abbreviations .....	4

### Appendices

1	Context Descriptions
2	Glossary
3	The Archive

### **List of Figures**

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Site location plan showing Areas 1 and 2
- Figure 3 Plan of Area 1 showing monitored locations
- Figure 4 Plan of Area 2 showing monitored locations
- Figure 5 Sections 1 - 4

### **List of Plates**

- Plate 1 General view of Area 1 looking east
- Plate 2 Section 1 in Pit 1 (Area 1) looking south
- Plate 3 Section 4 in Pit 7 (Area 2) looking north

## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during water mains replacement along Mareham Lane, near Spanby, Lincolnshire.*

*The pipeline route runs along the Romano-British (AD 43-410) thoroughfare of Mareham Lane, where Iron Age (800 BC - AD 43) and Romano-British settlement has previously been identified. The route also passes through the centre of the deserted medieval (1066-1500) village of Spanby, of which only the 14<sup>th</sup> century church remains standing.*

*No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as, 'a formal program of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits maybe disturbed or destroyed,' (IFA 1999).

### 2.2 Planning Background

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during water mains replacement along Mareham Lane and at Spanby, Lincolnshire between the 30<sup>th</sup> May and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2000.

On the recommendation of the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section the water mains replacement scheme was subject to the implementation of an

archaeological watching brief. Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd to undertake the watching brief.

### 2.3 Topography, Geology and Soils

The area of investigation was located near the hamlet of Spanby, 8km south of Sleaford, in the North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The monitored sections of the pipeline route were located in two areas (Fig. 2).

Area 1 consisted of a c.180m long section of pipeline route along the road between the disused church and medieval village earthworks at Spanby. This area is centred on national grid reference TF 0955 3815 and lies at a height of 15m OD.

Area 2 was located along Mareham Lane 1km north of Spanby hamlet. The pipeline route extended along the road between national grid references TF 0883 3903 and TF 0873 3947 and at 12m OD. In Area 2, the road forms the boundary between Screddington, Osbournby and Aswarby and Swarby parishes.

Local soils are of the Ruskington Association, typically gleyic brown calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 304). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of Fen sand and gravel which in turn overlies a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (GSGB 1972).

### 2.4 Archaeological Background

Spanby is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day.

Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from fields either side of Mareham Lane just west of Area 1. Mareham Lane itself is an important Roman road which connected settlements at Bourne and Sleaford, and may

have continued on to Lincoln. Romano-British pottery was also found at the site west of Spanby, suggesting continuity into this period.

Spanby is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c.1086 as *Spanesbi*. The place-name is Old Scandinavian in origin and refers to a 'homestead with a shingled roof' (Ekwall 1974, 433). At the time of the Domesday Survey, the land was owned by Kolsveinn and Odger the Breton and contained 38 acres of meadow (Morris 1986).

Spanby was a village in its own right during the medieval period. Earthwork remains of this village were visible until the 1980s when they were destroyed by ploughing. Also destroyed was a square moat, the former site of the Manor, and a number of fishponds (Figure 2). Ridge and furrow of the medieval fields was also once apparent in the surrounding area.

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the church of St. Nicholas which contains 14<sup>th</sup> century elements, although it was extensively altered in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 679). The church is now redundant.

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to record and interpret archaeological features exposed during the ground disturbance. The objectives were to determine the form, function, spatial arrangement, date and sequence of any archaeological remains.

### 4. METHODS

Water mains replacement in the monitored areas was carried by thrust boring. Access

pits were excavated by machine to a depth of c.1.2m.

The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 2. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was also compiled. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practise.

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

## 5. RESULTS

Three phases were recognised:

- Phase 1: Natural deposits
- Phase 2: Undated deposits
- Phase 3: Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

### Phase 1: Natural deposits

Two natural deposits were exposed in Area 1. In Pit 1 an orange brown sand and gravel layer was exposed (003). This was greater than 0.3m thick. In Pit 2, 110m further east, a grey brown clay natural deposit (004) was recorded. This was exposed to a thickness of 0.5m (Fig. 5).

Natural deposits were recorded only in Pit 7 in Area 2. Light greyish yellow clay (008) was



exposed to a thickness of 0.8m in this pit.

### **Phase 2: Undated deposits**

The majority of pits in Area 2 (nos. 3 - 6) revealed the same stratigraphy. A light to mid yellow silt layer (006) was exposed to a maximum thickness of 0.8m (Fig. 5). In Pit 7, the natural clay (008) was sealed below mid brownish yellow clayey sand (007). This deposit was greater than 0.8m in thickness.

### **Phase 3: Modern deposits**

In Area 1, modern road make-up (002) and surface deposits (001) were present in both pits.

Above the subsoil in Pit 7 in Area 2 was a lens of black-brown sandy silt with occasional pieces of tarmac (009) which is probably a dumped or make-up layer. This layer, and all the undated subsoil deposits in all pits in Area 2, were sealed beneath a dark blackish brown silt topsoil (005), which was up to 0.4m thick.

## **6. DISCUSSION**

Natural deposits comprised clay and sand and gravel deposits (Phase 1) representing a localised variations in the underlying drift geology of the area.

Undated silt and clayey sand subsoil deposits were recorded in Area 2. These layers may also have represented natural stratigraphy. These deposits were sealed by silt topsoil.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered and no artefacts were retrieved.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

Archaeological investigations were undertaken during the Mareham Lane water pipeline because the route lay along the Roman Road and adjacent to medieval earthworks at Spanby.

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered and no artefacts were recovered. It is likely that the results reflect the problems of identifying archaeological remains in small access pits and not the genuine absence of archaeological remains in the area of the project.

## **8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Colin Lindsey of Anglian Water Services Ltd who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Thanks are also due to John Porter of ALHCO. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Joanna Hambly, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, kindly allowed access to the relevant parish files. Other background information was obtained from the library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

## **9. BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Ekwall, E., 1974, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names* (4th Edition)

GSGB, 1972, *Grantham, solid and drift geology*, 1:50,000 map sheet 127

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

IFA, 1999, *Standards and Guidance for  
Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Morris, J., 1986, *Domesday Book:  
Lincolnshire*

## 10. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

DoE Department of the Environment

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

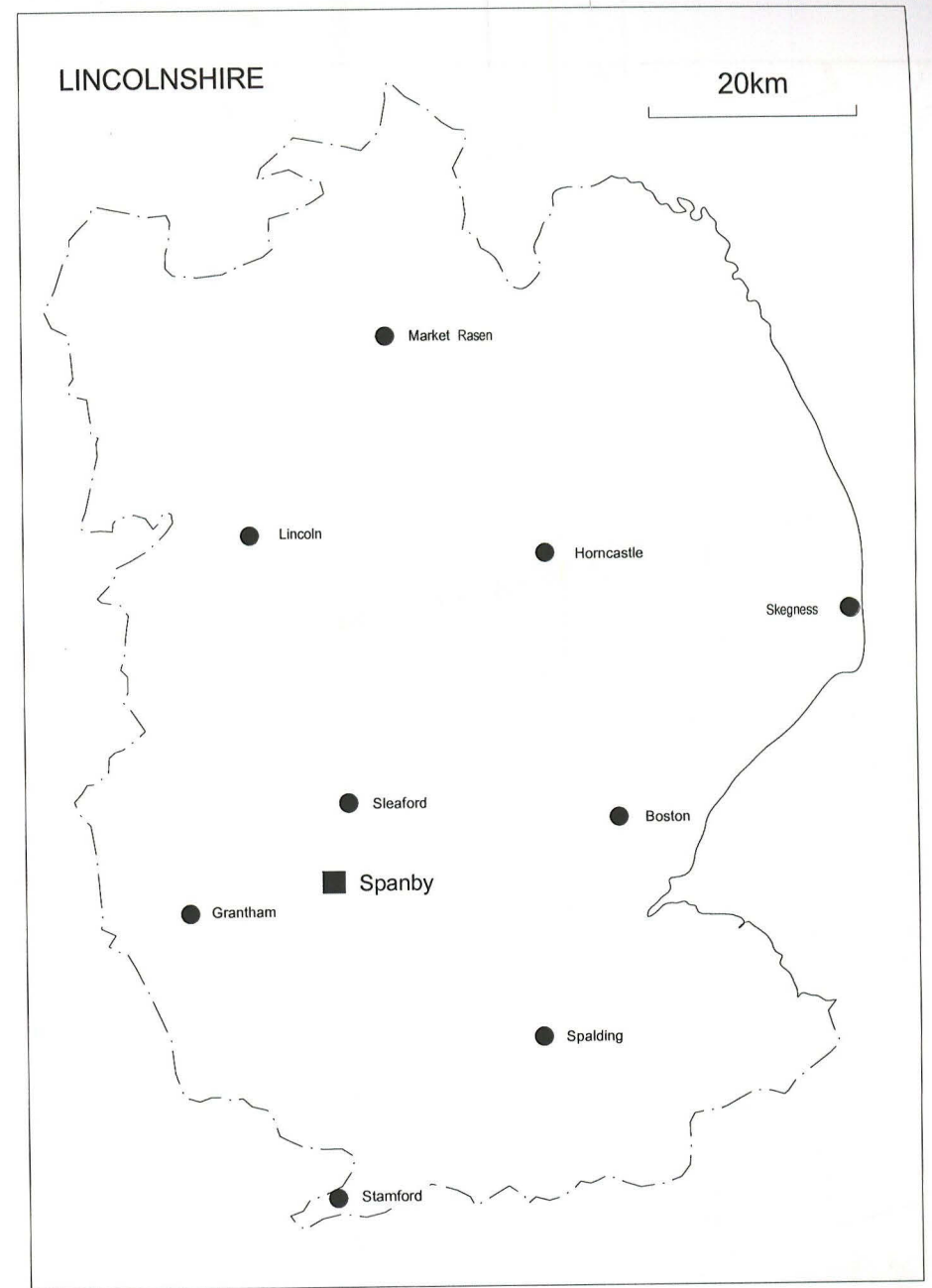


Figure 1 General Location Plan

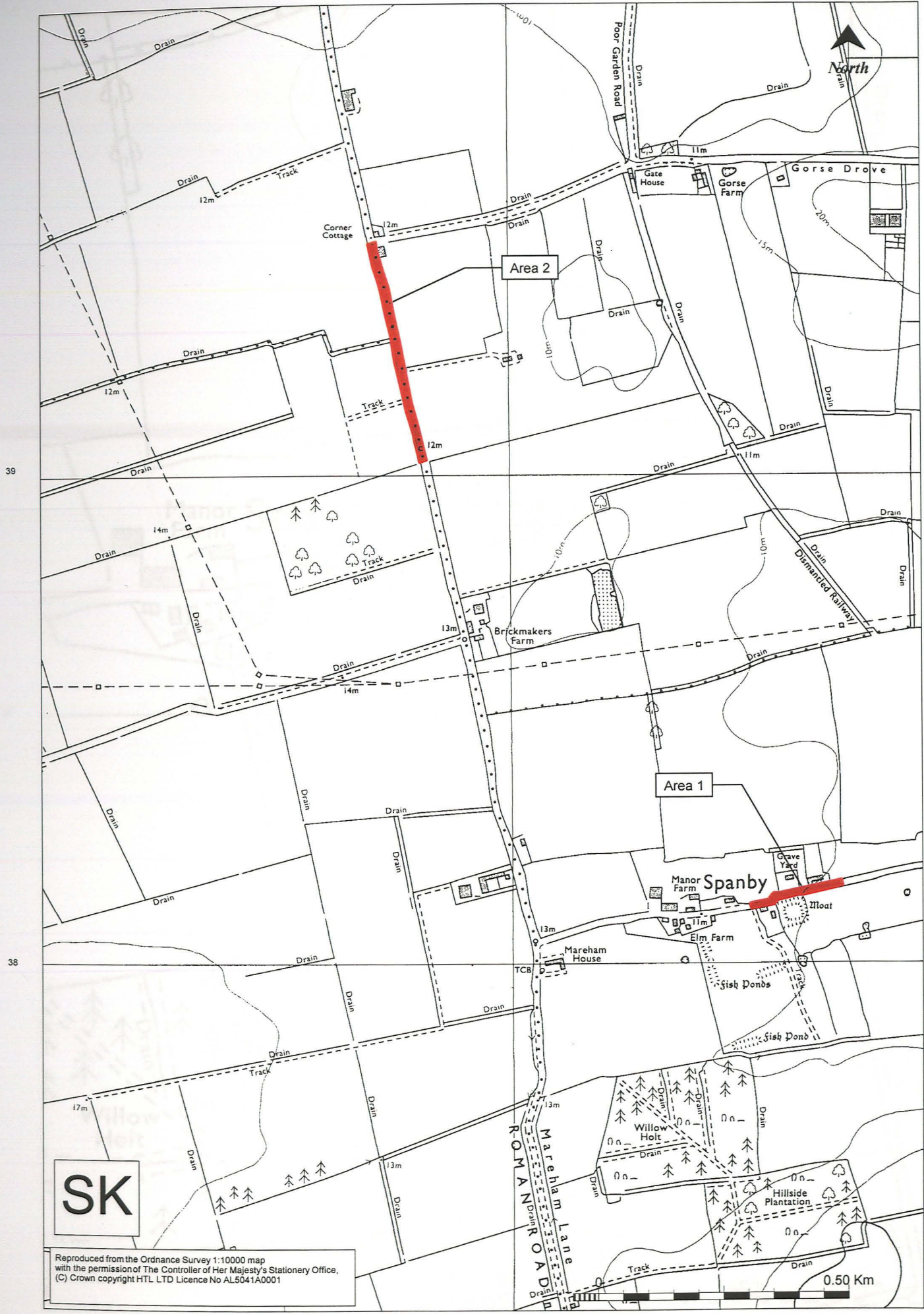


Figure 2 Site location plan showing Areas 1 and 2

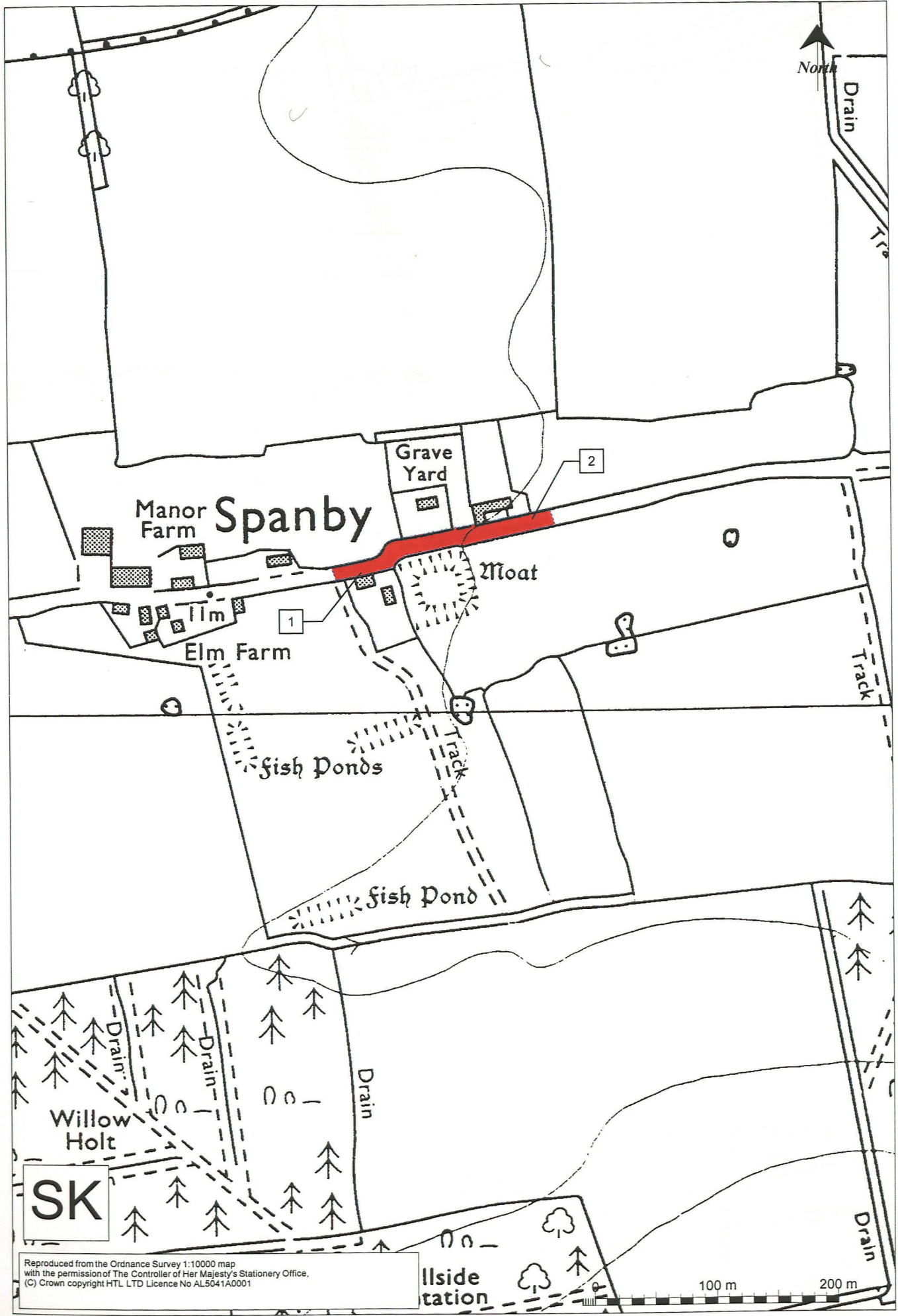


Figure 3 Plan of Area 1 showing monitored locations

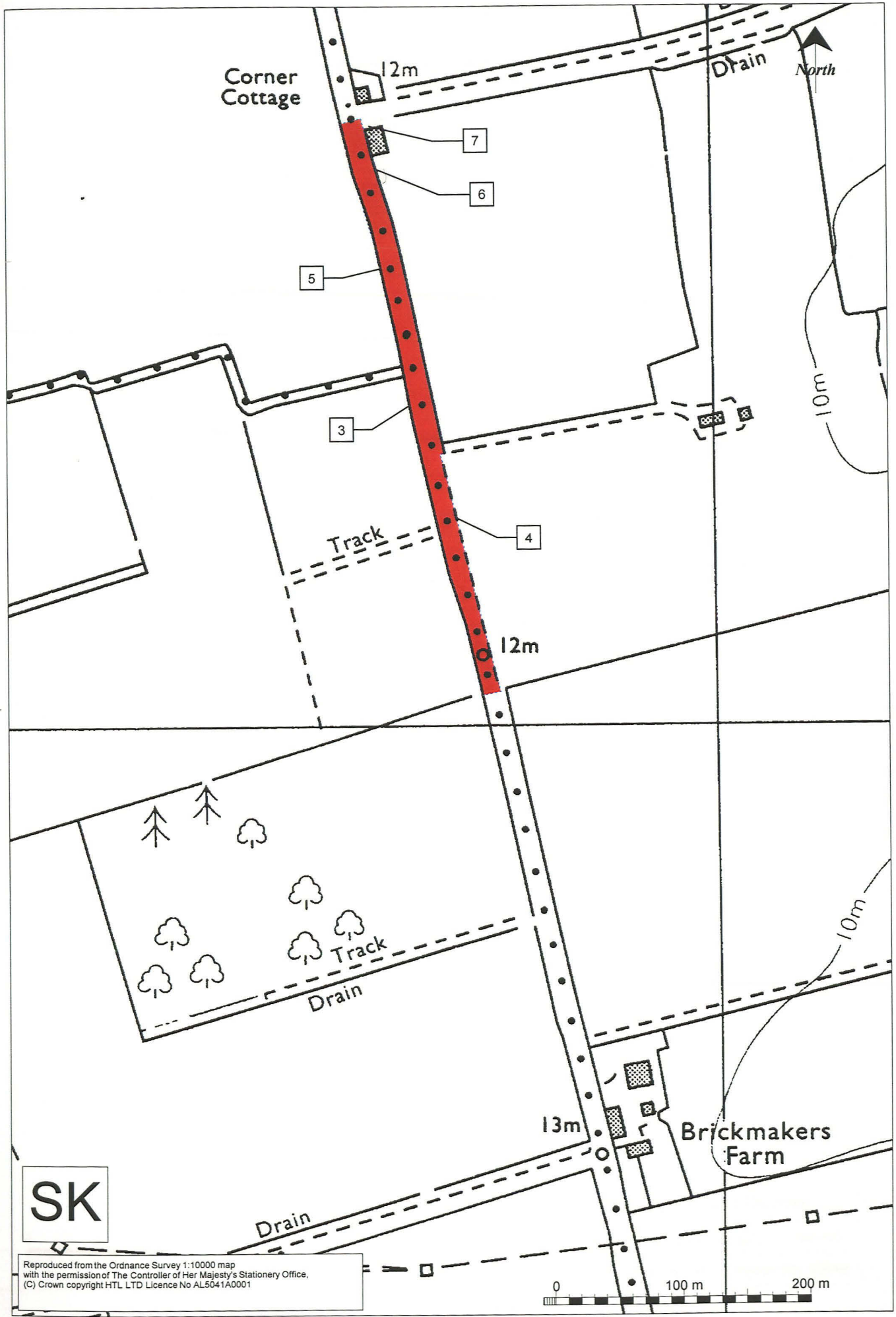
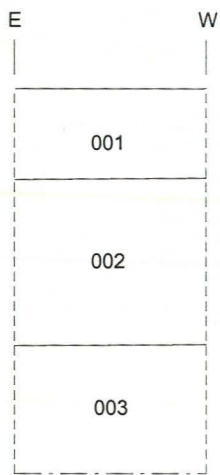
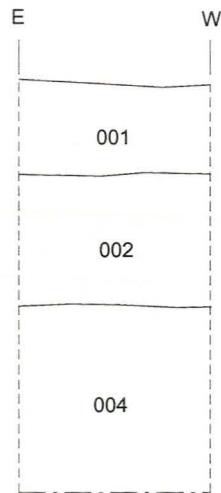


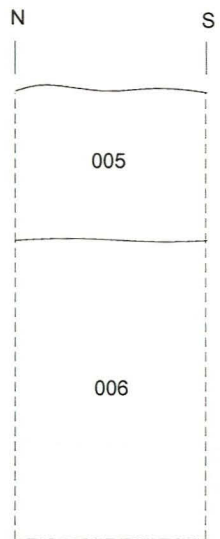
Figure 4 Plan of Area 2 showing monitored locations



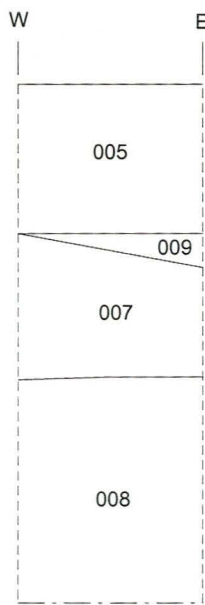
Section 1  
Area 1 Pit 1



Section 2  
Area 1 Pit 2



Section 3  
Area 2 Pit 3



Section 4  
Area 2 Pit 7



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Mareham Lane Pipeline, Spanby MLP00

Scale: 1:20

Drawn by: JA

Report No: 058/02

Figure 5 Sections 1 - 4.



Plate 1 General  
view of Area 1  
looking east



Plate 2 Section 1  
in Pit 1 (Area 1)  
looking south



Plate 3 Section 4  
in Pit 7 (Area 2)  
looking north



## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1,2	Indurated black tarmac, 0.25m thick	Road surface
002	1,2	Loose mid brown sand and gravel, 0.45m thick	Make up layer for road
003	1	Loose orange brown sand and gravel, >0.3m thick	Natural
004	2	Firm grey brown clay, >0.5m thick	Natural
005	3,4	Firm dark blackish brown silt, 0.4m thick	Topsoil
006	3	Firm mid yellowish brown silt, 0.8m thick	Subsoil
007	4	Firm mid brownish yellow clayey sand, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
008	4	Firm light greyish yellow clay, >0.6m thick	Natural
009	4	Dark blackish brown sandy silt with occasional pieces of tarmac, wedge up to 100mm thick	Dumped deposit/make up

## Appendix 2

### GLOSSARY

<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

## Appendix 3

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

9	Context records
3	Scale drawings
7	Daily site record sheets
1	Photographic record sheet

The material from the watching brief will be accessioned with the archive from the evaluation.

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 2000.149

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: MLP 00

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.