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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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Caistor Mains Relay: Archaeological Monitoring at Cabourne (A46), Caistor (Rawlinson Avenue) and Nettleton (Cook's Lane)

NGR: TA 1384 0178 (Cabourne)

TA 1145 0100 (Caistor)

TA 1080 0024 (Nettleton)

Site Code: **CMR 96**

LCNCC Museum Accn. No. **47.96**

Report prepared for Anglian Water

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Contents

List of Figures and Plates	2
Summary	3
Introduction	3
The Watching Brief	3
Conclusion	4
Acknowledgements	5

List of Figures

- Fig. 1** Location of the monitored trenches in Cabourne, Caistor and Nettleton (based on the 1992 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 map, Landranger Sheet 113. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Ordnance Survey Licence No. AL 50424A).
- Fig. 2** Position of the Cabourne trench (based on the 1:2500 plans supplied by Anglian Water, dwg. no. 3W/40642/01-2; copyright Anglian Water. LAS Ordnance Survey Licence No. AL 50424A).
- Fig. 3** Route of the pipe trench at Rawlinson Avenue, Caistor (based on the 1:2500 plans supplied by Anglian Water, dwg. no. 3W/40642/01-2; copyright Anglian Water. LAS Ordnance Survey Licence No. AL 50424A).
- Fig. 4** Route of the pipe trench in Cook's Lane, Nettleton (based on the 1:2500 plans supplied by Anglian Water, dwg. no. 3W/40642/01-2; copyright Anglian Water. LAS Ordnance Survey Licence No. AL 50424A).

List of Plates

- Pl. 1** Section cut close to the northern edge of the A46 Grimsby Road at the Telephone Exchange, Cabourne.
- Pl. 2** Uneven dark grey soil in the trench face in front of Wood Farm, Nettleton (looking west).
- Pl. 3** Uneven ground in the roadside paddock beside Wood Farm (looking west).

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Summary

An intermittent watching brief during trenching for a replacement water main in parts of Caistor, Nettleton and Cabourne produced no evidence for activity earlier than the post-medieval period.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) were commissioned in January 1996 by Anglian Water to monitor part of their mains laying scheme in Rawlinson Avenue, Caistor; Cook's Lane, Nettleton and on the A46 Grimsby Road through the village of Cabourne (Fig. 1). Lincolnshire County Archaeology Section had requested the watching brief because Romano-British remains had been found near Rawlinson Avenue at Caistor. It was also anticipated that medieval settlement remains might be found in the other villages.

A single hole was excavated in Cabourne within the specified monitoring area; the contractors (Morrison Biggs Wall) advised that the planned trench would not be excavated. At Caistor most of the trench was inspected, with visits at irregular intervals. The Nettleton trench was observed intermittently but infrequently as it coincided with previous trenches for existing services for part of its course. A total of 10 monitoring visits were made by the author between February 19th and March 22nd 1996.

The Watching Brief

Cabourne (Fig. 2)

A single hole was excavated by hand in the road in front of the Telephone Exchange, at the western limit of the present village. The 0.55m thick tarmac layer was bedded onto 0.22m of redeposited stone and a thin layer of chalk; all this deposit may represent quite recent road construction. Beneath the stone were two sand layers; the upper was light brown and 0.22m thick, and the lower was much darker and 0.25m thick (Pl. 1).

The layers may be the result of hill wash from the steep hill to the west, perhaps along the course of a medieval road; the chalk might represent post-

medieval metalling. Interpretation of the early course of the road was complicated by traces of a linear hollow (probably a medieval road) deflecting to the north of the present A46 in the uncultivated field east of the Telephone Exchange. Heavy rain in the winter of 1995 left the A46 on the western edge of Cabourne village covered by thick mud which had poured off fields to the south along the valley. This required mechanical clearance and was visible for several months. It is likely that the road alignment across this valley has been vulnerable for many years.

Caistor, Rawlinson Avenue (Fig. 3)

The trench was dug the length of Rawlinson Avenue and included the side turnings to the north, south and east. All the trench faces showed a similar sequence of tarmac laid over concrete rubble and contemporary or slightly earlier ironstone waste (probably from the Nettleton mines). Beneath this material was yellow or brown clay, thought to be naturally deposited. Small pockets of sand extending beneath the trench base were noted close to the junction of Rawlinson Avenue and Risedale. Two apparently disturbed areas in Risedale were interpreted as glacial features, possibly small ice cracks.

Nettleton, Cook's Lane (Fig. 4)

260m of trench were inspected, much of which passed Wood Farm. At intervals the trench faces exposed parallel existing service trenches and brick culverts, suggesting that most of the ground had been disturbed within the past 200 years. A common feature of the trench was a thick deposit of dirty sand at the trench base, probably filling a natural stream channel. Nettleton Beck deflects abruptly to the south about 50m west of the western end of Cook's Lane before flowing to Coach Bridge, and it is possible that it was deliberately re-aligned in or after the medieval period.

Land to the east of Wood Farm was particularly disturbed, with early 20th century refuse visible in the trench face beside an uneven paddock. The uneven depth of the uppermost dark grey, fine sandy loam layer hinted at levelling of low or uneven ground, although a backfilled ditch slightly skew to the new trench could have produced similar stratigraphy (Pl. 2).

Conclusion

At Nettleton the trench sections suggested that Cook's Lane crosses land once used for refuse disposal, probably around the beginning of the 20th century. The processes of backfilling low-lying and wet ground continue in the field to the south of the road past Wood Farm, where the farmer is gradually levelling previous pond-like hollows (partly with spoil from the present trench) (Pl. 3).

The other two monitored pipe trenches contributed no information of archaeological interest; at Caistor the absence of Roman finds helps to restrict the extent of the Roman walled and extra-mural settlement.

Acknowledgements

LAS were grateful for the co-operation received from Anglian Water (especially Daniel Smith and Katharine Gilliatt), their contractors Morrison Biggs Wall, and Ian George (Assistant Archaeological Officer, Lincs. Archaeology Section).

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
14th May 1996

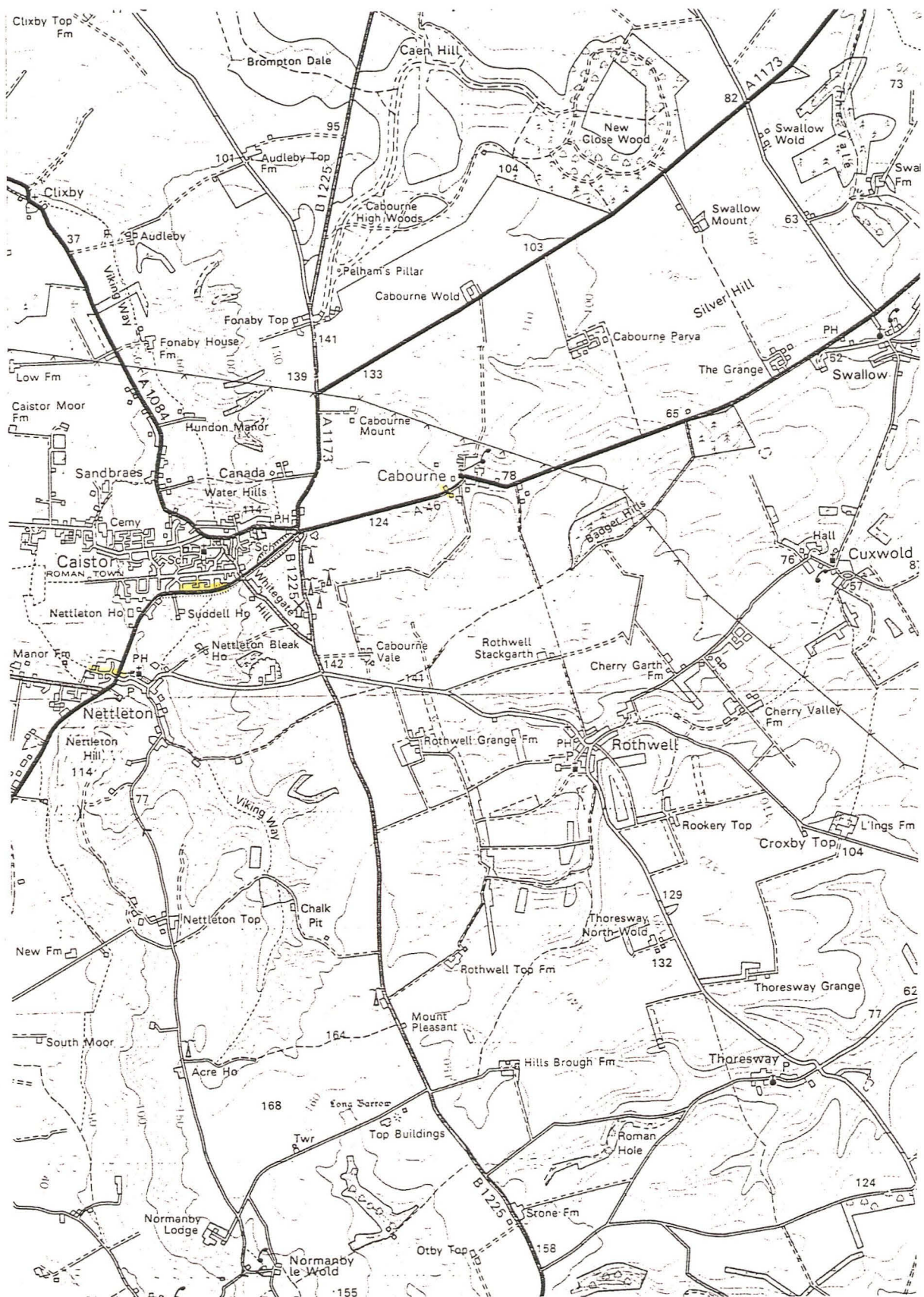


Fig. 1 Location of the monitored trenches in Cabourne, Caistor and Nettleton (based on the 1992 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 map, Landranger Sheet 113. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Ordnance Survey Licence No. AL 50424A).

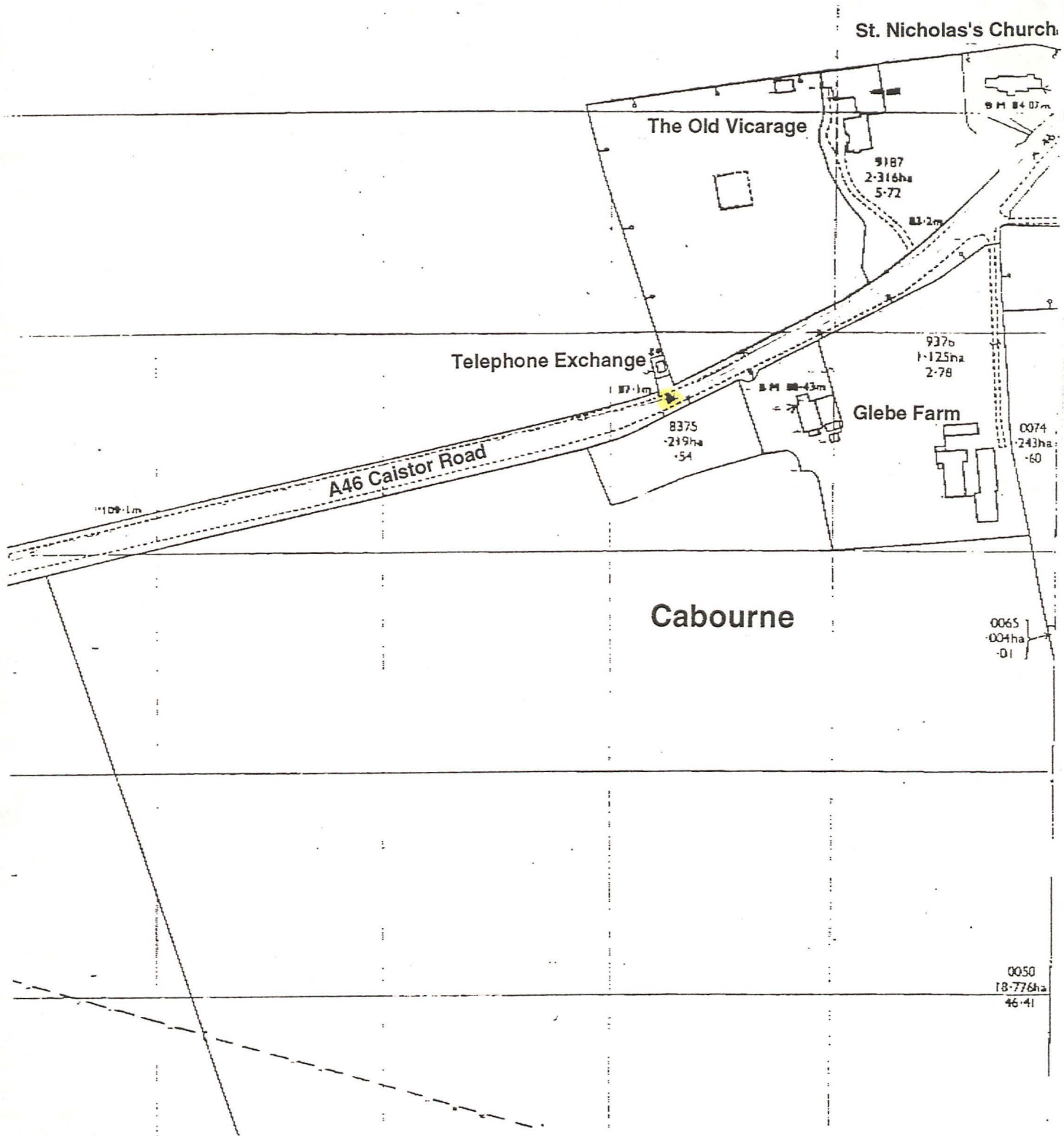


Fig. 2 Position of the Cabourne trench (based on the 1:2500 plans supplied by Anglian Water, dwg. no. 3W/40642/01-2; copyright Anglian Water. LAS Ordnance Survey Licence No. AL 50424A).

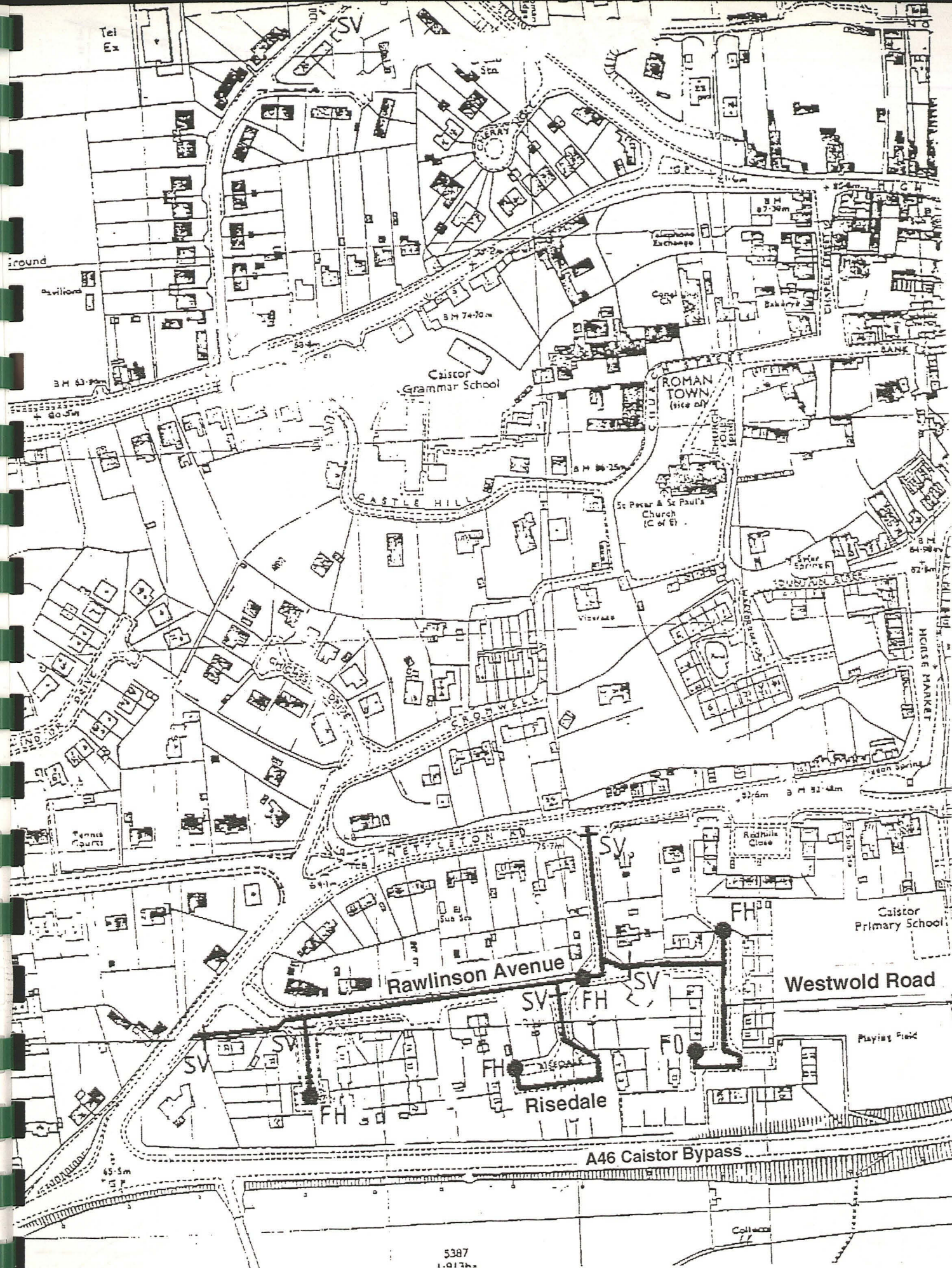


Fig. 3 Route of the pipe trench at Rawlinson Avenue, Caistor (based on 1:2500 plans supplied by Anglian Water, dwg. no. 3W/40642/01-2; copyright Anglian Water. LAS Ordnance Survey licence no. AL 50424A).

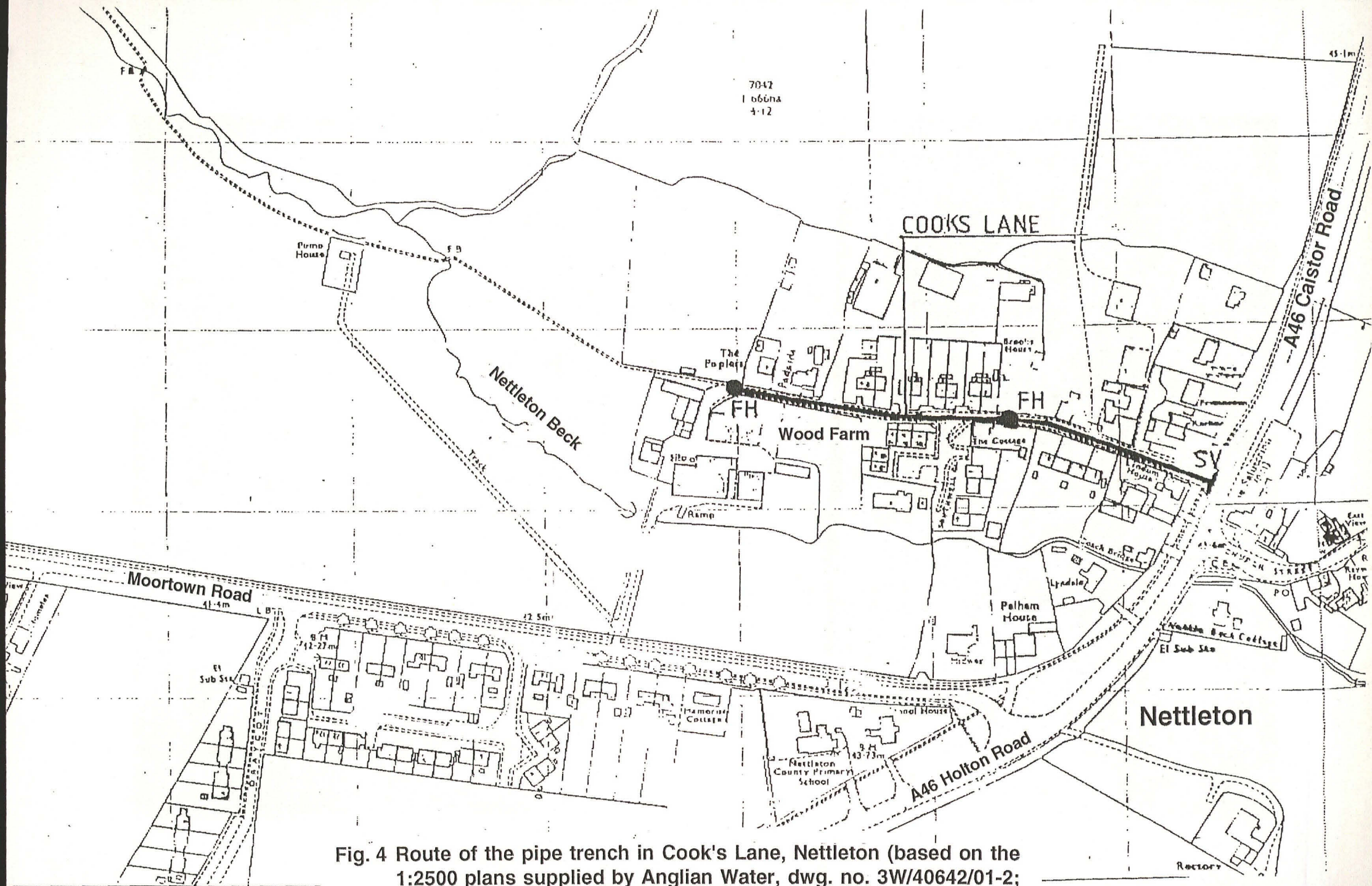


Fig. 4 Route of the pipe trench in Cook's Lane, Nettleton (based on the 1:2500 plans supplied by Anglian Water, dwg. no. 3W/40642/01-2; copyright Anglian Water. LAS Ordnance Survey Licence No. AL 50424A).



Pl. 1 Section cut close to the northern edge of the A46 Grimsby Road at the Telephone Exchange, Cabourne.

Pl. 2 Uneven dark grey soil in the trench face in front of Wood Farm, Nettleton (looking west).





PI. 3 Uneven ground in the roadside paddock beside Wood Farm (looking west).