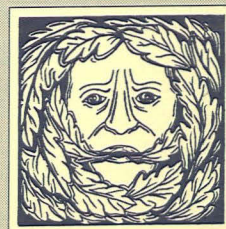


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A WATER MAINS RELAY BETWEEN
STUBTON AND FENTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SFM95)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

ELI 6903

SLI 5332 1759

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A WATER MAINS RELAY BETWEEN
STUBTON AND FENTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SFM95)**

Work Undertaken For
Anglian Water Services Ltd

August 1995

CONTENTS

List of Figures

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
2.1	Background	1
2.2	Topography and Geology	1
2.3	Archaeological Setting	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methods	2
5.	Results	2
6.	Discussion	3
7.	Conclusions	3
8.	Acknowledgements	3
9.	Personnel	3
10.	Bibliography	3
11.	Abbreviations	3

Appendices

1	Context Group Summary
2	The Archive

List of Figures

Figure 1 . . .	General Location Plan
Figure 2 . . .	Site Location Plan
Figure 3 . . .	Location of Sections
Figure 4. . .	Sections 2 to 10
Figure 5. . .	Sections 11 to 19
Figure 6. . .	Sections 20 to 28
Figure 7. . .	Sections 29 to 34

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a water main relay between Stubton and Fenton, Lincolnshire.

The route of the pipeline traverses an area of archaeological interest with activity dating from the prehistoric to the medieval period. Prehistoric activity is represented by enclosures observed on aerial photographs. Romano-British activity is rare and is restricted to a piece of pottery that was found in Fenton.

Medieval activity is represented by All Saint's church in Fenton dating from the 11th century. An early church also existed in Stubton but was demolished to make way for Stubton Hall, built at the start of the 19th century.

Clay rich layers were identified as natural deposits, the earliest level encountered during the watching brief.

Preserved beneath the roadside verge was an undated cobble layer, that possibly represents a former road surface. Subsoil was apparent along much of the route of the pipeline and was overlain by the topsoil of the grass verge. However, road make-up layers and tarmac were also recorded as the modern ground surface nearer to Stubton. Finds, which include 18th-19th century pottery, a horseshoe and a collar attachment for a shire horse, were retrieved from topsoil layers.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

From February to April 1995, a archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a water main relay

between Stubton and Fenton, Lincolnshire (NGR SK877498 centre). Stubton is located in the civil parish of Stubton and Fenton in the civil parish of Fenton, South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd., this work was carried out by Archaeological Project Services.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Situated approximately 2km apart, Stubton and Fenton villages lie 19km south of Lincoln, 18km north of Grantham and 9km east of Newark-on-Trent. The two villages are separated by a small hill, Stubton Hill, which lies at 27m O.D. overlooking the floodplain of the River Witham to the west.

Local soils are the Evesham 2 association, typical clayey with permeable subsoils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 188).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Fenton and Stubton lie in an area of moderate archaeological activity dating from prehistoric to the medieval period. Prehistoric activity is represented by enclosures observed on aerial photographs. Located 800m to the north of Fenton two rectangular enclosures are recorded (SMR.30224). Cropmarks of various enclosures were also observed 1km to the north of Stubton and 650m to the west of the pipeline route (SMR.30219). Further cropmark enclosures occur to the northeast of Stubton, at 350m east of the pipeline route (SMR.30231) and 800m east of the pipeline (SMR.30230).

Romano-British activity is scarce in this area, and is represented by a single find of Samian ware pottery, imported from South Gaul (France), from within the Fenton parish (SMR.30225).

Medieval activity is represented by All

Saints church in Fenton, dating from the 11th century. An early church also existed at Stubton (SMR.30227), but was demolished to make way for Stubton Hall. Burials associated with this church were uncovered in 1976. Fenton has also produced a lead ampulla, a vial for holy water and a glass linen smoother all of medieval date (SMR.30225). The exact location of these finds is unknown.

Later activity includes the construction of Stubton Hall c. 1813 - 1814, and the church of St Martin built between 1799 and 1800 (Pevsner 1989).

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

A mechanical excavator was used in the construction of the water pipe trench, which measured 0.6m wide and averaged 1m deep. The sides of the trench were cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains prior to recording the sections.

Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. Thereafter, to assist analysis, contexts were grouped and a matrix was created and phased. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at scale 1:10. Additionally, the natural geology was recorded. A total of 34 separate sections were recorded. With the exception of Section 1, which was 2m long, all were 0.5m in length.

5. RESULTS

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. A total of three phases were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated archaeological deposits
Phase 3	Modern deposits

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Deposits of light brown clay (group 202) were predominant along the course of the pipeline. In sections 4, 7 and 8 this clay contained waterborne pebbles of mudstone and sections 6, 7, 10, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 and 24 had a silt or sand element to the natural deposits. Predominantly light brown in colour, a greenish brown hue was also recorded.

Phase 2 Undated Archaeological Deposits

Lying above a natural clay deposit, in section 26, was a compact layer of cobbles (group 204) that measured 0.2m thick. This was overlain by a further deposit of cobbles (group 203). These two groups were identified as a former road surface.

Phase 3 Modern Deposits

Overlying natural deposits in sections 1 to 23 was a subsoil deposit of predominantly light to mid brown sandy and clayey silt (group 201).

Above natural deposits in section 27, was a 0.36m thick layer of dark green grey gravel overlain by a 0.25m thick deposit of light grey gravel (group 205). These were both interpreted as make-up layers for the modern

road surface.

Other road make-up layers occur in sections 28 to 32 (group 207). Consisting mainly of limestone chippings these deposits varied between 0.1m and 0.3m in thickness. Overlying the limestone layer was a compact tarmac surface (group 206) that was identified as the modern road surface.

Overlying subsoil deposits 201 was a topsoil of predominantly brown silt (group 200), representing the roadside verge. This contained pottery of 18th and 19th century date, a horseshoe and a collar attachment for a shire horse.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural layers of clay and clay with mudstone pebbles (phase 1) were observed across the area. These were deposited as a result of glacio-fluvial action, towards the end of the last ice age.

Although undated, the two layers of cobbles (phase 2) represent a previous road surface that had become redundant and was replaced by the present tarmac surface. Occurring directly beneath topsoil deposits, these may indicate that the thoroughfare was either wider or had moved from its original course.

Modern deposits (phase 3) comprise the subsoil and topsoil of the verge as well as the tarmac road surface and the associated make-up layers.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigation along the route of the water main relay pipe line from Stubton to Fenton, Lincolnshire, established that natural deposits consisting of brown clays occur within 0.4m of the present

ground surface.

Two layers of compact cobbles are interpreted as a redundant road surface since covered by topsoil.

Modern activity is represented by the road and roadside verge.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services 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. Access to the County Sites and Monuments record was provided by Mark Bennet of the Archaeology Section, City and County Museum, Lincoln. Jenny Stevens, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Site Assistant: Rene Mouraille
Illustrations: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G., 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 ed. Revised by Antram, N.)

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with 'SMR' are the

primary reference numbers used by the
Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record,
Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County
Council.

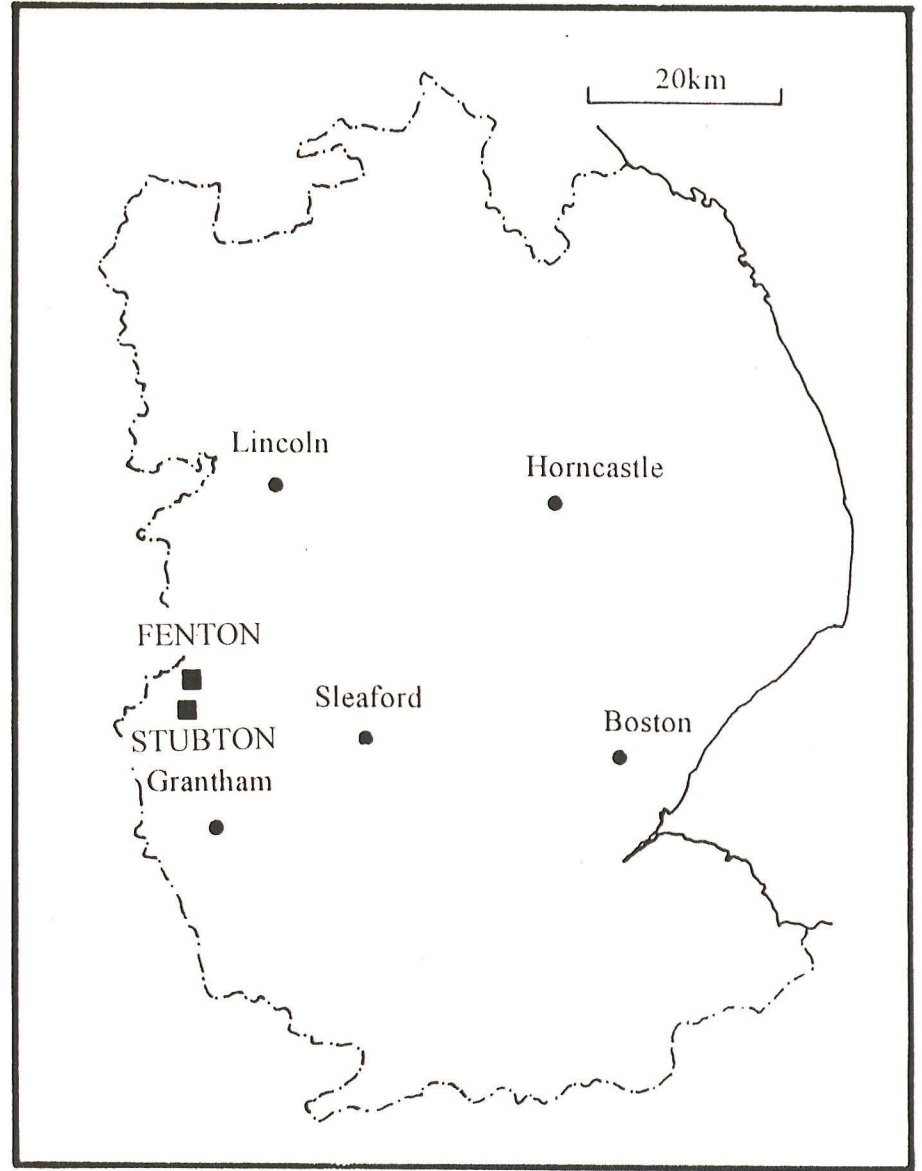
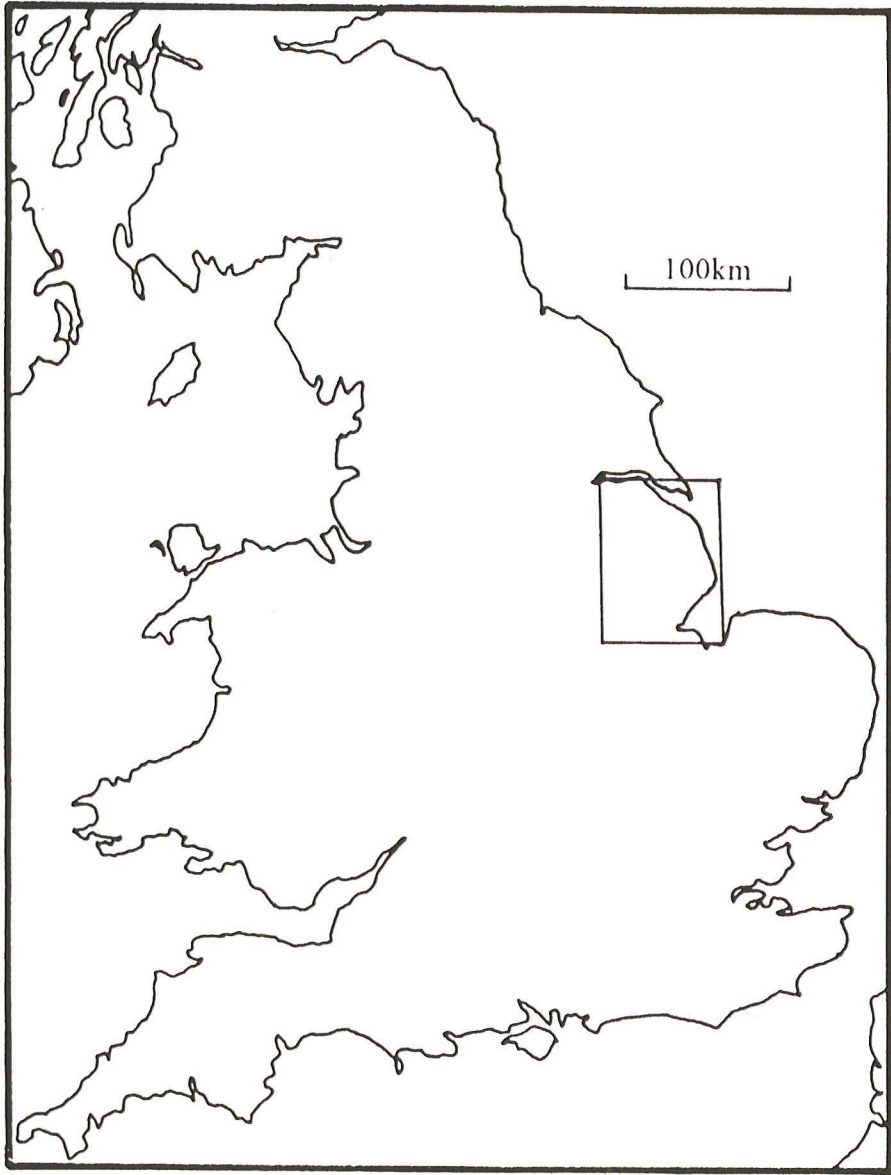
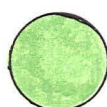
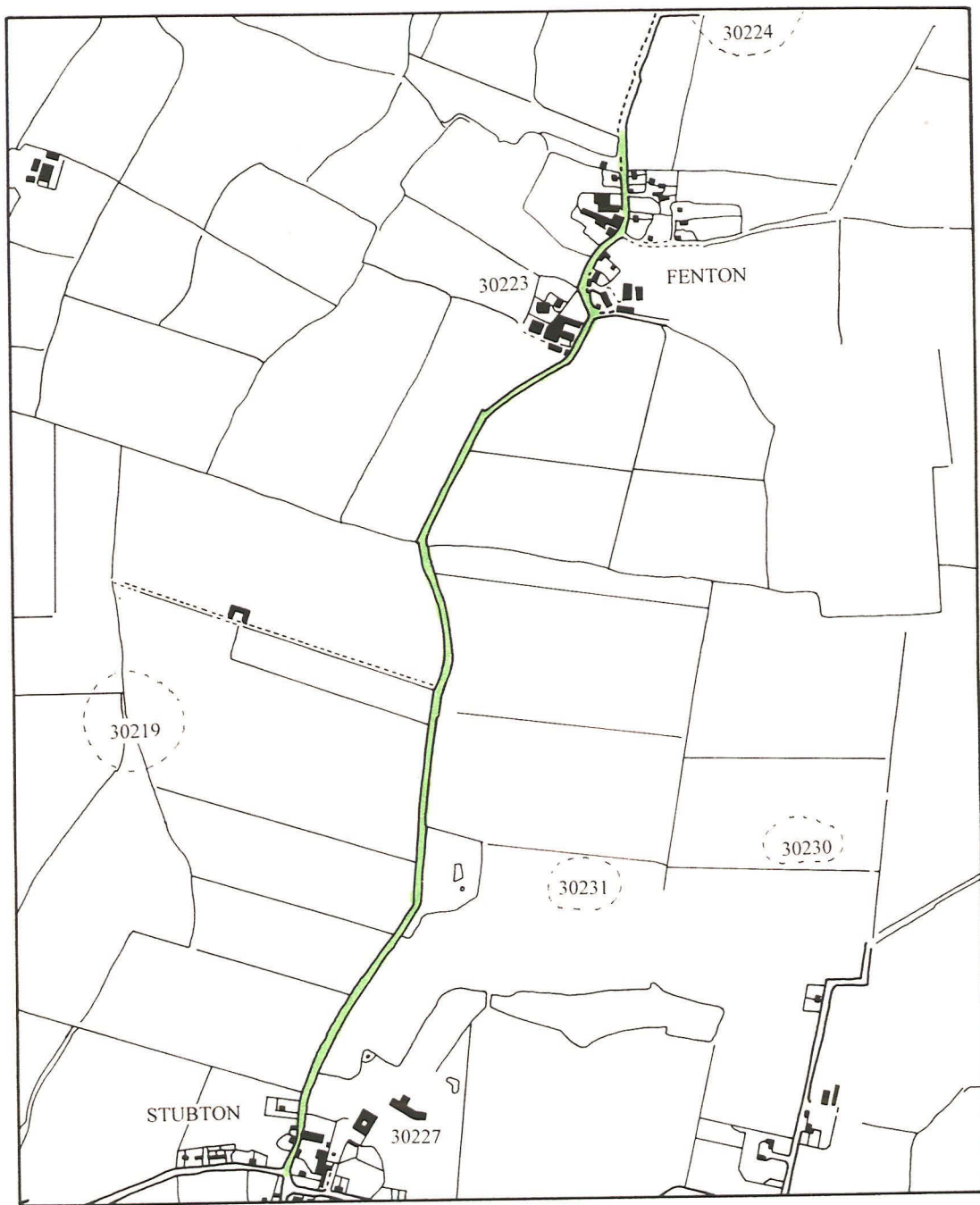


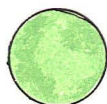
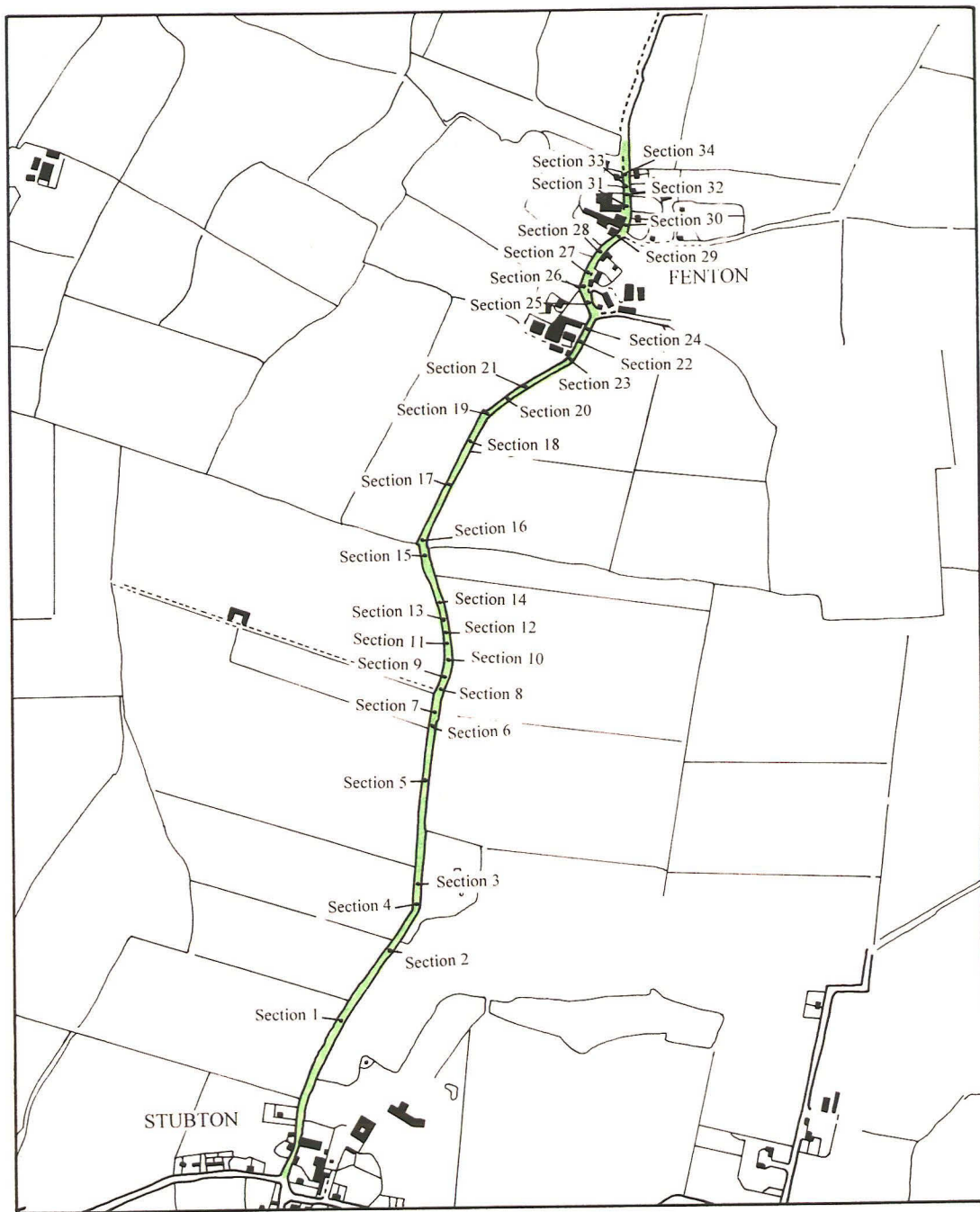
Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



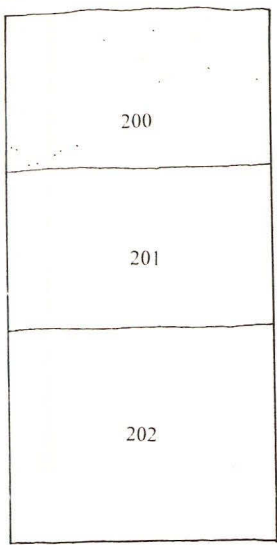
Route of Pipeline

Fig. 3 Location of Sections

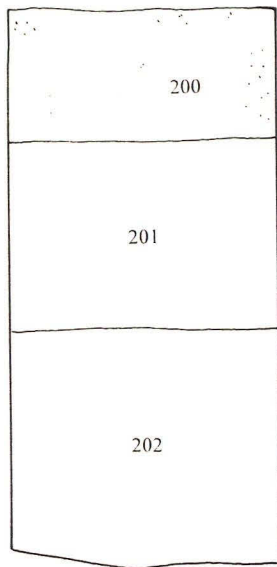


Route of Pipeline

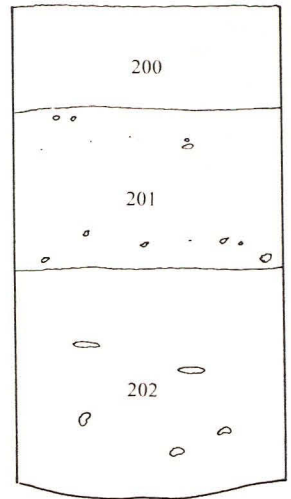
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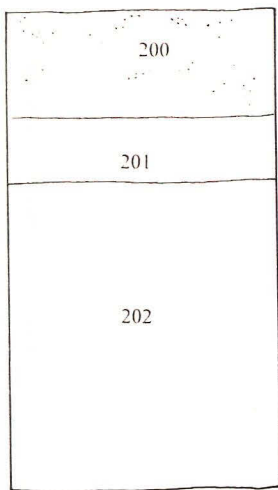
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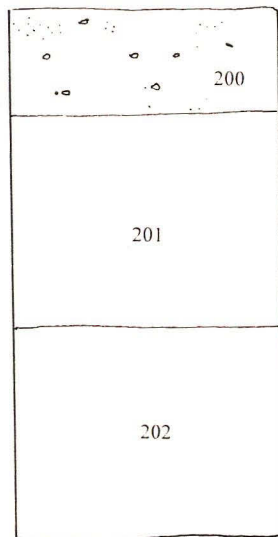
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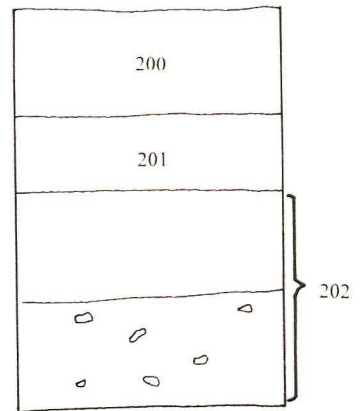
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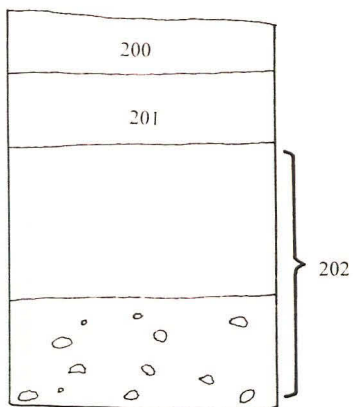
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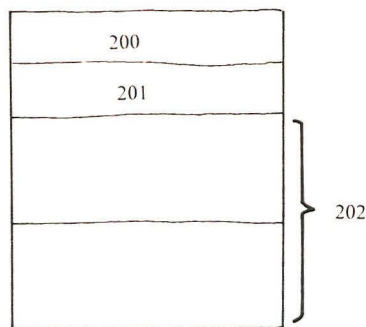
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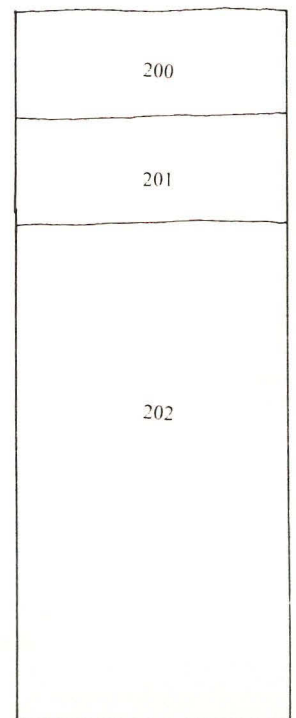
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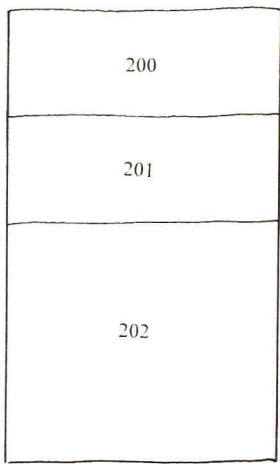
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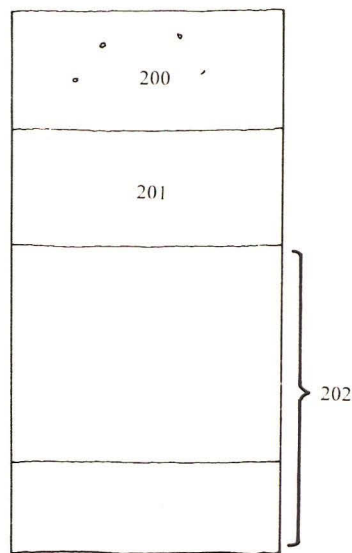
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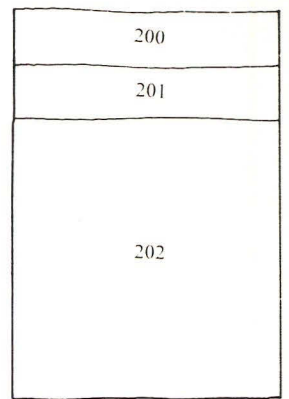
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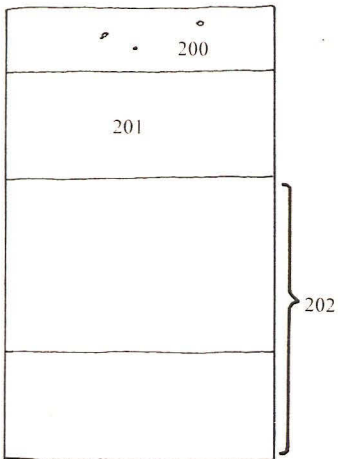
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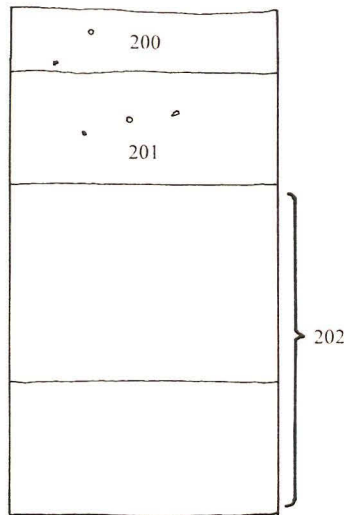
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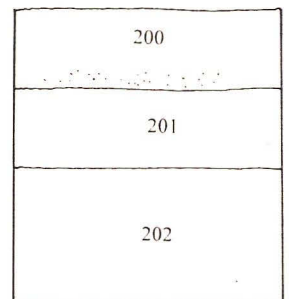
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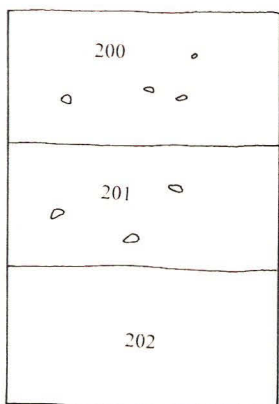
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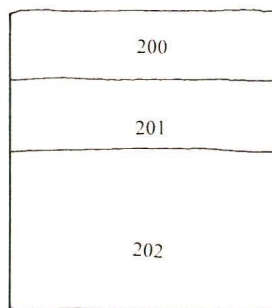
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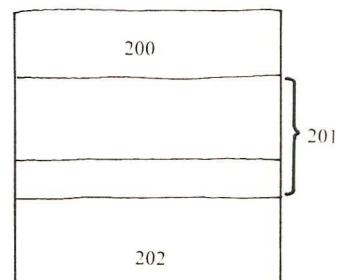
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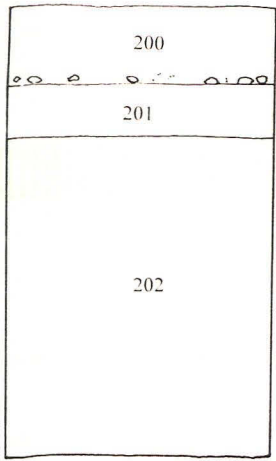
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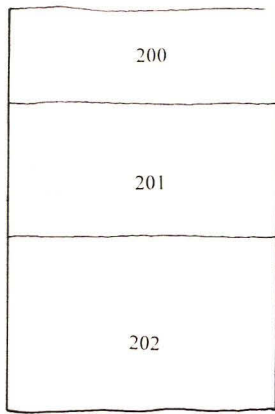
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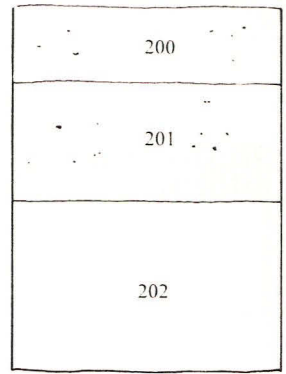
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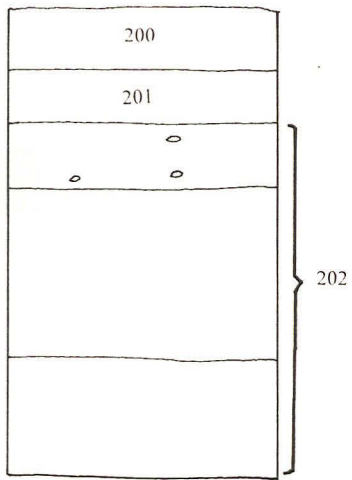
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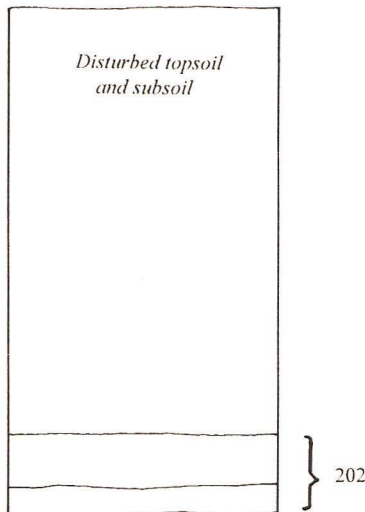
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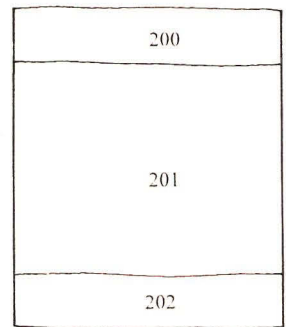
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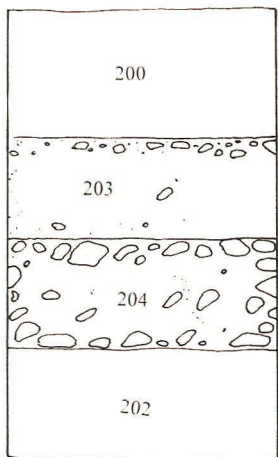
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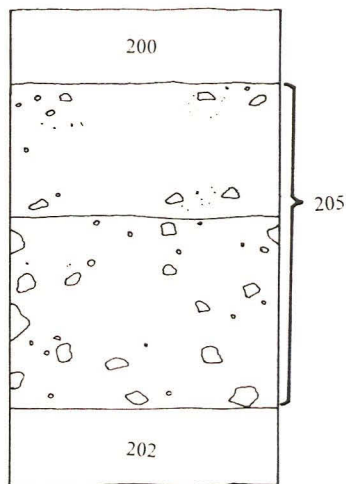
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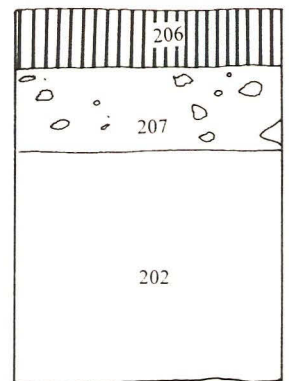
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Section 26



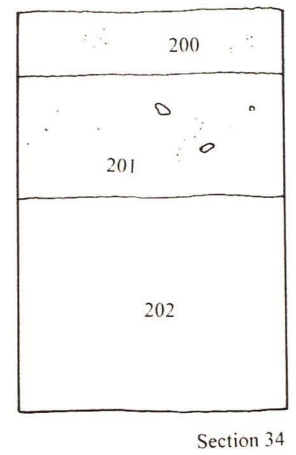
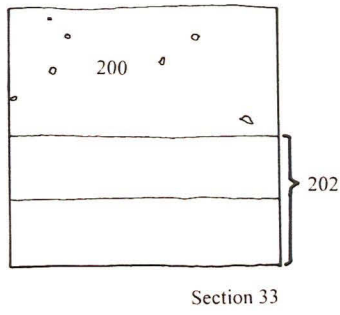
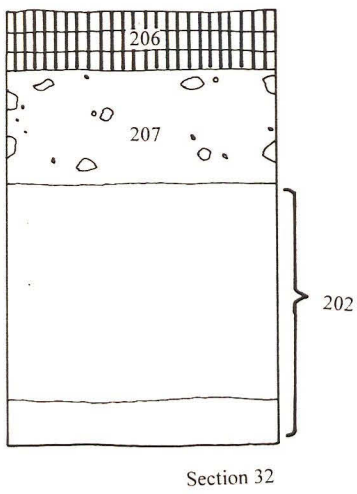
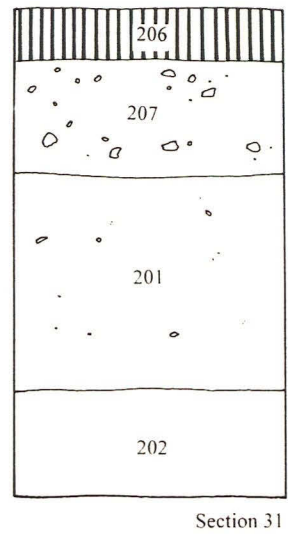
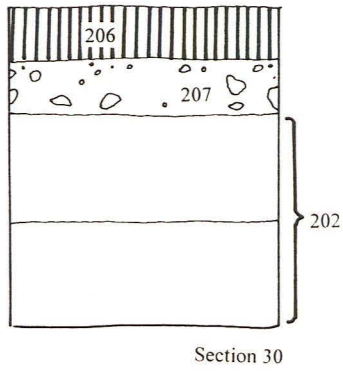
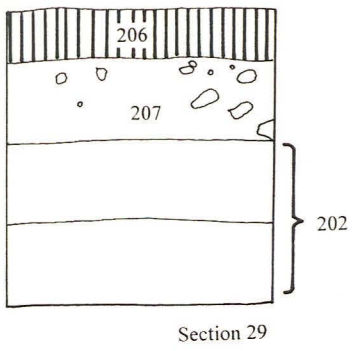
Section 27



Section 28

All sections are west facing





All sections are west facing

APPENDIX 1
Context Group Summary.

Group Number	Description	Interpretation
200	Dark brown silt	Modern topsoil
201	Light brown silt	Modern subsoil
202	Light brown clay, with some mudstone pebbles	Natural deposits
203	Compact brown cobble layer	Former road surface
204	Compact brown cobble layer	Former road surface
205	Grey gravel deposits	Road make-up layer
206	Tarmac	Modern road surface
207	Grey limestone chippings	Road make-up layer

APPENDIX 2

The Archive

The archive consists of:

- 118 . Context records
- 8 . . . Context Group records
- 2 . . . Photographic records
- 34 . . Scale drawings
- 1 . . . Stratigraphic matrix
- 1 . . . Bag of finds

All primary records are currently kept at:

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

City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 21.95

Archaeological Project Services, project code: SFM95