

M6/12



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Bracebridge Heath Water Mains

NGR: SK 9860 6690 - TF 0000 6450
Site Code: BHWM-06
LCNCC Accn No. 2006.113

Lincolnshire
County Council

28 SEP 2006

Planning &
Conservation

Report for
Anglian Water Services Ltd

by G. Tann

Postbook Ref:	195.921
Officer Dealing:	Beryl
Date Reply Required:	
Date Replied Via:	
CRM Transaction No.	

LAS Report No. 938

September 2006

acknowledged receipt & apt. 28/9/06
Jain

Figures and Plates

Contents

List of Figures

List of Figures

List of Plates

Summary

Introduction

Site Location

Planning Background

Archaeological Background

The Watching Brief

Conclusion

Acknowledgements

Site Archive

References

Contents of Site Archive

The Figures

The Plates

1

1

1

1

1

2

2

2

3

4

4

Bracebridge Heath Mains Archaeological Watching Brief

List of Figures

- Fig. 1** Location of Bracebridge Heath and the monitored pipeline route. (C based on the 1957 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheets SK 96 and TF 06. © Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).
- Fig. 2** Positions of the Watching Brief Observations (based on the 1957 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheets SK 96 and TF 06. © Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).
- Fig. 3** Observation No. 10: a) section through deposits in the eastern trench face; b) plan of deposits in the pipe trench access pit base (Young, after Tann).

List of Plates

- Pl. 1** The pipe trench beside Bloxholm Lane (Observation No. 11, looking south).
- Pl. 2** Eastern face of trench, Observation No. 10 (looking east).
- Pl. 3** Southern face of trench, Observation No. 10 (looking south).
- Pl. 4** Trench beside the B1178, east of the A15 Sleaford Road, Observation No. 12 (looking west).

Site Location

The pipeline was laid in the garden area of the A15 just beyond the house at the entrance to Heath, and then in the verge of Bloxholm Lane, and the northern verge of the B1178 road, east of the A15.

Site Access

The main access to the site was from the garden area of the house at the entrance to Heath, and then in the verge of Bloxholm Lane, and the northern verge of the B1178 road, east of the A15.

Archaeological Background

Bloxholm Lane passes through an area of mixed agricultural and residential land. The Anglo-Saxon period burial site found in 1962 on the western side of the road, during the laying of the Anglian Water pipeline in 1966, is the only archaeological site of the Anglo-Saxon period. The Anglo-Saxon period remains have been found near Mary Hall, and the Hall is on the site of a Knights Templar's preceptory and medieval hospital.

Bracebridge Heath Water Mains Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: SK 9860 6690 - TF 0000 6450

Site Code: BHWM 06

LCNCC Accn No. 2006.113

Summary

Monitoring of a narrow pipe trench alongside parts of Sleaford Road and Bloxholm Lane identified no significant archaeological remains. Part of a backfilled pit was found beside the south-eastern corner of Bracebridge Heath parish, and this was interpreted as a limestone quarry for road maintenance. No evidence was found of road metalling or flanking ditches beside the A15 Sleaford Road.

The natural limestone geology was found to be very varied, ranging from bedrock through brash to limestone silt, with clay filling inclusions and forming a covering layer filling depressions.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd in May 2006 to undertake a watching brief during trenching for a replacement water main in Bracebridge Heath. The watching brief, carried out in accordance with general requirements set out in the *Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, August 1997), and the comments of the Lincolnshire County Council's Principal Archaeologist, was conducted by Geoff Tann on 9 visits between June 15th and July 20th 2006.

Site Location

The pipeline was laid in the eastern roadside verge of the A15 past The Manor House at Bracebridge Heath, and then in the verge of Bloxholm Lane, and the northern verge of the B1178 westwards to the A15.

Planning Background

The mains replacement scheme was outside the planning process and was covered under Anglian Water's Best Practice policy. Lincolnshire County Council's Principal Archaeologist commented on the archaeological implications of the scheme and requested an archaeological watching brief during all groundworks on part of the Bloxholm Lane section of the route.

Archaeological Background

Bloxholm Lane passes through an area of recorded Bronze Age and medieval settlement remains. An Anglo-Saxon warrior burial was found in a field on the western side of the road during the laying of an Anglian Water pipeline in 1998 (Leahy, in Tann, Armour-Chelu and Williams 2000). A trench across the A15 Romano-British remains have been found near Mere Hall, and the Hall is on the site of a Knights Templars' preceptory and medieval hospital.

The Watching Brief

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to identify and record any evidence of archaeological features or artefacts revealed during the groundworks at the specified locations. The trench was excavated with a trenching machine, which produced a trench 0.3m wide and 1.2m deep. At intervals, a mini-digger excavated small pits to allow access to existing services.

Intermittent archaeological monitoring was conducted in order to inspect the trench faces between excavation and backfilling. The narrow width of the trench, and the smearing effect produced by the trenching machine operation, prevented the recognition of all except the most obvious ground variations, and in most instances these were interpreted as of natural origin. At intervals, differences in ground conditions were noted and these were assigned Observation Numbers by LAS for recording purposes; the locations are marked on Fig. 2.

Observation No. 1: The trench extended northwards alongside Sleaford Road to the private entrance of The Manor House. The trench cut through sandy loam material containing few limestone inclusions. This material was certainly not the metalling of a Roman or later road, but could have been fill of a roadside ditch. It was hoped that a trench in the road at this point would show the nature of underlying metalling layers, but the trench was excavated and backfilled without archaeological attendance.

Observation No. 2: The trench contained a layer of clay with limestone but this may have been backfill from an adjacent backfilled utility trench.

Observation No. 3: In Bloxholm Lane, alongside the boundary wall of The Manor House, the trench cut through deposits containing mostly clay; at intervals there were pockets of limestone but these appeared to have been naturally produced.

Observation No. 4: The density of limestone increased to the east of 3, close to the entrance to The Manor House. This was examined in case it could be identified as metalling of the lane on an earlier north-south course, but at all locations it seemed to be naturally produced.

Observation No. 5: A band of brown clay covered a thick layer of limestone rubble with sandy clay filling natural fissures.

Observation No. 6: To the north of 5, the clay band was less distinct, but the limestone was much more mixed with natural clay inclusions. An electric cable crossed below the road in this vicinity.

Observation No. 7: A thin band of stony yellow clay seen below the topsoil was interpreted as post-medieval or modern redeposited material, perhaps created by an adjacent utility trench. Beneath the clay, the dense limestone rubble contained a high proportion of dark brown clay loam, and it may have been backfill at the side of an earlier trench.

Observation No. 8: The limestone deposit was very fine and dusty, and had probably been formed as an erosion product. Pockets of sandy clay had filled fissures in the limestone. These deposits extended south of the runway landing lights.

Observation No. 9: An area of clayier material was seen in the trench face about 150m south of the landing lights. This appeared to be a naturally deposited layer, probably filling a depression in the limestone.

Observation No. 10: An access pit excavated for a pipe connection cut through the north-western edge of a feature, probably a pit. The steeply sloping northern edge cut through limestone brash, and the feature had been backfilled with sandy material. The base of the fill was deeper than the contractors' excavation.

The pit is suspected to have been dug for limestone, probably for road maintenance. A lump of post-medieval brick was present at the interface of the topsoil and the pit fill.

Observation No. 11: To the south of **10**, and within the area monitored, the trench cut through deposits containing very little limestone. The findings suggested that the pit at **10** had been sited deliberately where limestone could be extracted easily.

Observation No. 12: No evidence of road metalling or a roadside ditch was evident in the pipe trench about 10m east of the A15 Sleaford Road. The turf covered layers of soil and limestone pieces, none of which appeared to have been introduced. Sleaford Road is raised above surrounding ground level, and an archaeological watching brief to the south of the Waddington airbase in 1998 identified an underlying well-constructed road that was interpreted as a Roman road with flanking ditches (Tann, Armour-Chelu and Williams 2000).

Conclusion

The pipeline caused no discernible damage to significant archaeological features although the narrow trench width may have prevented the identification of remains. A single pit was recognised and investigated, and this was interpreted as a small post-medieval stone quarry.

Acknowledgements

LAS appreciates the co-operation provided by Peter Kukulsky (Anglian Water Services Ltd), their contractors Balfour Beatty, and the Lincolnshire County Council's Principal Archaeologist Dr Beryl Lott. Illustrations were produced by Doug Young.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
25th September 2006

References

Tann, G., Armour-Chelu, R., and Williams, M. 2000 *Dunston Nitrate Blending Scheme: Archaeological Monitoring and Excavations during groundworks for a water pipeline through Bracebridge Heath, Waddington and Dunston, Lincs.* LAS Report No. 359, April 2000.

Contents of Site Archive

Correspondence

Field plan and section

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film no. 06/124 (digital)

THE FIGURES

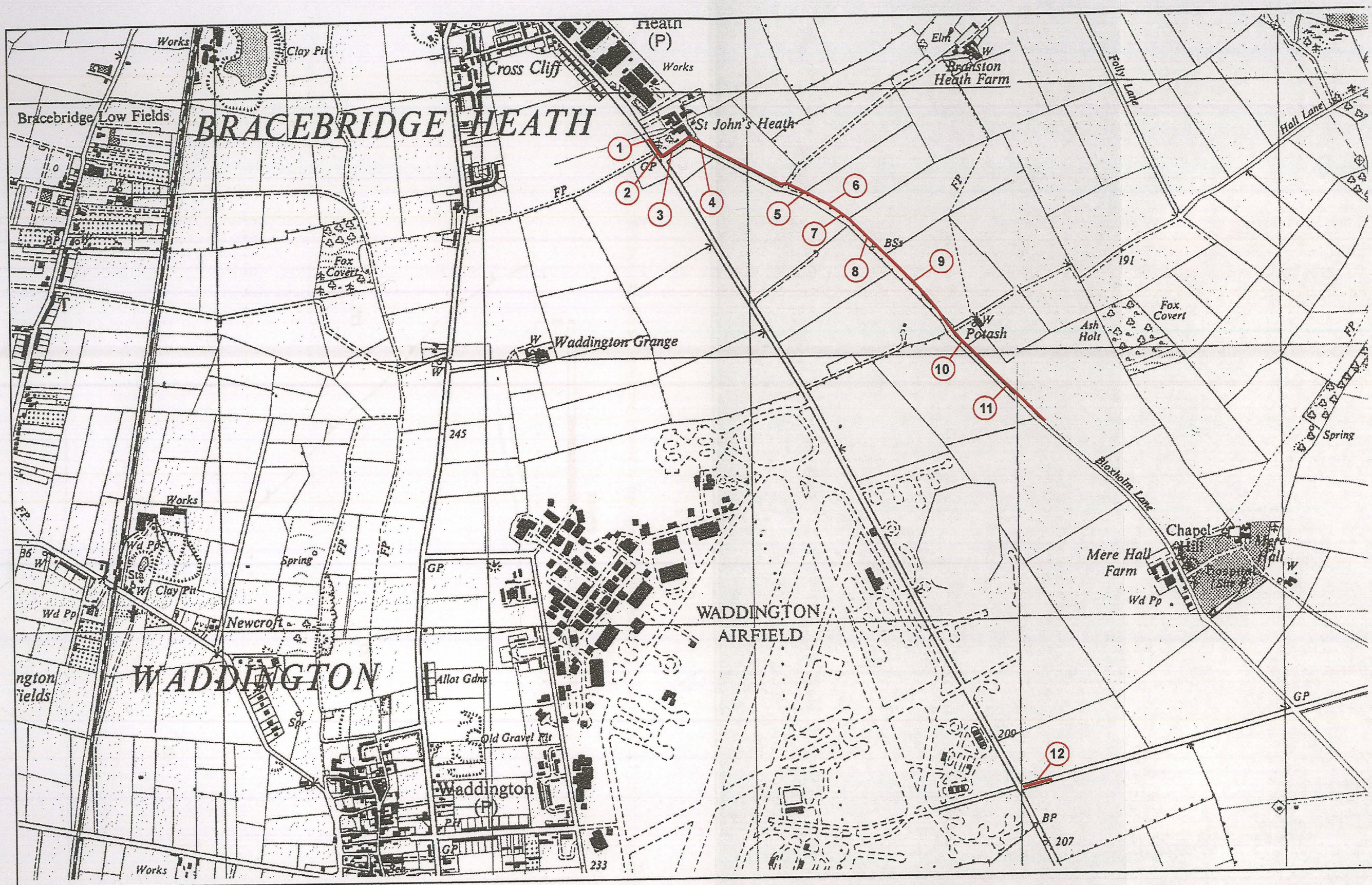


Fig. 2 Positions of the Watching Brief Observations (based on the 1957 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheets SK 96 and TF 06. © Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMS No. AL 10002165).

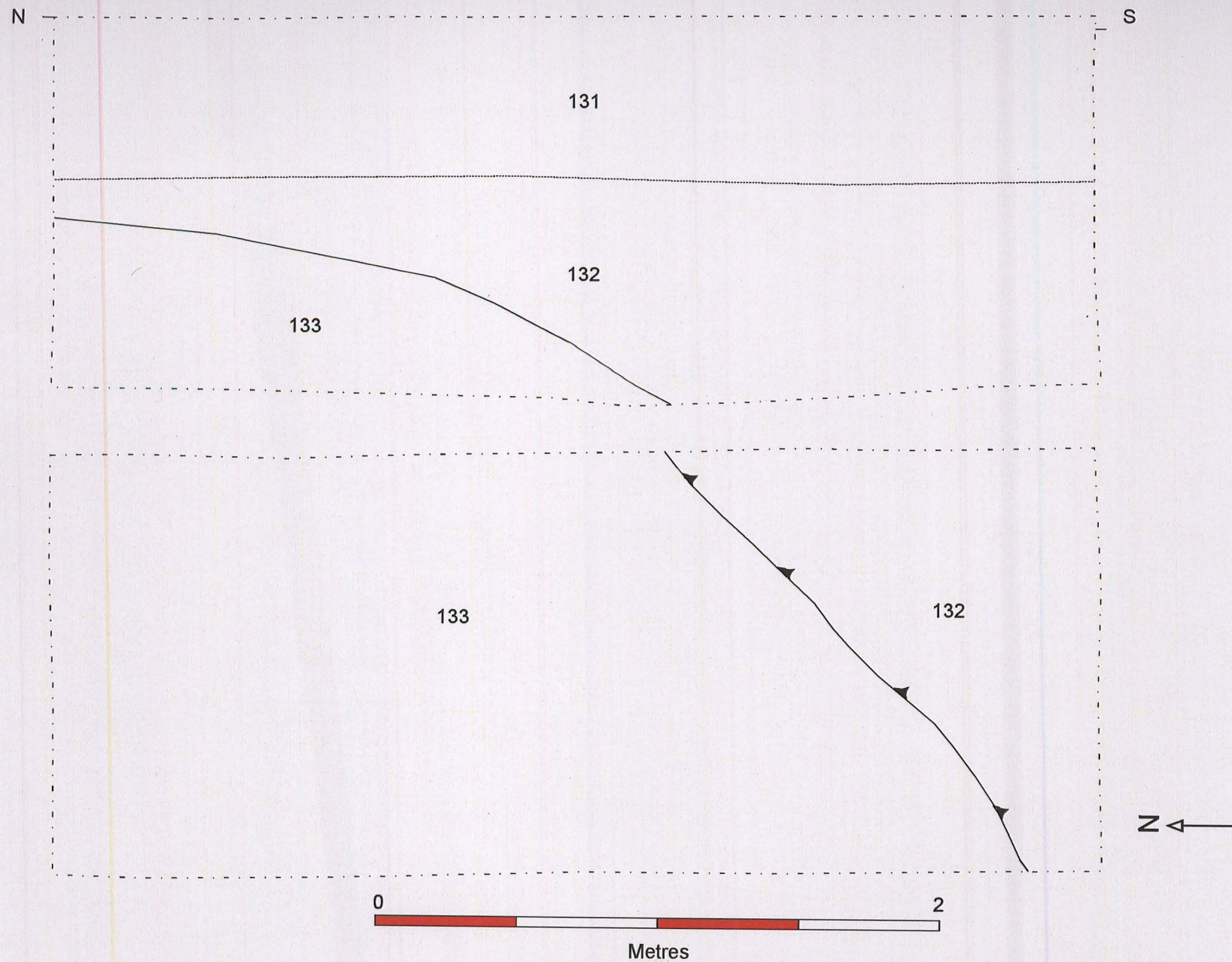


Fig. 3 Observation No. 10: a) section through deposits in the eastern trench face; b) plan of deposits in the pipe trench access pit base (Young, after Tann).

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 The pipe trench beside Bloxholm Lane (Observation No. 11, looking south).



Pl. 2 Eastern face of trench, Observation No. 10 (looking east).



Pl. 3 Southern face of trench, Observation No. 10 (looking south).



Pl. 4 Trench beside the B1178, east of the A15 Sleaford Road, Observation No. 12 (looking west).