34921 9615

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF A WATER PIPELINE TRENCH HACCONBY DROVE, HACONBY LINCOLNSHIRE (HAC96)

APS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
12 Friars Lane
LINCOLN LN2 5AL
TEL. 0522 575292 FAX: 0522 530724

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF OF A WATER PIPELINE TRENCH HACCONBY DROVE, HACONBY LINCOLNSHIRE (HAC96)

Work Undertaken For
Anglian Water Services Ltd

April 1996

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 4

10. Bibliography 4

Appendices

1 Context Group Summary
2 Site Summary, After Phillips, 1970
3 Sites Identified by the Fenland Survey, after Hayes and Lane, 1992
4 The Archive
5 Glossary

List of Figures

Figure 1 . . . General Location Plan

Figure 2 . . . Site Location Plan

Figure 3 . . . Route of Pipeline

Figure 4. . . Sections 1 and 2

Figure 5. . . Area A

Figure 6. . . Area B

Figure 7. . . Area C

Figure 8. . . . Area D

Figure 9. . . . Cropmarks in the Vicinity of the Pipeline, after Phillips 1970

Figure 10. . . Landscape Interpretation of the Romano-British Period

Plate 1. . . . . General view along the pipeline easement

Plate 2. . . . . Area B

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a water pipeline at Haconby Fen, Lincolnshire.

The route of the pipeline traverses an area of archaeological interest with activity dating mainly from the Romano-British period. Extensive surveys have revealed, through aerial photographs and subsequent fieldwalking, that the area had a well developed settlement pattern linked by droveways. Former field boundaries and salterns (salt producing sites) suggest a locally derived economy. No Saxon or medieval activity is recorded, though the South Forty Foot Drain may obscure an earlier feature, the Midfen Dyke.

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

A number of undated ditches and gullies were found preserved beneath modern deposits. These features are likely to be of Romano-British date. A layer of alluvium sealed many of these deposits. Finds included a single piece of bone and tiny fragments of broken tile.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Between the 21st and 24th of March 1996, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a water pipeline trench along Hacconby Drove and the South Forth Foot Drain near Haconby, Lincolnshire (NGR TF1442566 to TF16502770). Hacconby Drove is located in the civil parish of Haconby, South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). This work was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services.

2.2 Topography and Geology

The route of the pipeline is approximately 4km long and lies 6km north of Bourne and 23 km southeast of Grantham.

Local soils are predominantly of the Wallasea 2 association, pelo-alluvial gley soils on reclaimed marine alluvium, and the Wisbech, calcareous alluvial gley soils on stoneless marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338-41, 361-3).

Local topography is uniformly flat with heights rarely exceeding 3.5m OD.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Hacconby Drove traverses an area of dense archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period. A research survey identified, in the area of the pipeline, a Roman landscape complete with droveways and enclosures (Phillips 1970, 261-65). Aerial photography revealed a cluster of enclosures surrounding a network of droveways, lying to the south of Hacconby Drove. A droveway extends from this cluster and heads north and then east to a point just east of the South Forty Foot Drain whereupon it joins another area of dense enclosures.

Field walking in Haconby Fen confirmed the evidence of settlement as identified by the aerial photographs (Hayes and Lane 1992, 98-109). Furthermore, artefacts revealed during the survey indicated that some of the sites were salterns associated with extinct tidal water channels. Subsequent to the Roman period, the area returned to freshwater wetland.

Most land became unuseable and was not

subsequently utilised in the Saxon and Medieval periods. However, the present South Forty Foot Drain may have had its origin in the early medieval period and possibly might even be the Saxon *Midfen dyke* (Tom Lane *pers comm*).

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 10m wide easement along the route of the pipeline was stripped of topsoil. A mechanical excavator was used for the construction of the pipe trench, that measured *c*. 0.7m wide and between 1.5m and 2m deep.

Subsequent to the easement being stripped of topsoil, the exposed surface was examined to identify any archaeological features in plan, prior to the excavation of the pipe trench. Once the pipe trench had been excavated the sides of the trench were cleaned by hand, where possible, and inspected for archaeological remains prior to recording the sections.

Each deposit or feature revealed within the trench was allocated a unique reference number with an individual written description. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at scale 1:10. Additionally, the natural geology was recorded.

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. Two phases were identified:

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Undated archaeological deposits

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Deposits of grey clay (25) were predominant along the course of the pipeline. Towards the west in Section 1, a yellow brown silt was observed (4). Both these deposits were interpreted as natural.

Phase 2 Undated Archaeological Deposits

Deposited above natural towards the western part of the pipeline route was a red clayey silt deposit (3). Lying in a hollow, this was 0.12m thick and was scorched (Fig. 4, Section 1). This was overlain by a dark greyish brown silty clay (2) that was in turn sealed by a dark grey clay (1).

Revealed in the side of the pipe trench was a linear feature (5). This was 2m wide and was exposed for a depth of 0.6m. Interpreted as a ditch this was filled with a a brownish grey clayey silt (24) and a grey clay (26).

Cutting the natural deposits in Area A (Fig. 3) was a north to south aligned linear feature (6). This was exposed for 3.4m and was 0.74m wide and 0.25m deep (Fig. 5). Identified as a ditch, it was filled with a dark brown clayey silt (7).

Located *c*. 4m to the east was a second north to south aligned feature (8). This was 0.3m wide, 60mm deep and was obseved for 4m. Also identified as a ditch, this was filled with a dark brown clayey silt (9).

Area B (Fig. 6) comprised a single meandering linear feature (10). Entering the easement from the west, it extended south for *c.* 3m before heading north and leaves the easement 3m east of where it entered. This was 0.6m wide and 90mm deep with a vertical slope on one side. Identified as a gully, this was filled with a dark brown clayey silt (11).

Situated 40m west of Area A was a discontinuous spread of scorched red and black silty clay (27). Identified as an area of burning, this was cut by an east to west aligned linear feature (15). Exposed for a length of 4m this was 0.5m wide and 80mm deep. Interpreted as a ditch, it contained a mid brownish grey clayey silt (12).

Cutting natural in Area C (Fig. 7) was an east to west aligned linear feature (14). Exposed for a length of 20m, this was 1.2m wide and 0.28m deep. Interpreted as a boundary ditch, a fill of dark brown clayey silt comprised the secondary fill (13).

Cutting natural deposits in Area D (Fig. 8) was a north to south aligned linear feature (16). Measuring 3.4m wide, this was exposed for a length of 6m and a depth of 0.48m. Interpreted as a boundary ditch, this contained a mixed fill of brown silty clays and mid brownish grey clayey silt (17, 20, 21, 23 and 24).

Cutting the uppermost fill of ditch 16 was a similarly aligned linear feature (18). Measuring 1.3m wide at the widest point, this was 0.15m deep and was exposed for a length of *c.* 4m. This was interpreted as a ditch, possibly a recut of 16. A fill of dark brown sandy silt constituted the fill (19).

Exposed in the side of the pipe trench, at the western end of the route was a broad, presumably linear, feature (32). Unable to be recorded due to the depth of the trench, a width of *c.* 7m and a depth of 0.9m was estimated. This was filled with a dark brown clayey silt (31) that was overlain by a further fill of yellowish brown silt (30).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural layers of clay and silt (phase 1) were observed across the area. These were deposited in saltmarsh conditions during the early 1st millenium BC.

Undated features (Phase 2) are typified by a number of linear ditches and gullies that represent former land boundaries and attempts to drain the low lying land. It is quite possible that these are linked to the Romano-British field system identified previously and the lack of activity in subsequent periods may support this. A number of fills and spreads, usually a grey clay, were also recorded that are of alluvial origin.

Modern deposits of topsoil and subsoil were not recorded as these had been removed prior to the examination.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigation along the route of a pipe trench along Hacconby Drove, Haconby established that natural deposits of alluvial origin exist beneath the present ground surface.

Archaeological deposits, though undated, are of probable Romano-British date and are suggestive of an extensive field system across the landscape.

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 Tom Lane edited this report. Jenny Stevens, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to the relevant parish files.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes
Site Supervisor: Chris Moulis
Site Assistants: Christine Bloor, Simon Roper-Presdee, Mark Sansom
Illustrations: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

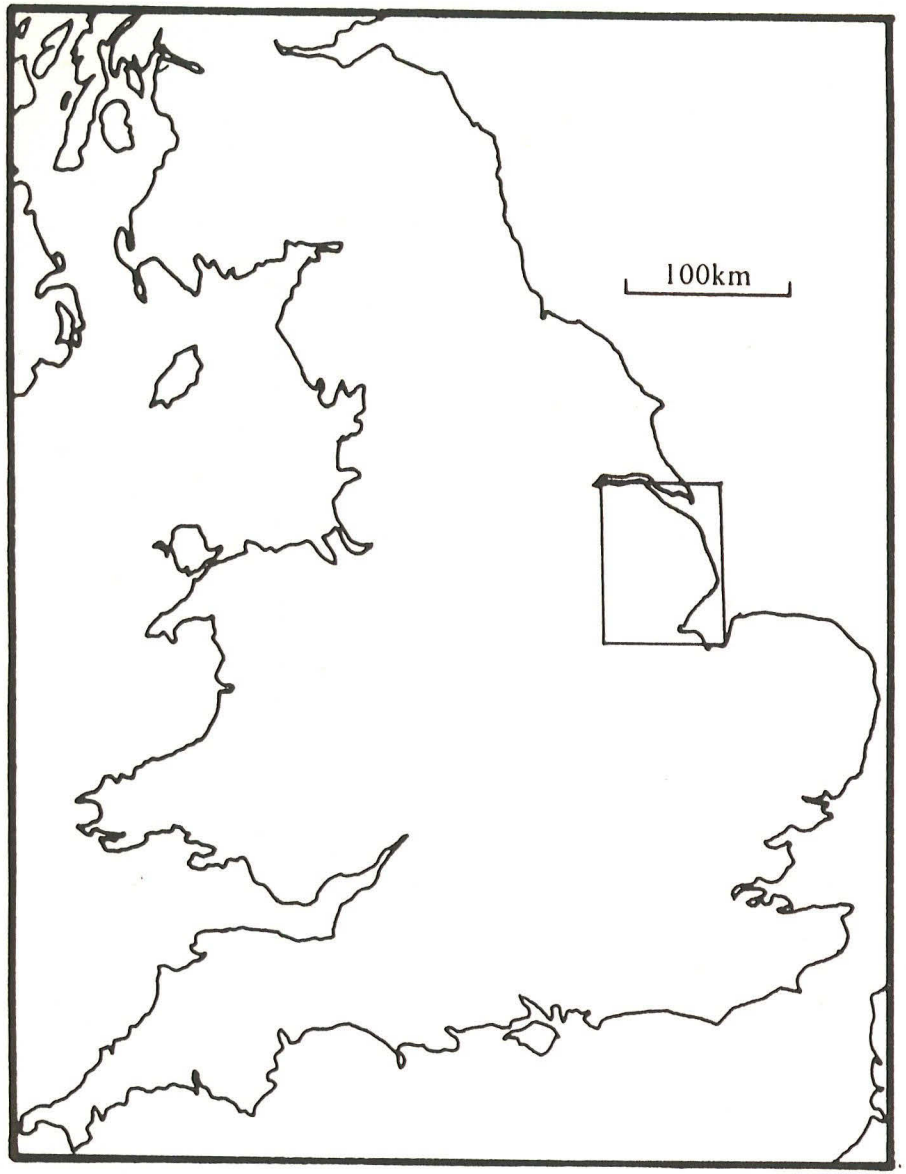
10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hayes, P.P. and Lane, T.W., 1992 *The Fenland Project No. 5: Lincolnshire Survey, The South-West Fens*, East Anglian Archaeology **55**

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.)

Phillips, C.W. (ed), 1970 *The Fenland in Roman Times*, Royal Geographical Society Research Series No. **5**



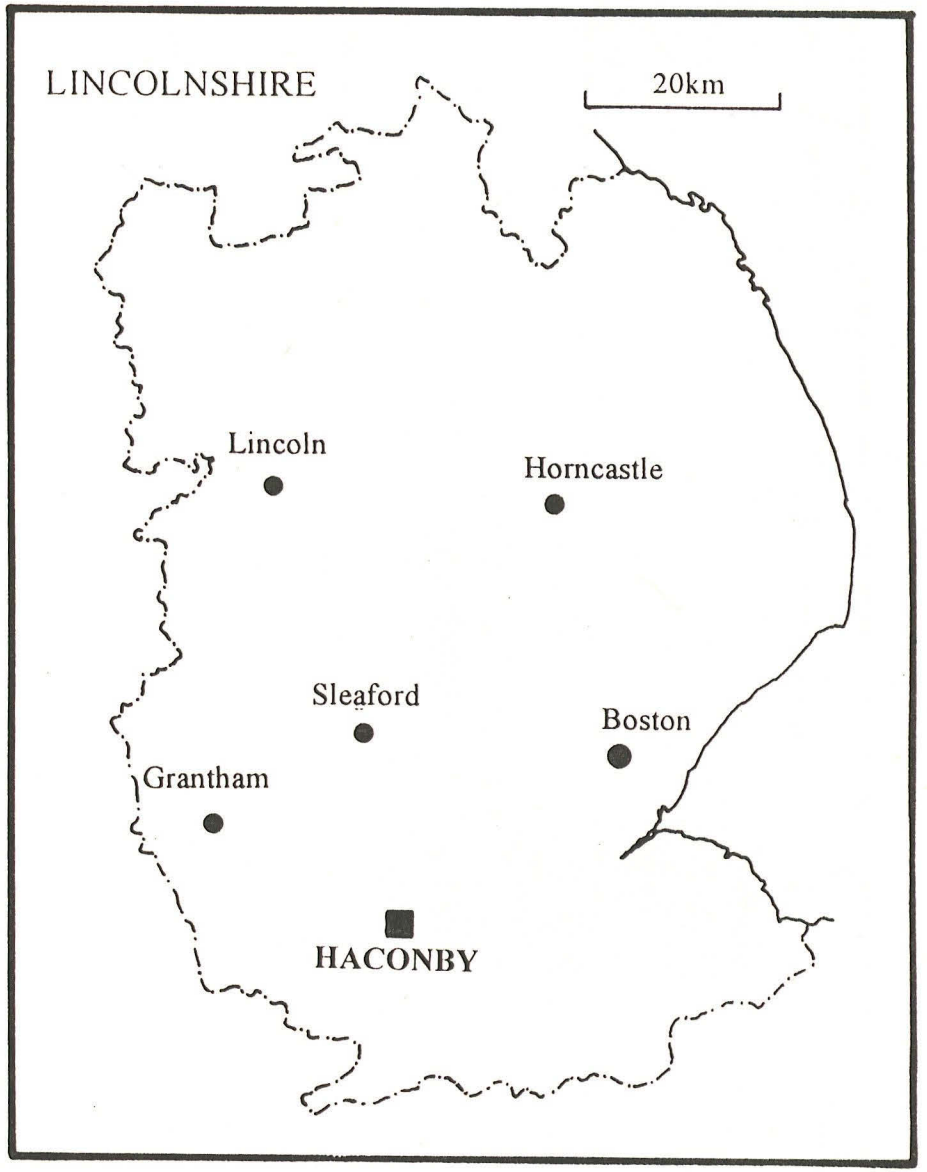


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan

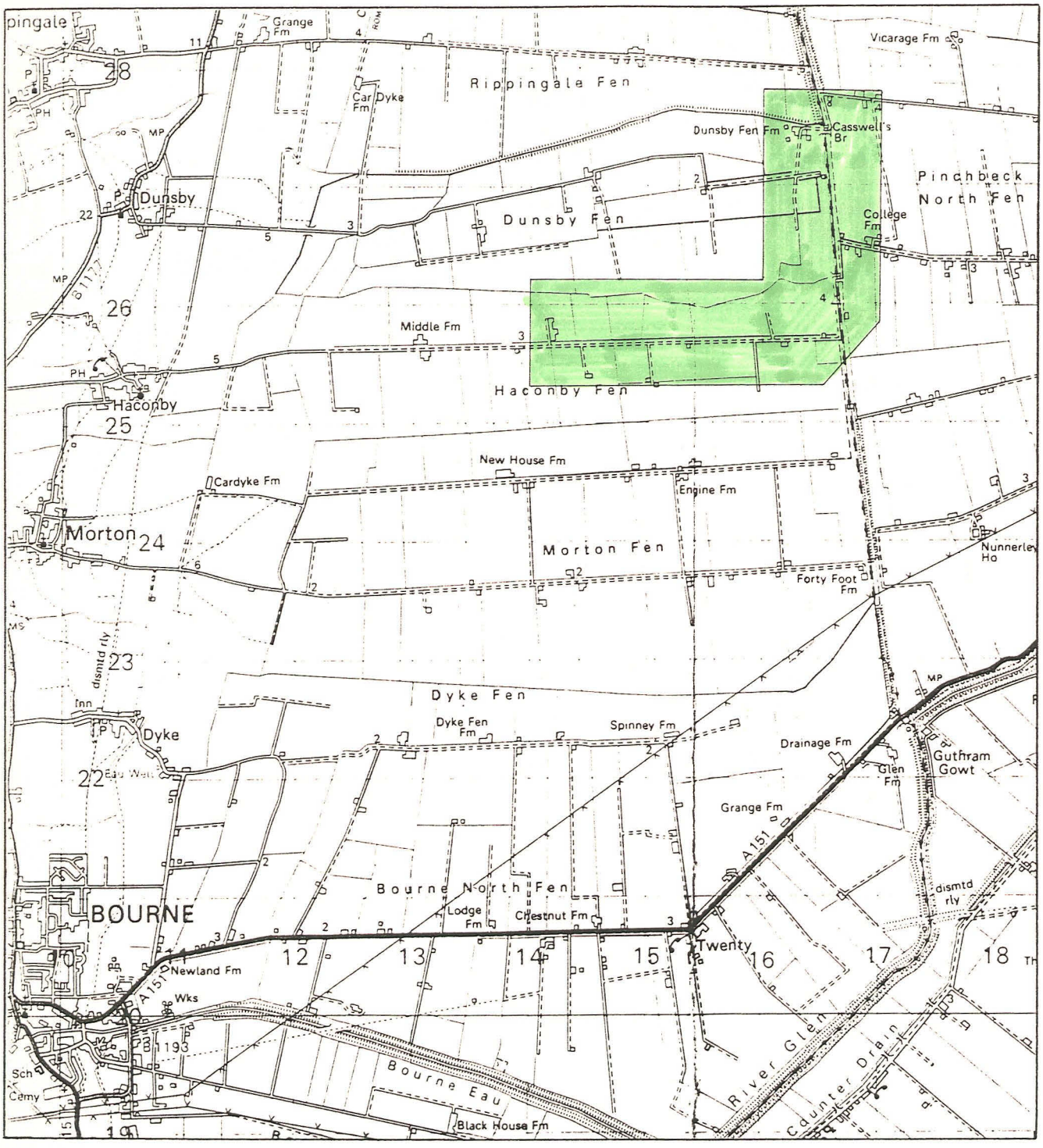


Fig. 3 Route of Pipeline

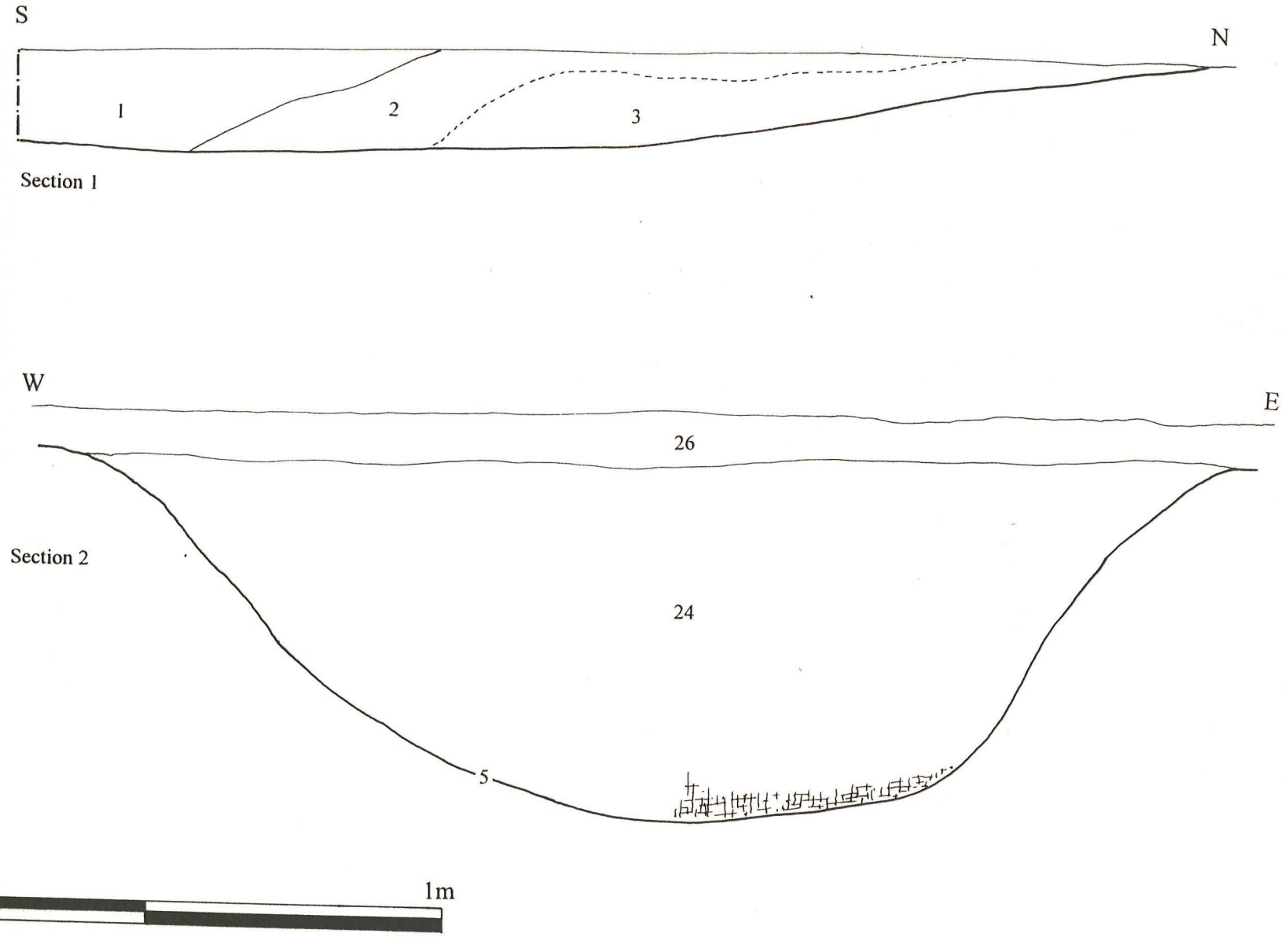
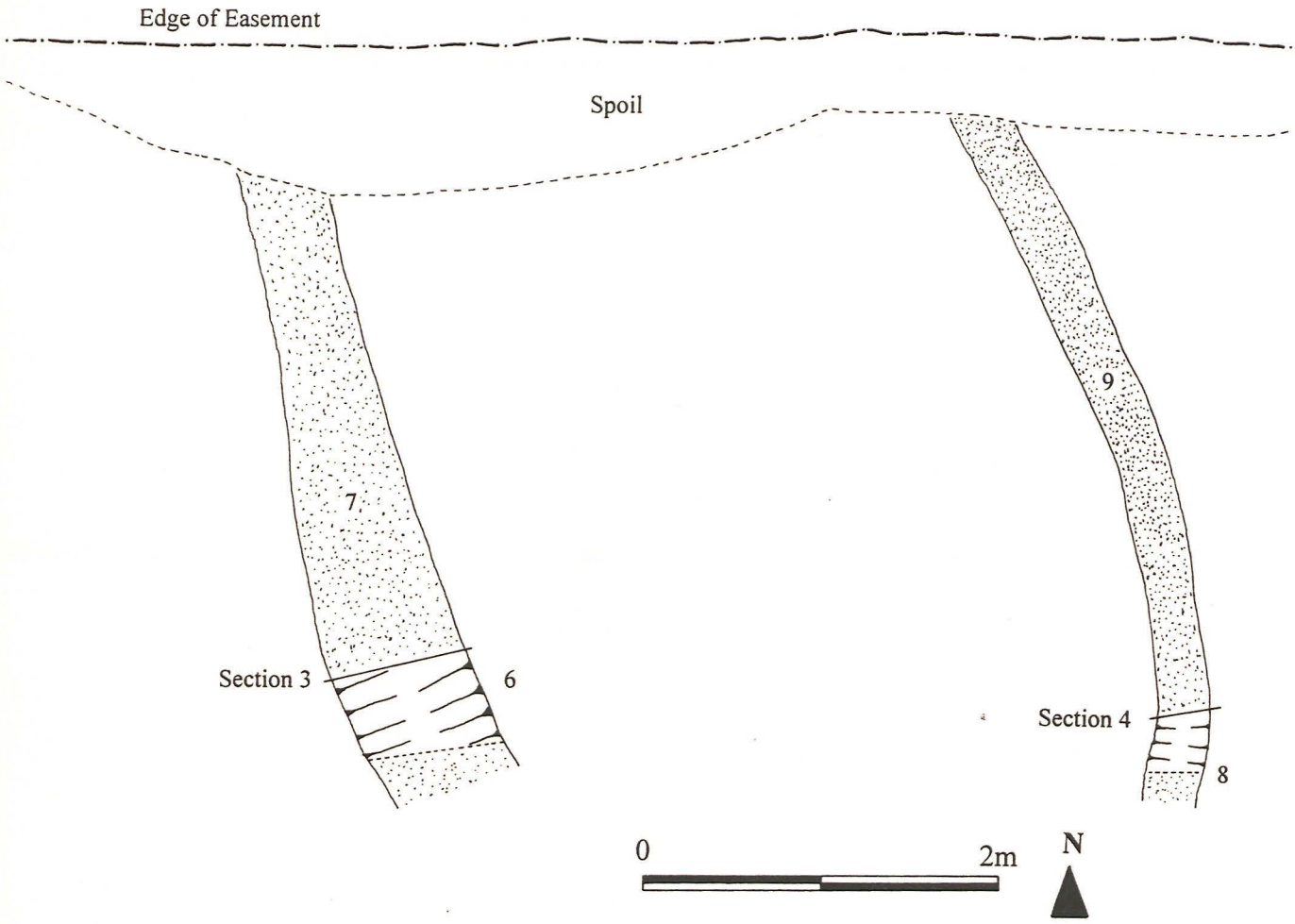
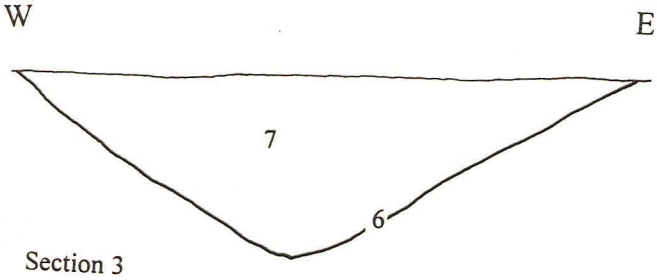


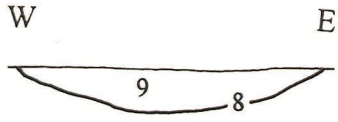
Fig. 4 Sections 1 and 2

Fig. 5 Area A



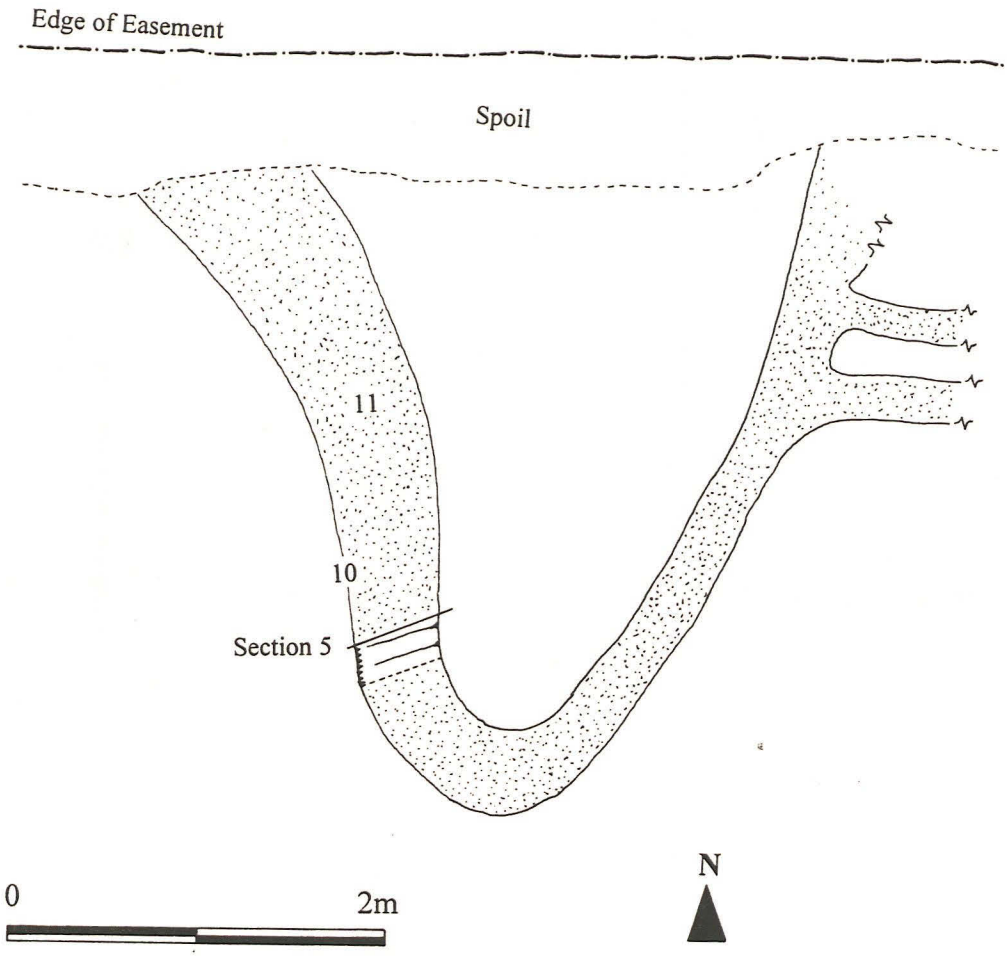


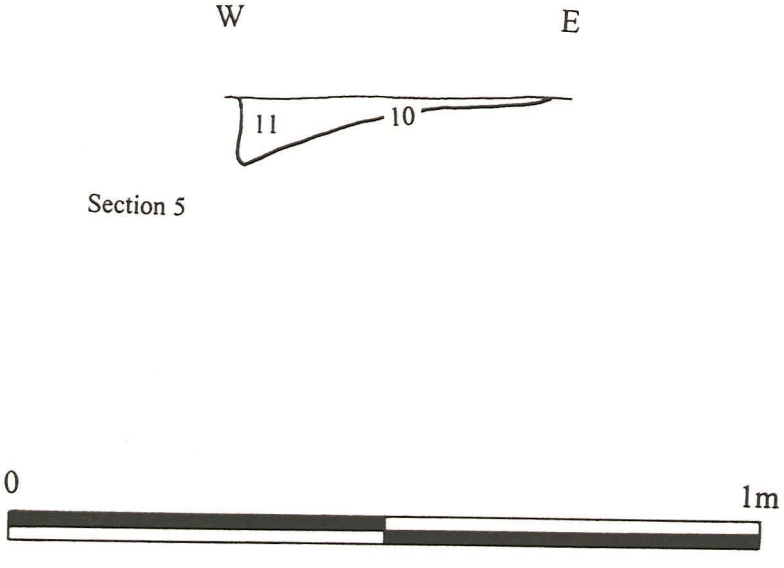
Section 3

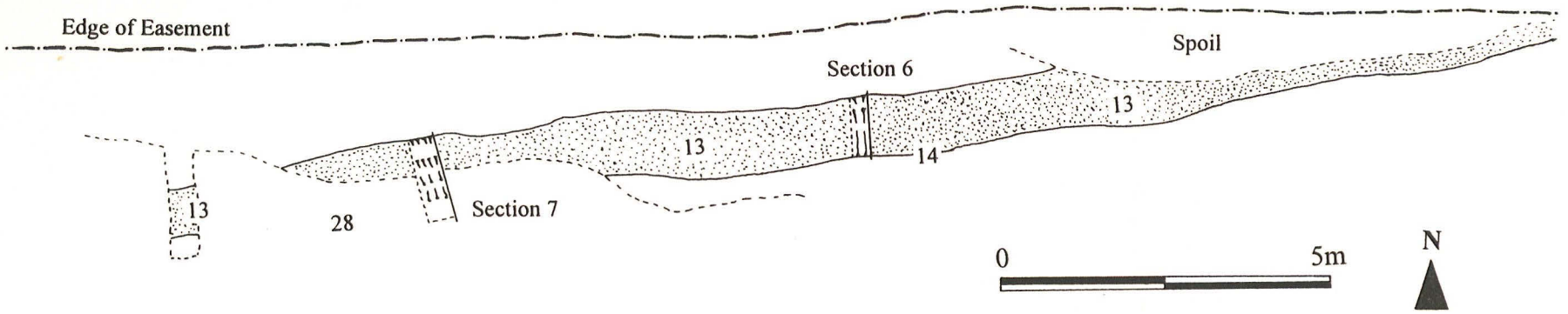


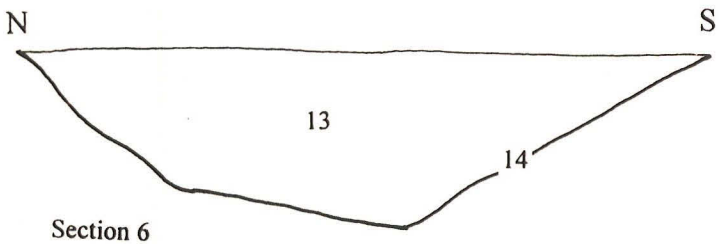
Section 4

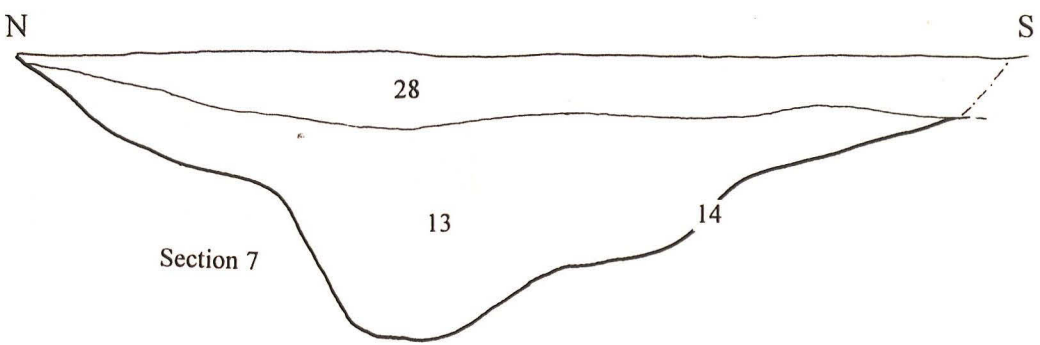
Fig. 6 Area B


Edge of Easement
Spoil
11
10
Section 5
0
2m
N


W
E
11
10
Section 5
0
1m


Edge of Easement
Spoil
Section 6
13
13
14
13
28
Section 7
0
5m
N

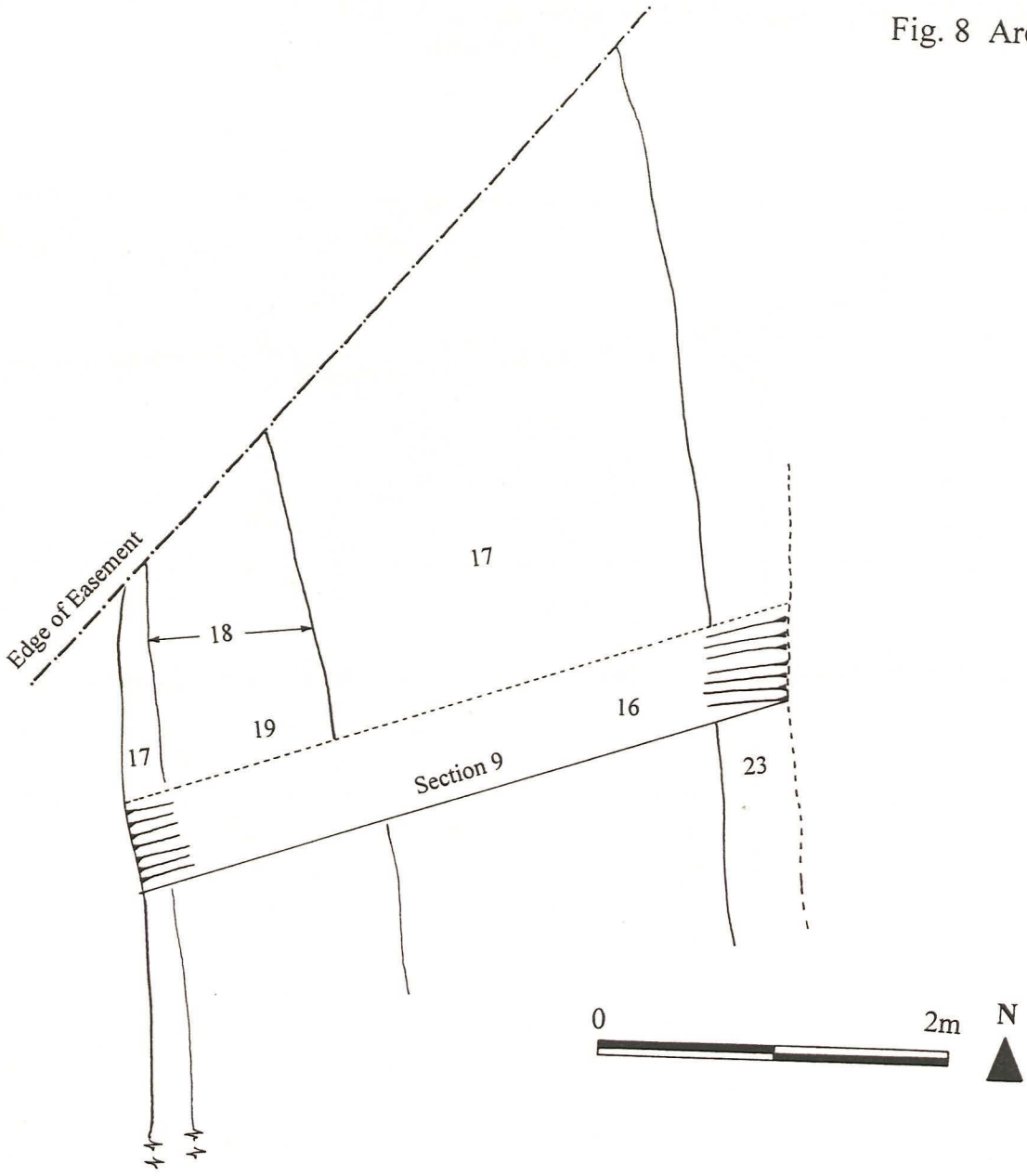

N
S
13
14
Section 6

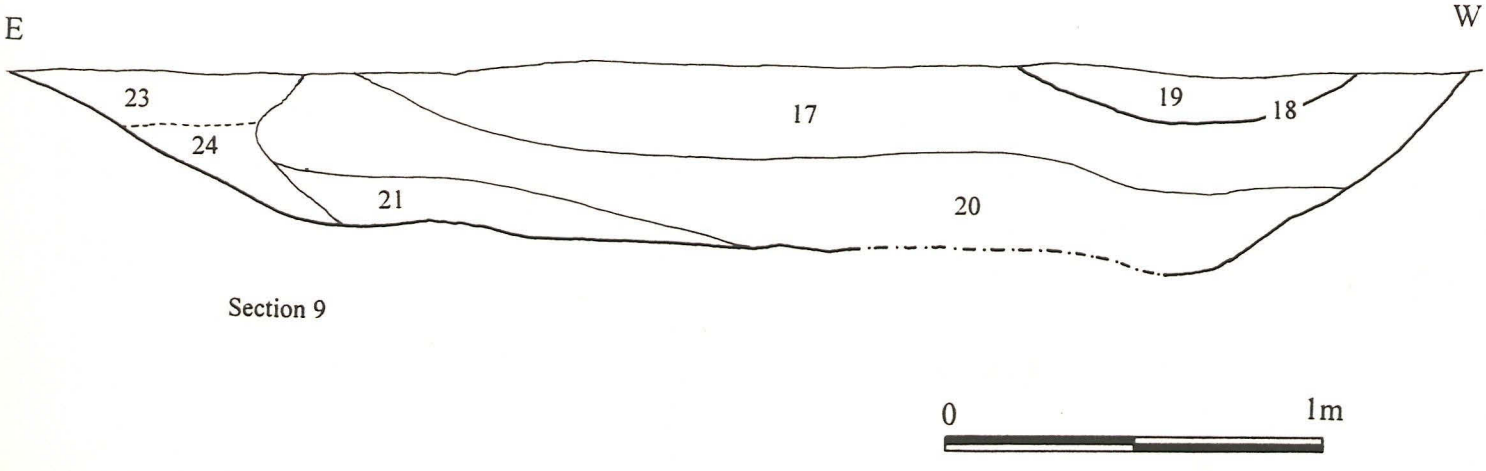

N
S
28
13
14
Section 7


0
1m

Fig. 7 Area C

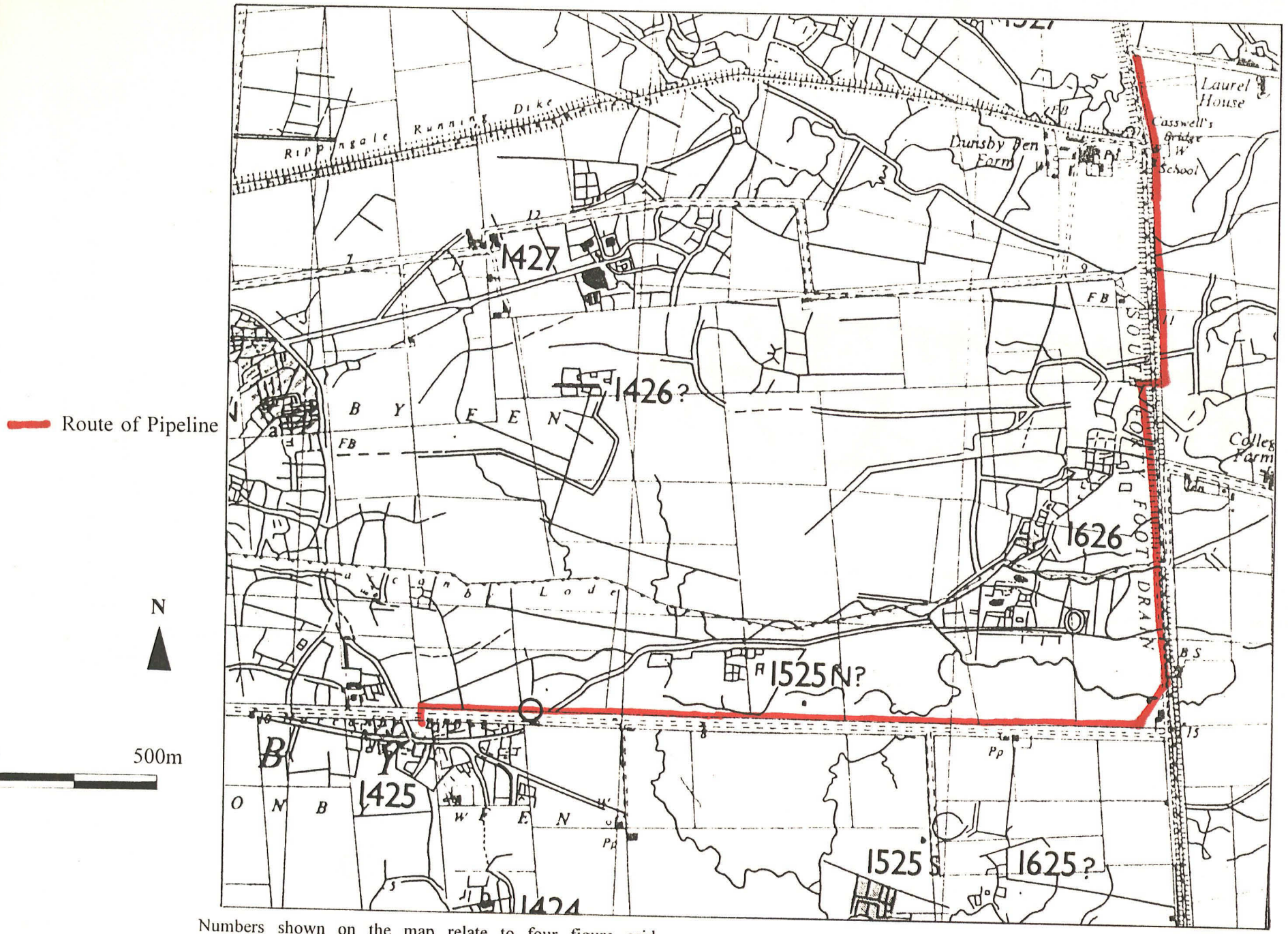
Fig. 8 Area D





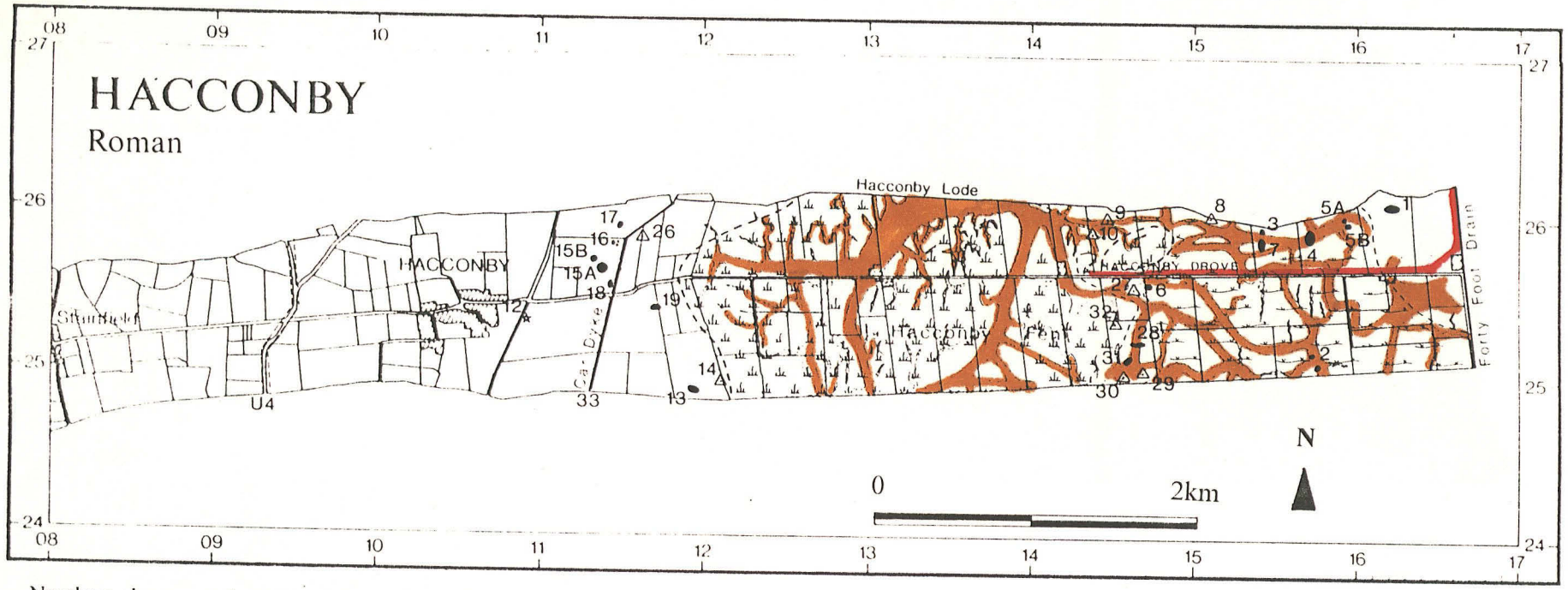
Section 9

0 1m



Numbers shown on the map relate to four figure grid references used in 'The Fenland in Roman Times'. A summary of these sites appears in Appendix 2.

Fig. 9 Cropmarks in the Vicinity of the Pipeline
After Phillips 1970



Numbers shown on the map relate to site codes used by the Fenland Project Survey, A summary of these sites appears in Appendix 3.

Route of the Pipeline

Extinct or near extinct salt-marsh creeks

Fig. 10 Landscape Interpretation of the Romano-British Period.
After Hayes and Lane 1992

Plate 1. General View along the pipe line easement. Section 1 lies in the foreground.

Plate 2. Area B, showing the curvilinear feature.

APPENDIX 1

Context Summary.

Context	Description	Interpretation
1	Mid to dark grey clay	Indeterminate layer
2	Greyish brown silty clay	Indeterminate layer
3	Red scorched clayey silt	Burnt deposit
4	Yellow brown silt	Natural deposit
5	Linear north-south cut	Ditch
6	Linear north-south cut	Ditch
7	Brown clayey silt	Fill of 6
8	Linear north-south cut	Ditch/gully
9	Brown clayey silt	Fill of 8
10	Curvilinear cut	Gully
11	Brown clayey silt	Fil of 10
12	Brownish grey clayey silt	Fill of 15
13	Brown clayey silt	Fill of 14
14	Linear east-west cut	Ditch
15	Linear east-west cut	Ditch
16	Linear north-south cut	Ditch
17	Brown silty clay	Fill of 16
18	Linear north-south cut	Recut? of 16
19	Brown sandy silt	Fill of 18
20	Brown silty clay	Fill of 16
21	Brown silty clay	Fill of 16
22	Cancelled context	
23	Brown silty clay	Fill of 16
24	Brownish grey clayey silt	Fill of 5
25	Grey Clay	Natural deposit
26	Grey clay	Alluvium
27	Red/black silty clay	Scorched natural
28	Grey brown silty clay	Alluvium
29	Yellow sandy silt	Fill of 16
30	Yellowish brown silt	Fill of 32
31	Brown clayey silt	Fill of 32
32	Linear? cut	Ditch?

Appendix 2

Site Gazetteer
After Phillips, 1970

1424 HACCONBY-MORTON, Lane Dike: Compact settlement with industrial site: tight group of mainly rectilinear enclosures along W flank of watercourse running seaward from **1425**

1425 HACCONBY Drove: Large loose settlement. Small enclosures, some arranged concentrically within larger enclosures, mainly rectilinear, linked by droves over a wide area. A main W-E drove runs through and on to **1525N** and **1626**; SE branch towards **1525S** and neighbours; S branch down levee through **1424**; two N branches join to run upstream to **1326S** and N; network of field ditches over wide area to N.

1426 DUNSBY Fen, south: Small group (c. 500 by 250 ft) of rectilinear enclosures, each containing one or two small enclosures: quite seperate from **1427**; clear unmodified lay-out suggests brief occupation.

1427 DUNSBY Fen, north: Compact settlement. One grouping of central, roughly rectilinear enclosure plus surrounding compounds, in each angle of meeting of four droves; three minor, the fourth links with **1326** to W; branch droves, watercourse and network of fields extend NE, and wider mesh of drainage ditches E.

1525N HACCONBY Lode, west: Five rectilinear enclosures strung along 400 ft of double drove, block of four and pair to S.

1525S HACCONBY, Short Drove, west: Small settlement. Group of 8 small rectilinear enclosures at NW of loose complex of fields and settlements grouped about northern tributary of Morton Fen watercourse.

1625 HACCONBY, Short Drove, east: Small scatter of 6 or 8 small enclosures, mostly irregular rectangles.

1626 HACCONBY Lodge, East: Large loose settlement N-S string of three tight clusters of small irregular enclosures along watercourse tending NE from Hacconby Lodge towards seaward complex of silted channels E into Pinchbeck, joined by wide silt levee from Dunsby Fen. Drove links W to **1525N** and **1425**; complex network of branch droves runs through and around group and NE, with loose field ditch network in interstices.

Appendix 3

Sites Identified by The Fenland Survey
After Hayes and Lane 1992

HAC 1	Settlement. Soilmark, sherds of R-B pottery, bones, fired clay, quern, tile and shell
HAC 2	Settlement. Dark soilmark, sherds of R-B pottery, some fired clay, quern, burnt stone, shell and bone.
HAC 3	Settlement. Dark soilmark, R-B sherds, some Saxon pottery. Some bone, fired clay, burnt stone, rubble?, quern, shell and a whetstone.
HAC 4	No soilmark. R-B sherds and some bone.
HAC 5	Settlement. Two dark soilmarks with more or less continuous scatter of sherds, bone, sparse fired clay, burnt stone, rubble? and a quern.
HAC 6	Settlement. R-B sherds, fired clay, sparse bone and quern.
HAC 7	Settlement. Soilmark, R-B sherds, bone, sparse fired clay, tile and shell.
HAC 8	Saltern. Briquetage, mostly shattered on N edge of roddon. No pot.
HAC 9	Saltern. Briquetage, badly shattered, no pot.
HAC 10	Saltern. Prominent mound on roddon. Briquetage, no pot.
HAC 12	Settlement. Faint soilmark. Sherds mainly Saxon but with some R-B.
HAC 13	Settlement. Very large soilmark. R-B sherds, much rubble, sparse tile and burnt stone.
HAC 14	Saltern. Briquetage, sparse burnt stones and unidentified sherds.
HAC 15	Settlement. Dark soilmark. R-B, Iron age and Saxon sherds, abundant rubble, some fired clay, sparse quern, tile and flints.
HAC 16	Settlement. Dark soilmark. R-B sherds, quern, tile, fired clay and much rubble.
HAC 17	Settlement. R-B sherds, rubble, sparse tile, bone and fired clay.
HAC 18	Settlement. R-B sherds, much rubble, sparse tile, slag, bone, shell and glass (Post-med?).
HAC 19	Settlement/saltern? Soilmark. R-B sherds, fired clay, sparse bone and tile.
HAC 20	Saltern. Soilmark. Briquetage, few sherds and bone frags.
HAC 27	Settlement/saltern. Soilmark with distinct overlapping of domestic and saltern material. R-B sherds, briquetage, sparse bones. Located east of FRT 1425.

HAC 28	Settlement. Prominent mound with a diffuse scatter of R-B sherds, sparse bone and quern.
HAC 29	Saltern. Briquetage only.
HAC 30	Saltern. Briquetage and a few R-B sherds.
HAC 31	Settlement. R-B sherds and some fired clay in an angle formed by the junction of two roddons.
HAC 32	Saltern. Briquetage, no pot.
HAC 33	Watercourse. The Car Dyke.
U4	Roman Road, Bourne to Sleaford

Appendix 4

The Archive

The archive consists of:

32 . . Context records
2 . . . Photographic records
18 . . 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: 38.96

Archaeological Project Services, project code: HAC96

Appendix 5

Glossary

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 brackets, *e.g.* (004).

Cut A cut is formed by the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc.* 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 elevate the ground surface for drainage or other purposes.

Fill Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The sediments and soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).

Layer A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.

Natural Undisturbed deposit(s) of sediment or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.