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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
DURING WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT
AT WELBY, LONDONTHORPE,
BARKSTON AND SYSTON
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WES99)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

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AT WELBY, LONDONTHORPE,
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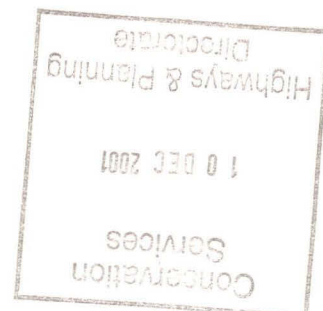
Work Undertaken For
Anglian Water Services Ltd.

November 2001

Report Compiled by
Mark Dymond HND

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a watermain trench in Welby, Londonthorpe, Barkston and Syston, South Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the service trench where it passed through archaeologically sensitive areas.

Evidence for prehistoric activity comprises casual finds including a stone hammer and Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) pottery. Two major Roman (AD 50-410) roads, Ermine Street and King Street, traverse the route of the pipeline trench. Further Roman activity is attested by finds of pottery and coins, the former possibly indicating the presence of a settlement. Saxon (AD 410-1066) burials have been recorded south of Ancaster along Ermine Street.

The watching brief identified undated buried soils, one of which was covered by a dumped deposit that may be associated with maintenance or construction of the B6043 which follows the route of Ermine Street. An undated field boundary was also identified.

Finds retrieved during the investigation include a possible Neolithic flint, Bronze Age and Romano-British pottery. A quantity of 19th - 20th century pottery was also retrieved along with brick or tile, glass and clay pipe.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified

area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1997).

2.2 Planning Background

Anglian Water Services Ltd approached Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section for advice concerning the archaeological implications along the route of proposed water main replacement at Welby, Londonthorpe, Barkston and Syston, near Grantham, Lincolnshire. The Archaeological Officer for Lincolnshire County Council advised that the pipeline will pass through archaeologically sensitive areas and recommended that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken at appropriate locations along the route.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Anglian Water Services to undertake a watching brief during the water main replacement at Welby, Londonthorpe Barkston and Syston, Lincolnshire. The work was carried out between the 24th May and 12th August 1999 and was undertaken in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and agreed to by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (Appendix 1).

2.3 Topography and Geology

The investigation area (centre), is located 8km northeast of Grantham and 12km southwest of Sleaford, in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The route of the water main replacement passes between National Grid Reference SK 937 355 and SK 951 363, and between SK 952 352 and SK 954 359 (Fig. 2). The section of the route of the pipeline under investigation is on undulating land with a general dip to the north and lies at an

elevation of between c. 90m and 120m OD.

The southern extent of the trench monitored by the watching brief is located in Londonthorpe and progresses north to and along Beggar's Lane, south of Syston Grange. West of Syston Grange, the route passes north along Heath Lane. North of Mushroom Farm, the trench is aligned east-west, before turning north and joining Heath Lane, adjacent to Barkston Heath Airfield.

The northern half of the monitored route passes north along the B6403 for 1.1km from its junction with Heath Lane at the southwestern corner of the airfield. A spur east off the B6403 passes along the eastern section of Heath Lane at Copper Hill for 1.4km and crosses the Roman road King Street.

The pipeline traverses soils of the Elmton 1 Association, typically shallow brown rendzinas, and pelostagnogley soils of the Denchworth Association (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 155, 179). These soils overlie a solid geology of Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone although there are a few outcrops of more recent glacially derived sands and gravels on Barkston Heath (GSGB 1972).

2.4 Archaeological Setting (Fig. 2)

Archaeological sites and findspots in the area traversed by the trench are represented by several periods. Prehistoric activity, represented by a single stone axe hammer found south of Welby. Pottery of possible Bronze Age date, suggesting the presence of a settlement, has been found in Belton and Wilsford parishes which border the investigation area to the west and northeast (May 1976, 85). Approximately 600m west of Syston Grange are two circular cropmarks, each indicative of a ring ditch, possibly surrounding a burial mound.

Two major Roman roads, Ermine Street and King Street, are crossed by the trench, and joined immediately north of the investigation area. Ermine Street, which linked London with Lincoln and on to York, is fossilised by the present course of High Dike, the B6403. The route of the road passes through the Roman town and fort of Ancaster, to the north. King Street branches off from Ermine Street at Water Newton, near Peterborough, and provided a route through Bourne before rejoining Ermine Street at Copper Hill (Margary 1973, 234).

Further Romano-British activity is indicated by findspots of pottery comprising grey wares, colour-coated wares and samian east of Belton Ashes. This pottery may indicate the presence of a settlement. A coin of Trajan (AD 53-117), was found in association with four urns, near Ermine Street, and another of Gordian III (AD 238-244) was found just north of Welby.

Early Saxon burials, part of a cemetery, have found south of Ancaster, alongside Ermine Street (Whitwell 1970, 138), and glass and amber beads, possibly indicating further burials, were found in Syston Park and attest to an Early Saxon presence in the area.

Londonthorpe and Welby are first documented in Domesday, where they are referred to as *Lundetorp*, *Lundretorp* and *Wellibi*, and transliterate as 'Phorp (hamlet/farm) by a grove' and 'settlement by a spring' respectively (Cameron 1998, 81, 135). Domesday also records that land in Londonthorpe, Welby and neighbouring Barkston was owned by the King, Bishop Osmund of Salisbury, Ivo Taillebois and Osbern the priest and Ralph the Sewer, among others (Foster and Longley 1976).

Several undated features are in proximity to the route of the trench. Immediately east of Syston Grange are cropmarks of a square

enclosure. Cropmarks showing a rectilinear pattern representing a field system, have been identified immediately north of Belton Ashes. West of Londonthorpe church are earthworks that may represent the former medieval village plots. Northeast of Mushroom Farm, adjacent to Ermine Street, cropmarks show a moat that is also probably medieval in date.

Modern features are represented by two type 22 pillboxes on Barkston Heath Airfield which was established as a relief airfield for RAF Cranwell in 1941 (Hancock 1978, 53).

3. AIMS

The requirements of the watching brief, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), were to determine the spatial arrangement, date, form, function and sequence of the archaeological features encountered.

4. METHODS

The trenches were excavated by machine and measured between 0.2m and 0.7m wide and was up to 1.18m deep. Where the trench passed through fields south from Beggar's Lane to Londonthorpe, a 10m wide easement was cleared of ploughsoil before the trench was excavated. Following excavation, selected portions of the sides of the trench were cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were partially or fully excavated by hand to determine their nature and to retrieve artefactual material. The depth and thickness of each deposit were measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 2. A photographic record was compiled and sections and plans were

compiled at scales 1:10 and 1:20 respectively. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 3). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Three phases of activity were identified:

<i>Phase 1</i>	Natural deposits
<i>Phase 2</i>	Undated deposits
<i>Phase 3</i>	Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in square brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field. Where lists of contexts are given within single brackets, they appear in ascending stratigraphic order.

Phase 1 Natural deposits

The earliest deposits encountered at the western extent of the route of the trench comprised weathered limestone brash (003, 006, 010, 013, 016, 019, 024 and 027). This was also identified in Section 21, on the east side of Barkston Heath Airfield (078). Natural deposits elsewhere consisted of silty and clayey sands, except at the eastern extent of the route, north of Wilsford quarry, where clay was observed.

Phase 2 Undated deposits

Cutting through the limestone brash (024)

south of Barkston Heath Airfield (Fig. 5, Section 7) was an east-west aligned ditch (020). This was 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep and contained reddish yellow silty sand (021).

Situated on the east side of the B6403 and overlying natural deposit (067) was a possible buried land surface (066) comprising a 0.1m thick reddish brown sandy silt (Fig. 5, Section 18). The land surface was sealed by a layer of brown silty sand (065), possibly a dumped deposit.

East of Section 18, along Heath Lane near the crossroad with King Street, another buried soil of greyish brown silt (081), overlying a subsoil of reddish brown sandy silt (082) was identified in Section 22.

Phase 3 Modern Deposits

East of the buried soil (081) and situated near the eastern extent of the route of the pipeline, a dumped deposit (079), overlain by topsoil, was identified. This contained pottery dated to the 20th century.

Cut through natural silty sand (042) near the southwest corner of Barkston Heath Airfield, was a pit (040) measuring 5.5m long by 0.8m deep. This was filled by greyish brown silty sand (039). The pit contained ceramic building material and pieces of plastic sheeting.

Located in Section 2, west of Syston Grange, was a modern service trench (088), containing a water pipe sealed by backfill (007 and 005).

Layers of tarmac and associated make-up deposits (054, 053, 052 and 051) and (045 and 044) sealed by topsoil, were identified in sections 13 and 15, at the eastern extent of Barkston Heath Airfield. These are likely to represent the locations of former access

routes into the airfield.

The remainder of the deposits recorded comprise subsoil and topsoil. Artefacts retrieved derive from topsoil deposits located south of Beggar's Lane. Topsoils (029, 030 and 085) contained 20th century pottery fragments along with Romano-British types. A Neolithic flint blade and Bronze Age pottery were also retrieved from these topsoil deposits.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Phase 1) encountered during the watching brief comprised limestone of the underlying solid geology. Sands and clays were also encountered which may relate to outcrops of drift deposits, notably the glacial sands and gravels.

Undated deposits comprise an east-west ditch which probably represents a former field boundary. An undated buried soil identified west of the junction between Heath Lane and King Street may be modern, as it overlies subsoil and is sealed by modern topsoil. It may have been created during cleaning out of roadside ditches.

The undated buried soil recorded on the west verge of the B6403, just north of its junction with the east side of Heath Lane might be earlier. The soil that covers it is not subsoil and is probably dumped, which may derive from upcast from a pit or ditch. Although dating evidence was not retrieved from either of these deposits, they could relate to construction or maintenance associated with the highway during any time from the Romano-British period to the present.

The modern dumped deposit on the north side of Heath Lane at the end of the route of the trench probably represents a period of rubbish disposal, backfilling a natural hollow

beside the road. A modern pit situated at the southwestern corner of Barkston Heath Airfield, is likely also to represent a period of rubbish disposal. Other modern deposits located at the eastern edge of Barkston Heath Airfield comprise tarmac and associated make-up layers. These probably represent disused access routes into the airfield.

The earliest artefact encountered was a utilised flint blade of the Neolithic period. A single sherd of Bronze Age Billingborough Fen type ware was also retrieved. This pottery has previously been found south of the investigation area at Old Somerby and Ropsley (Cleal 2001, 39). A quantity of Romano-British pottery was also recovered from topsoil south of Beggar's Lane, close to where pottery has previously been retrieved. Pottery of 19th and 20th century date, along with clay pie, glass, brick and tile were also found. Such finds, derived from the topsoil, may represent nothing more than discarded rubbish spread on the fields to improve soil fertility.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were carried out during the construction of a water pipeline because the route of the trench passes through an area containing prehistoric, Romano-British, Saxon and medieval remains. In particular, the trench passes adjacent to two Roman roads, Ermine Street and King Street, and near to a possible Romano-British settlement.

Undated deposits comprise buried soils, one of which is sealed by a dumped layer that may derive from maintenance of the B6403 and could date from the Roman period to the present. An undated ditch probably denotes a former field boundary. No evidence was found that related to the construction or

maintenance of the Roman roads, Ermine and King Streets.

Artefacts retrieved from this investigation include a Neolithic flint blade, a single sherd of Bronze Age pottery and a quantity of Romano-British wares. Other finds include 19th - 20th century pottery, glass, clay pipe and brick or tile. The nature of the site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators would exist, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Ms C. Dring of Anglian Water Services Ltd., who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis. Thanks are also due to Jo Simpson, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist for allowing access to the relevant parish files. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Field Staff: Mark Dymond, Charles Fell, Neil Herbert, Phil Mills, Martin Rivet and Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Mark Dymond and Sue Unsworth
Post-excavation Analyst: Mark Dymond

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

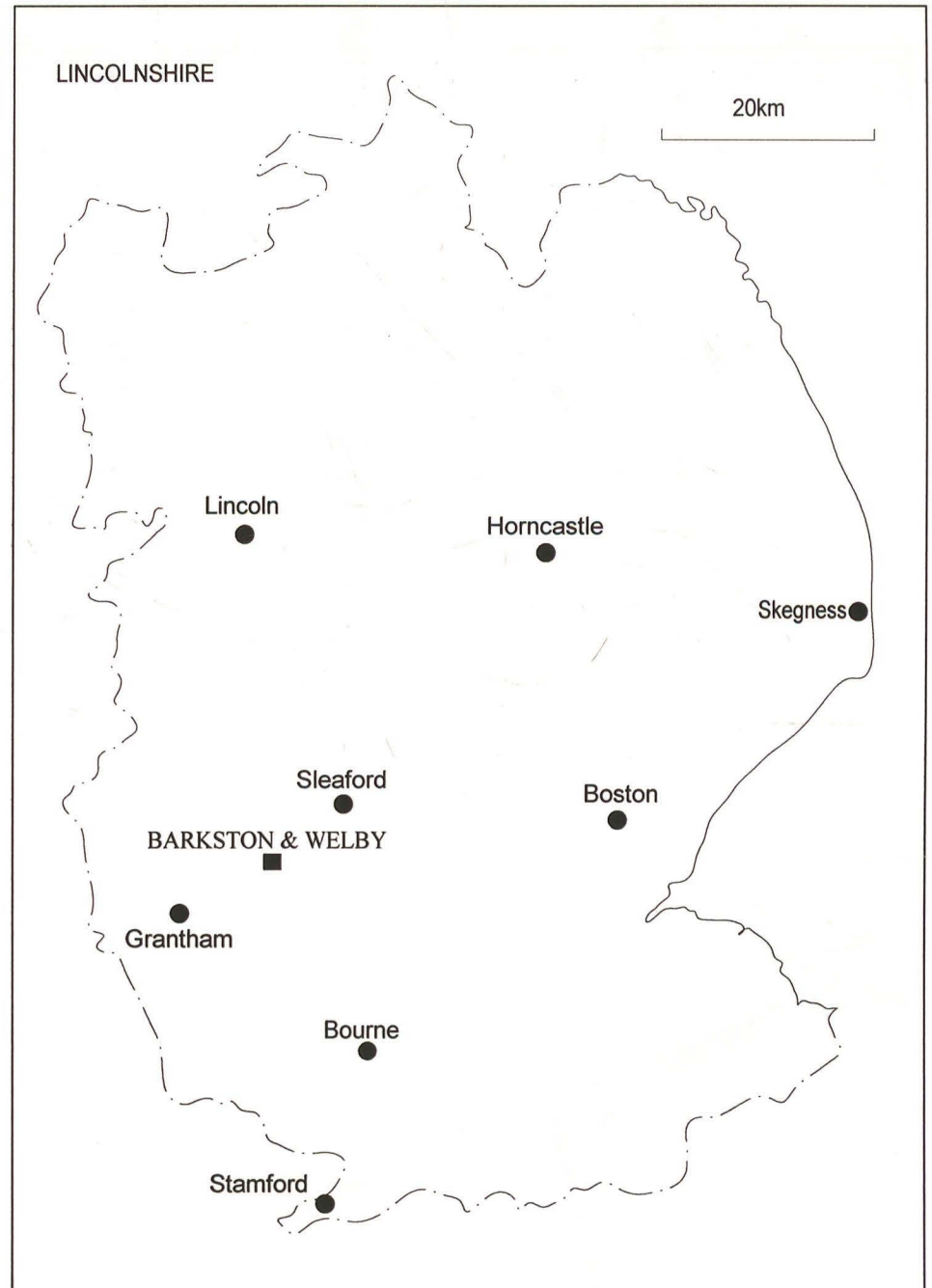
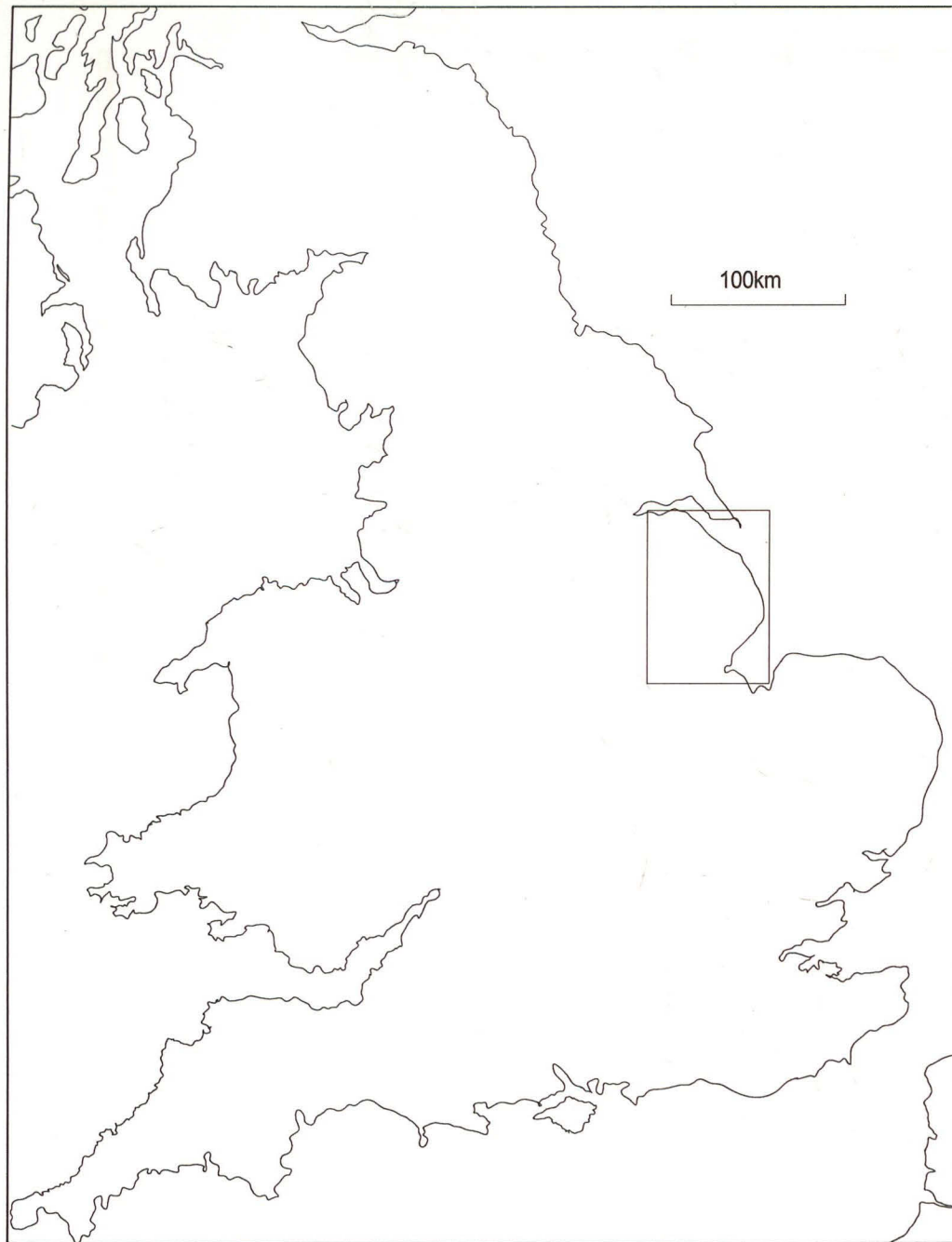


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

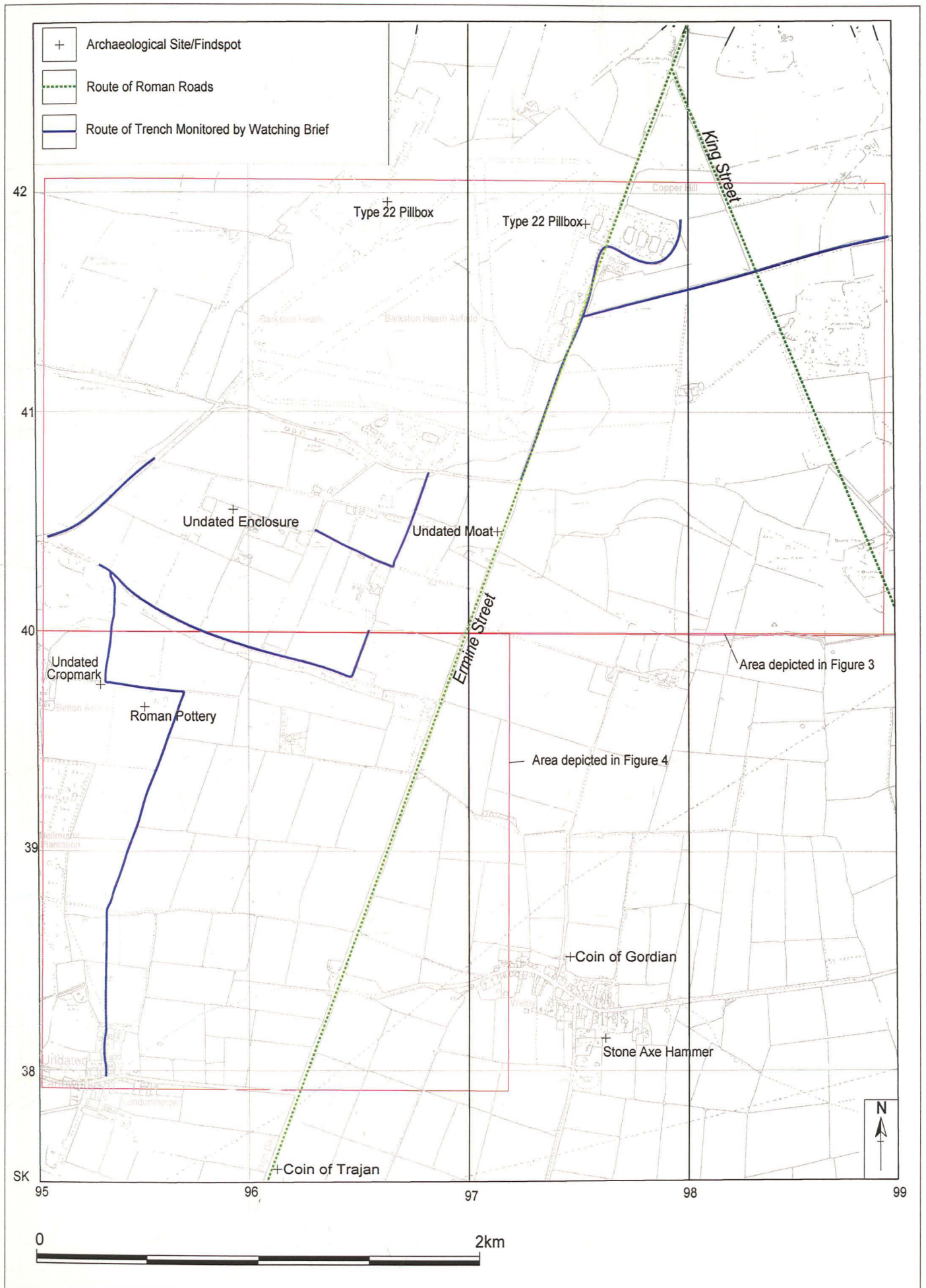


Figure 2 - Plan Showing Archaeological Sites and Route of Trench

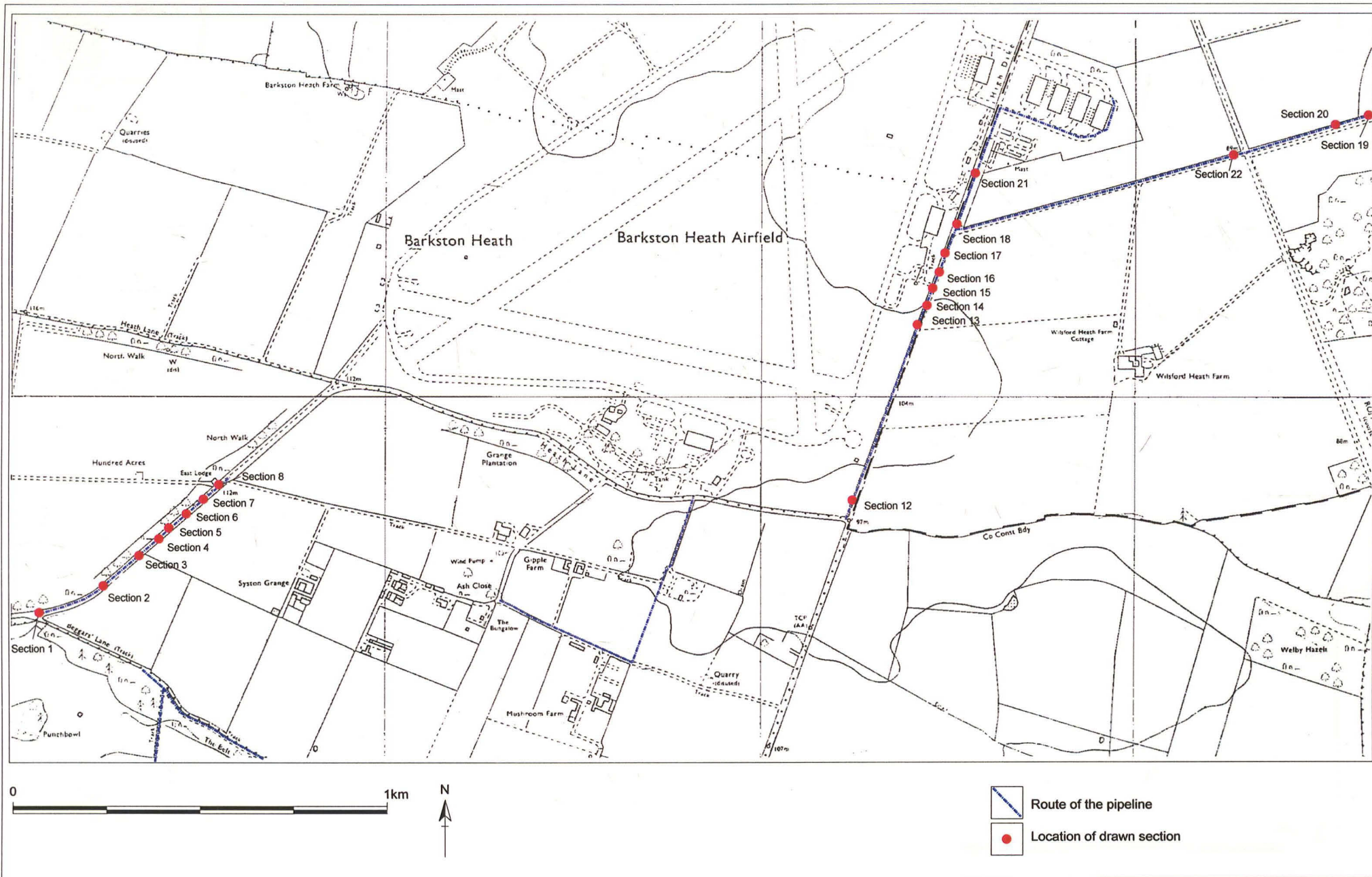


Figure 3 - Location of drawn sections around Barkston Heath

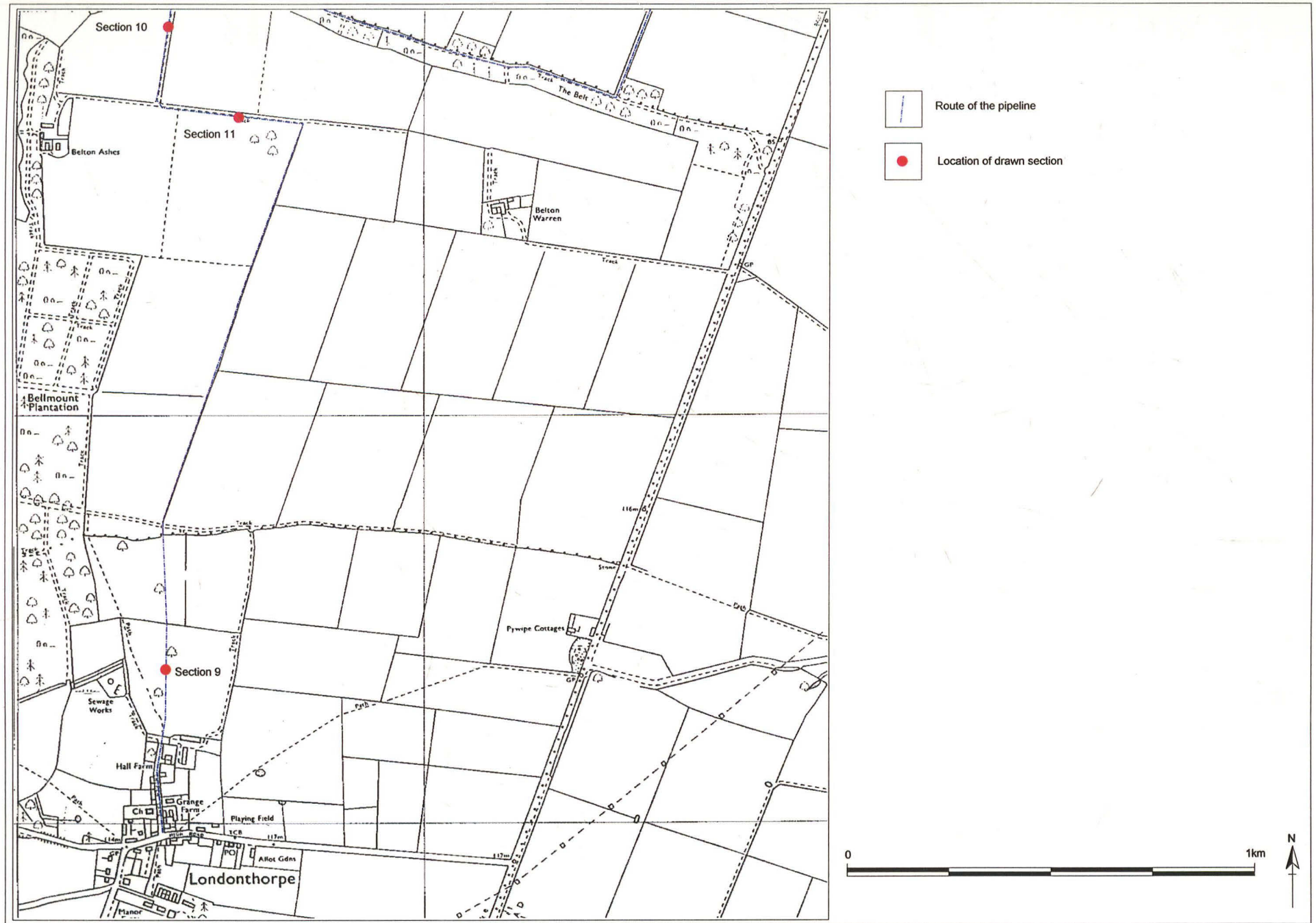


Figure 4 - Location of drawn sections north of Londonthorpe

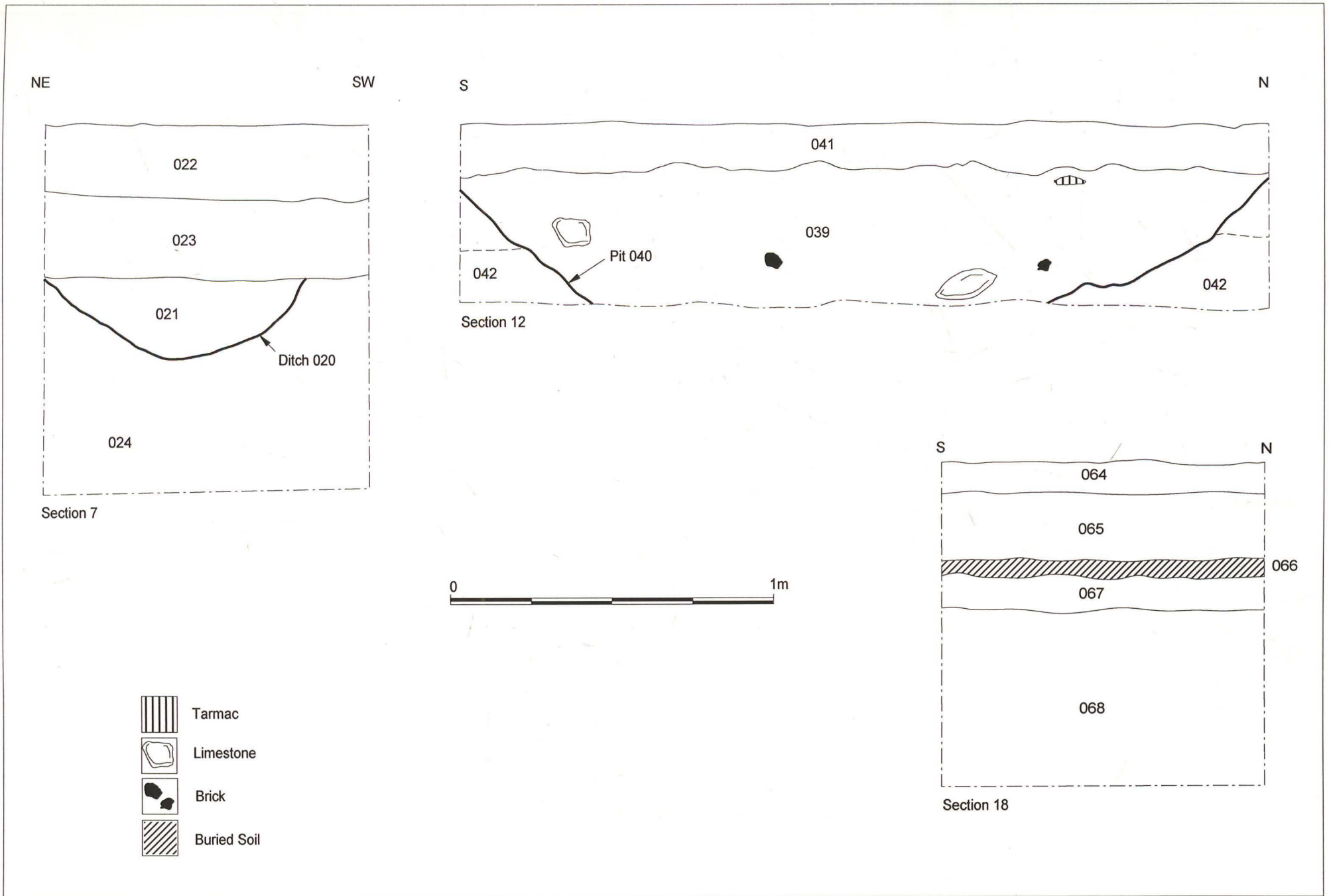
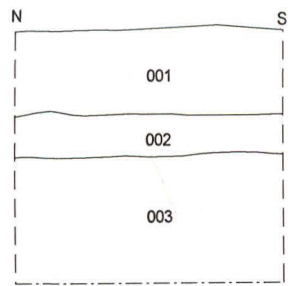
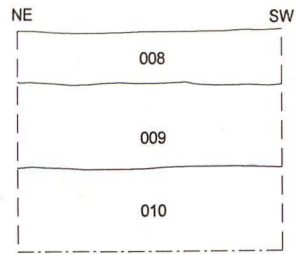


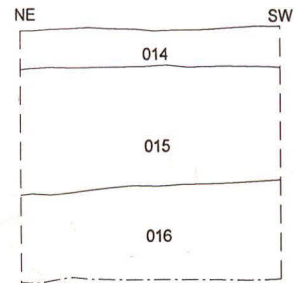
Figure 5 - Sections showing archaeological features or deposits



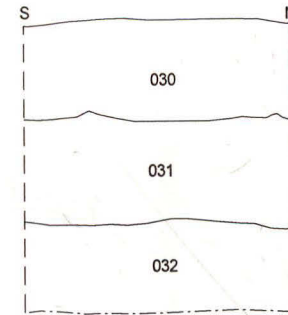
Section 1



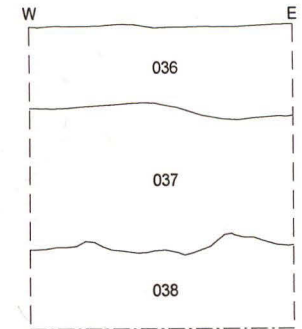
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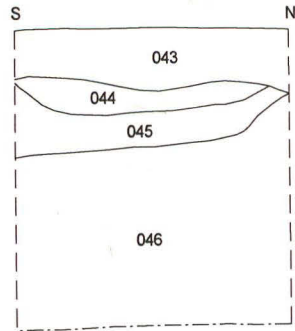
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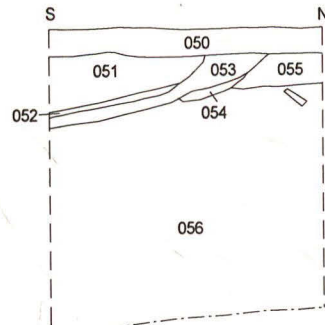
Section 9



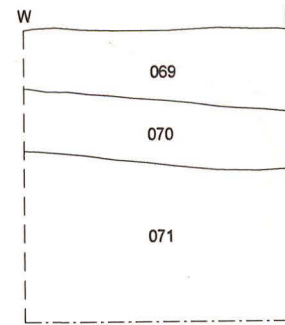
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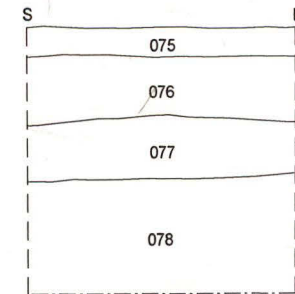
Section 13



Section 15



Section 19



Section 21



Figure 6 - Selected sections showing the general sequence of deposits



Plate 1 - General shot of the pipeline during recording north of Londonthorpe, looking north



Plate 2 - Section 2 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking south

Appendix 1

WELBY WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT WELBY, ERMINE STREET AND VICINITY, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

A watching brief is required during replacement of water mains at a number of sites at Welby, near Grantham, Lincolnshire.

The works will take place adjacent to a major Roman road and near to a second important road. Cropmarks of possible prehistoric burials are known near Beggar's Lane. South of that lane is a probable Roman settlement and field system.

The watching brief will be undertaken during trenching operations. Any archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.

On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during water main replacement at locations at Welby, near Grantham Lincolnshire. The watching brief will take place at Ermine Street, north of Welby, between NGRs SK 937 355 and SK 951 363 and also along the Roman road, *Ermine Street*, between NGRs SK952 352 and SK 954 359.

1.2 This document contains the following parts:

1.2.1 Overview.

1.2.2 Stages of work and methodologies.

1.2.3 List of specialists.

1.2.4 Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

2 SITE LOCATION

2.1 The watching brief will take place in the vicinity of Welby, approximately 5km northeast of Grantham, in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire. *The sites at Harrowby lie south of Harrowby Hall and the remaining sites lie c. 1km east of Heath Farm along Roman Ermine Street.*

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Anglian Water Services Ltd have approached Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section for advice concerning the archaeological implications of water main replacement at Welby, near Grantham, Lincolnshire. The County Archaeological Officer advised that the pipeline will pass through areas of archaeological sensitivity and recommended that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken at appropriate locations, along the route.

4 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

4.1 The section of the route of the pipeline under investigation is on undulating land with a general dip to the north and lies at an elevation of c. 100m OD. Local soils are the Elmtun 1 Association, comprising shallow brown rendzinas (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179).

5 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 The pipeline passes through an area of archaeological interest.

- 5.2 A section of the pipeline runs alongside the major Roman road, Ermine Street. Branches of the pipeline in the Copper Hill area leave Ermine Street in the direction of another significant Roman road, King Street. These two Roman highways meet only 0.5km to the north, just south of the Roman fort and small town of Ancaster.
- 5.3 In the western part of the route, near Beggar's Lane, are cropmarks of possible prehistoric round barrows. Just south of Beggar's Lane are cropmarks of a possible field system. In this same area a quantity of Roman pottery, probably signifying a Roman settlement, has been identified.

6 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The aims of the watching brief will be:
- 6.1.1 To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the works.
- 6.2 The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
- 6.2.1 Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- 6.2.2 Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- 6.2.3 As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- 6.2.4 Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

7 SITE OPERATIONS

7.1 General considerations

- 7.1.1 All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- 7.1.2 The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- 7.1.3 Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

7.2 Methodology

- 7.2.1 The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
- 7.2.2 Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on *Archaeological Project Services* proforma record sheets.
- 7.2.3 Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
- 7.2.4 Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
- 7.2.4.1 The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.

7.2.4.2 groups of features where their relationship is important

7.2.5 Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

8 POST-EXCAVATION

8.1 Stage 1

- 8.1.1 On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued: the colour prints will be labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- 8.1.2 All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

8.2 Stage 2

- 8.2.1 Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- 8.2.2 Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

8.3 Stage 3

- 8.3.1 On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- 8.3.2 This will consist of:
 - 8.3.2.1 A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - 8.3.2.2 A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - 8.3.2.3 Description of the topography of the site.
 - 8.3.2.4 Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
 - 8.3.2.5 A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
 - 8.3.2.6 A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
 - 8.3.2.7 Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
 - 8.3.2.8 Sections of the archaeological features.
 - 8.3.2.9 Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
 - 8.3.2.10 Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
 - 8.3.2.11 Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

9 REPORT DEPOSITION

9.1 Copies of the report will be sent to the client and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

10 ARCHIVE

10.1 The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

11 PUBLICATION

11.1 A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

12 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

12.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Archaeology Officer of Lincolnshire County Council. The curator will be given as much notice as possible, ideally at least seven days, prior to the commencement of the project to permit monitoring arrangements.

13 VARIATIONS

13.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

14 PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS

14.1 The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.

14.2 An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.

14.3 Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

15 SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

15.1 The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	
Prehistoric -	David Knight:- <i>Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust</i> .

Roman -	Ruth Leary:- <i>Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust.</i>
Anglo-Saxon -	David Hall, Independent Specialist
Medieval and later-	Hilary Healey, Independent specialist or Gary Taylor, <i>Archaeological Project Services</i>
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist; or Gary Taylor, <i>Archaeological Project Services</i>
Animal Bones	James Rackham:- <i>Environmental Archaeology Consultancy</i>
Environmental Analysis	James Rackham:- <i>Environmental Archaeology Consultancy</i> ; or P Cope-Faulkner, <i>Archaeological Project Services</i>
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

16 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Appendix 2

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context tables are arranged by section and are presented in descending stratigraphic order. Context numbers in **bold** type denote cut features.

Context	Section N°	Description	Dimension	Interpretation
001	1	Loose brown sandy silt	0.30m thick	Topsoil
002	1	Loose reddish brown sandy silt	0.15m thick	Subsoil
003	1	Hard limestone brash	0.45m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
004	2	Loose dark reddish brown sandy silt	0.20m thick	Topsoil
005		Loose light yellowish red sandy silt	0.70m thick	Secondary fill of service trench 88
007		Black plastic pipe	0.15m diameter	Service pipe
088	2	Flat bottomed feature	0.15m deep	Service trench
006	2	Hard limestone brash	0.10m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
008	3	Loose dark reddish black sandy silt	0.20m thick	Topsoil
009	3	Loose light reddish yellow sandy silt	0.40m thick	Subsoil
010	3	Hard limestone brash	0.30m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
011	4	Loose dark reddish black sandy silt	0.20m thick	Topsoil
012	4	Loose light yellowish red sandy silt	0.40m thick	Subsoil
013	4	Hard limestone brash	0.30m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
014	5	Loose dark reddish black sandy silt	0.15m thick	Topsoil
015	5	Loose yellowish red sandy silt	0.40m thick	Subsoil
016	5	Hard limestone brash	0.35m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
017	6	Loose dark reddish brown sandy silt	0.20m thick	Topsoil
018	6	Loose yellowish red sandy silt	0.30m thick	Subsoil
019	6	Hard limestone brash	0.55m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
022	7	Loose dark reddish black sandy silt	0.20m thick	Topsoil
023	7	Loose light reddish yellow sandy silt	0.25m thick	Subsoil

Context	Section N°	Description	Dimension	Interpretation
021		Loose reddish yellow silty sand	0.70m wide by 0.25m thick	Primary fill of ditch 021
020	7	Smooth sided concave feature	as above	Ditch
024	7	Hard limestone brash	0.65m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
025	8	Loose dark brown sandy silt	0.15m thick	Topsoil
026	8	Loose dark yellow sandy silt	0.15m thick	Subsoil
027	8	Hard limestone brash	0.85m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
030	9	Loose brown silty sand	0.30m thick	Topsoil
031	9	Loose red-brown silty sand	0.40m thick	Subsoil
032	9	Loose light red-yellow silty sand, frequent limestone fragments	1m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
033	10	Loose grey brown silty sand	0.25m thick	Topsoil
034	10	Loose light grey brown silty sand	0.30m thick	Subsoil
035	10	Friable light red-brown clayey sand	0.60m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
036	11	Friable grey-brown silty sand	0.30m thick	Topsoil
037	11	Loose yellow-red silty sand	0.50m thick	Subsoil
038	11	Loose brown silty sand	0.30m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
041	12	Loose brown silty sand	0.30m thick	Topsoil
039		Loose dark grey-brown silty sand	0.80m thick to B.O.T.	Primary fill of pit 040
040	12	Concave sided feature	5.50m long by 0.80m deep to B.O.T.	Pit
042	12	Friable light red-yellow clayey silty sand	0.40m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
043	13	Loose reddish brown sandy silt	0.20m thick	Topsoil
044	13	Friable greyish black limestone	0.10m thick	Road surface
045	13	Hard black tarmac and mortar	0.15m thick	Make-up for 044
046	13	Loose yellowish brown sandy silt	0.60m thick	Subsoil
047	14	Loose dark reddish brown sandy silt	0.10m thick	Topsoil
048	14	Friable reddish brown sandy silt	0.14m thick	Subsoil
049	14	Firm brown clayey silty sand	0.60m thick to B.O.T.	Natural

Context	Section N°	Description	Dimension	Interpretation
050	15	Friable dark reddish brown sandy silt	0.10m thick	Topsoil
051	15	Friable light yellowish brown mortar	0.20m thick	Make-up for road surface (removed)
052	15	Black limestone fragments	0.10m thick	as above
053	15	Black tarmac	10mm thick	Road surface
054	15	Limestone gravel	0.20m thick	Make-up for 053
055	15	Friable yellow sandy silt	0.10m thick	Subsoil
056	15	Firm brown silty sand	0.80m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
057	16	Friable dark reddish brown silty sand	0.10m thick	Topsoil
058	16	Loose brown-grey sandy silt	0.50m thick	Subsoil
059	16	Firm dark brown silty sand	0.40m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
060	17	Loose dark brown sandy silt	0.10m thick	Topsoil
061	17	Loose reddish brown sandy silt	0.40m thick	Subsoil
062	17	Yellowish brown limestone gravel	0.10m thick	Natural
063	17	Loose brown sandy silt	0.50m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
064	18	Loose dark brown silty sand	0.10m thick	Topsoil
065	18	Loose brown silty sand	0.20m thick	Dumped deposit
066	18	Loose dark reddish brown sandy silt	0.10m thick	Buried soil?
067	18	Limestone	0.14m thick	Natural
068	18	Hard reddish brown sandy silt	0.40m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
069	19	Loose dark reddish brown silty sand	0.30m thick	Topsoil
070	19	Loose yellowish brown sandy silt	0.30m thick	Subsoil
071	19	Firm brownish yellow silty clay	0.40m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
072	20	Friable dark reddish brown sandy silt	0.30m thick	Topsoil
073	20	Loose yellowish brown clayey silt	0.20m thick	Subsoil
074	20	Indurated brown silty clay	0.60m thick	Natural
075	21	Loose dark reddish brown silty sand	0.10m thick	Topsoil
076	21	Loose yellowish red sandy silt	0.25m thick	Subsoil
077	21	Friable dark brownish red limestone gravel and sand	0.20m thick	Natural

Context	Section N°	Description	Dimension	Interpretation
078	21	Hard limestone brash	0.60m thick to B.O.T.	Natural
080	22	Reddish brown sandy silt	0.40m thick	Topsoil
081	22	Friable dark greyish brown silt	0.31m wide by 0.40m thick	Buried soil
082	22	Reddish brown sandy silt	0.30m thick	Subsoil
083	22	Loose light yellow limestone	0.80m thick to B.O.T.	Subsoil
028		Loose dark brown organic sandy silt	0.10m thick	Topsoil
029		Loose grey-brown silty sand	0.30m thick	Ploughsoil
079		Light yellowish brown gritty silt	0.80m thick to B.O.T.	Dumped deposit
084		Brown silt	0.20m thick	Topsoil
085		Yellowish brown silt	0.35m thick	Subsoil
087		Light reddish brown sandy silt	0.40m thick	Subsoil
086		Friable light brownish yellow silt and limestone	50mm thick to B.O.T.	Natural

Abbreviations:

B.O.T. Base of trench

Appendix 3

THE FINDS

*By Hilary Healey,
Phil Mills and Gary Taylor*

Provenance

Most of the material is from topsoil deposits [001, 003 and 075], though there are pieces from subsoil [061] and [079] a dumped deposit. The Roman material, both pottery and tile, exhibits clustering, with most of the material recovered about 500-600m north of Londonthorpe village.

Most of the ceramic is likely to be relatively local to the Welby/Ancaster/Grantham area, with the Roman greywares probably made in South Lincolnshire. Some of the tile was probably also made in the vicinity, with examples in similar fabric previously found at Sleaford, approximately 13km to the northeast. The single fragment of medieval pottery is probably a product of kilns at Nottingham, 53km to the west. Later, post-medieval, pottery fragments derive from kilns at Staffordshire in the Midlands. The prehistoric and possible Anglo-Saxon pottery fragments are from uncertain sources but are likely to have been made in Lincolnshire.

Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Context	Description	Latest Date
Unstratified	1 x ceramic tile (SPS2 fabric), 2nd - 3rd century 1 x ?asbestos pipe collar/connector, impressed stamp, 19 th - 20 th century - discarded	19 th -20 th century
028	9 x coke/clinker	
✓ 029	1 x Light Grey ware, mid-late 3 rd century	mid-late 3 rd century
✓ 030	2 x linked sherds Light Grey ware, mid-late 3 rd century 1 x Nottingham ware, 13th-15th century	13th-15th century
079	1 x glazed earthenware bowl, impressed mark, late 19 th - 20 th century 1 x polychrome painted tableware, 20 th century 1 x olive green vessel glass, late 19 th -20 th century	20 th century
084	1 x clay pipe stem, 18 th century	18 th century
085	1x iron rectangular-sectioned nail	
085 440-550m	1 x black glazed red painted earthenware, 18 th - early 19 th century 3 x Grey ware, 2 linked pieces; 2 separate vessels, mid-late 3 rd century 2 x black coarseware, linked sherds, Romano-British 1 x ceramic tile (SPS1 fabric), late 2 nd -3 rd century 1 x vesicular slag	18 th - early 19 th century
085 550-800m	1 x black glazed red painted earthenware, 18 th - early 19 th century 1 x blue and white transfer printed tableware, 19 th century 5 x Grey ware, 2 linked pieces; 4 separate vessels, mid-late 3 rd century 1 x amphora sherd, Romano-British 1 x Early Saxon?, or possibly Romano-British black sherd 2 x black coarseware, linked sherds, Romano-British 1 x Billingborough Fen-type ware, Bronze Age 1 x ceramic tile (SPS1 fabric), late 2 nd -3 rd century 1 x ceramic tile (SPS2 fabric), late 2 nd -3 rd century 1 x ceramic tile (SPS6 fabric), late 3 rd -4 th century 1 x flint blade, utilized, Neolithic 2 x incinerated ?brick, linked pieces 3 x clinker	19 th century

Topsoil ?

" ?

Section 9.

Section 22

Topsoil ?

Topsoil

A flint blade fragment of Neolithic date is the earliest artefact recovered, though there is a prehistoric pottery fragment of Bronze Age date which may be broadly contemporary with this. This pottery, a thick, grog-tempered Billingborough Fen-type ware, is approximately 30mm by 25mm in area, though has a recent break, and is unworn. Pottery of similar nature has previously been recovered from investigations at an Early or Middle Bronze Age settlement at Billingborough, 15km to the east (Chowne 1978, 18).

The Roman pottery component is dominated by greywares and these fabrics have been found on other sites in Lincolnshire, including the Saltersford Romano-British small town, only 2km to the southwest of Londonthorpe (Davies 1993).

Several fragments of Romano-British ceramic tiles were also recovered. These have been categorised according to a fabric type series developed for material recovered during excavations of a Romano-British site at Sleaford Police Station (Mills 1999). Fabric SPS1 is in material very similar to the products of the tile kilns at Heckington and is widespread across Lincolnshire having previously been found at Lincoln, Heydour and Market Deeping, in addition to Sleaford and first appears in the late 2nd-3rd century. However, fabrics SPS2 and SPS6 have only previously been noted at Lincoln and Sleaford and commence in the late 2nd-3rd and late 3rd-4th century respectively (*ibid.*).

A pipe collar/connector apparently in asbestos was retrieved as an unstratified artefact. Because of its material this object has been discarded for safety reasons. An impressed mark on the object reads:

R W
U A M C°.

The meaning of this stamp is unknown.

Most of the contexts date to the later post-medieval period, from the 18th to the 20th century.

Condition

Although most of the artefacts are abraded, all the material is in good condition and presents no long term storage problems. Storage of the archive should be by material class.

Documentation

Although several archaeological examinations at nearby Ancaster have been undertaken and reported, there have been few or no previous investigations at Welby or Londonthorpe. Records of archaeological sites and finds are maintained in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

Potential

The Roman material, on account of its clustering, has moderate potential and almost certainly relates to the known remains of the period in the vicinity of the artefact concentration. Even as an isolated find, the prehistoric pottery fragment has moderate potential and suggests the very close proximity of settlement or ceremonial activity of the Bronze Age, perhaps related to cropmarks of probable burials of the period that are located in the vicinity. The later medieval and post-medieval pieces are of limited significance.

References

Chowne, P., 1978 Billingborough Bronze Age Settlement: An Interim Note, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* 13

Davies, B., 1993 *Saltersford (SAW93) Roman Pottery Report*, City of Lincoln Archaeological Report 53

Mills, P., 1999 The Ceramic Building Material, in N. Herbert *Archaeological Investigations at the New Police Station, Boston Road, Sleaford, Lincolnshire*, Archaeological Project Services report 30/98

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	Part of the prehistoric era (<i>qv</i>) characterised by the introduction and use of bronze for tools and weapons. In Britain this period dates from approximately 2200-700 BC.
Buried Soil	Ancient land surfaces are sometimes preserved when they are covered by later deposits. This process can occur naturally through flooding or it can be achieved through the deliberate dumping of soil. When such processes take place, the covered soil is called a buried soil.
Context	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 interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by square brackets, <i>e.g.</i> [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, construction trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Dumped Deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be backfilled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	Pertaining to the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Prehistoric	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.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066..

Appendix 5

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

88	Context records
22	Scale drawings
1	Box of finds
24	colour slides
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds 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: 158.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WES99

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.

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