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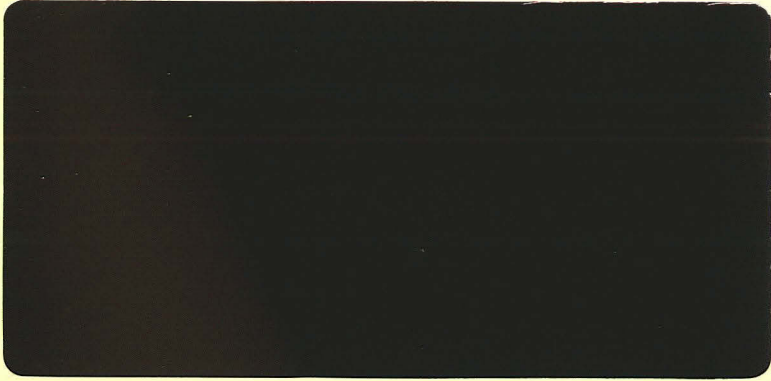
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A WATER MAINS RELAY AT
WITHAM ON THE HILL,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(WOH96)**



A P S
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF A WATER MAINS RELAY AT
WITHAM ON THE HILL,
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(WOH96)**

Work Undertaken For
Anglian Water Services Ltd

June 1996

Report compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

A.P.S. Report No. 20/96

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1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a pipeline trench at Witham-on-the-Hill, Lincolnshire.

The route of the pipeline traverses an area of archaeological interest with activity dating from the medieval period (A.D. 1066 - 1500). Dating from the 12th century is the parish church of St. Andrew. Within the churchyard are the remnants of a 14th century cross, possibly moved here from a site 500m to the west. Moats have been identified from aerial photographs to the southeast of the village.

Weathered limestone covered with clay and sand deposits represented the earliest layers encountered during the watching brief.

Preserved beneath the modern road surface were former boundary walls and a ditch. These indicate some change in the village layout, but remain undated. A stone drain and three pits were also encountered in the investigation, though the function of the pits remains obscure. No finds were retrieved during the investigation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

From March to June 1996, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of a water main relay at Witham-on-the-Hill, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference TF05291654 centre). Witham-on-the-Hill is located in the civil parish of Witham-on-the-Hill, 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

Witham-on-the-Hill is situated 24km southeast of Grantham and 7km southwest of Bourne, in South Kesteven, Lincolnshire. The route of the pipeline is approximately 2.5km long and is aligned east to west through the centre of the village.

Local soils are the Wick 1 Association, typically coarse loamy brown earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 345-6), and Elmton 1 Association, typical shallow brown rendzinas (*ibid.* 179-80). Curdridge series, typically argillic gley soils, are also present where groundwater affects the land (*ibid.* 138). Beneath these deposits is a solid geology of Jurassic limestone.

Witham-on-the-Hill lies at the top of a small ridge with land dipping steeply to the north and gently to the south and east. The height along the course of the pipeline is 52m O.D. to the west dropping to 21m O.D. at the eastern end of the works.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Witham-on-the-Hill lies in an area of archaeological activity dating from the medieval period. First mentioned in the Domesday survey of A.D. 1086, the parish contained a church, watermill and woodland (Foster and Longley 1924). The present church of St. Andrew dates largely from the 12th century (SMR 33639), although extensive renovations have occurred since (Pevsner 1989, 807). Located within the churchyard are the base and part of the shaft of a 14th century cross (SMR 33812). A further cross has been mentioned as lying 500m west of the church (SMR 33640). This may of been the original position of the cross in the churchyard. To the southeast of the village, aerial photography revealed cropmarks that have been interpreted as former moats (SMR 34726).

Dating to the 17th century is Palace Farm, located to the east of the church. This is thought to incorporate an earlier building of the Bishops of Lincoln (DoE 1987). Also of this date are the village stocks and whipping post, still in position to the northwest of the church (SMR 33814).

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 1.2m deep. Selected parts of the pipeline trench were then 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. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Additionally, the natural geology was recorded. A total of 19 separate sections were recorded and their position is marked on Fig. 2.

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 list of all contexts with interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A total of three phases were identified:

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

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets represent the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Deposit (037). Observed in Section 9 (Fig 5). Yellow limestone fragments in yellow clay matrix. Weathered surface of bedrock.

Deposit (014, 036, 049 and 067). Observed in Sections 3, 6, 9 and 12. (036) overlies (037). Predominantly dark grey clay, though brown clay was also recorded (049). 0.46m thick. Natural layer.

Deposit (004, 008, 013, 018, 033, 035, 039, 054, 057, 061, 063, 065, 066, 068 and 069). Observed in all sections except 6, 12, 13 and 16. Recorded as overlying natural grey clay layer. Predominantly reddish brown sand, although silty sand to sandy gravel occurs in some localities. Natural layer.

Deposit (056). Observed in Section 15 (Fig 6). Sealing natural (057). Light brown sandy clay 0.16m thick. Natural layer.

Phase 2 Undated Archaeological Deposits

Feature (007). Observed in Section 1 (Fig. 3). Linear cut aligned southwest to northeast. 1m wide. Contains wall (006). Limestone blocks with no mortar present. Backfilled by (005), brown clay. Foundation trench, wall and subsequent demolition or partial robbing.

Feature (012). Observed in Section 3 (Fig. 1). Linear cut aligned east to west. 0.75m wide by 0.7m deep. Contains drain (011). Consisting of two side walls of shelly

limestone, covered with a single slab. Drain fill (010) of brown and dark grey silty clay. Former drain channel.

Deposit (017). Observed in Section 4 (Fig. 1). Dark grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks. 100mm thick. Possible former topsoil.

Feature (021). Observed in Section 5 (Fig. 4). Linear cut aligned north to south. 2.1m wide by 0.4m deep. Contains two fills, lower (020) of dark grey sandy silt, 0.2m thick, and upper (019) of greyish brown clayey silt. Boundary ditch.

Deposit (031). Seals ditch (021). Dark greyish brown clayey silt 0.36m thick. Indeterminate deposit.

Feature (022). Observed in Section 6 (Fig. 4). Appearing in section. 1m wide by 0.44m deep. Contains a single fill (026) of dark grey sandy clay. Pit.

Feature (023). Observed in Section 6 (Fig. 4). Appearing in section only. Located 1m west of Pit (022). 2m wide by 0.54m deep. Contains a single fill (027). Pit.

Feature (030). Observed in Section 7 (Fig. 4). Linear cut aligned north to south. 8m wide by 0.66m exposed depth. Contains a single fill (029) of dark brown clayey silt. Shallow pit/hollow.

Feature (039). Observed in Section 10 (Fig. 5). Linear cut aligned north to south. 0.7m wide by 0.38m deep. Contains a fill (038) of dark brown silty organic material 20mm thick, and a wall (038) of unmortared limestone blocks. Foundation cut and wall for former land boundary.

Feature (043). Robbing of wall (038) to the base of the foundation trench. Backfill (040) of light yellowish brown sandy silt. Robber trench.

Feature (045). Observed in Section 11 (Fig. 6, Plate. 2). Linear cut aligned east to west (90° to wall (038)). 0.6m wide by 0.5m deep. Contains wall (041) of roughly shaped unmortared limestone blocks. Foundation cut and wall for former land boundary.

Feature (047). Robbing of wall (041). Backfill (046) of brown sandy silt 0.2m thick.

Phase 3 Modern Deposits

Deposit (052). Observed in Section 13 (Fig. 6). Brown pebbles and stone mixed with sandy clay. Minimum 0.8m thick. Dumped layer to improve natural gradient.

Surface (051). Sealing layer (052). Tarmac 50mm thick. Former road surface.

Deposit (002, 003, 009, 015, 016, 024, 025, 028, 032, 034, 042, 048, 050, 053, 058, 060, 062 and 064). Observed in all sections except Section 15. Between 0.15m and 0.45m thick. Consists mainly of stones in a brownish sandy clay matrix, limestone rubble and clay are also recorded. Modern road make-up layer.

Surface (001). Observed in all sections except Section 15. Sealing make-up deposits. Tarmac between 0.1m and 0.3m thick. Modern road surface.

Deposit (055). Observed in Section 15 (Fig. 6). Sealing natural (056). Dark brown sandy silt 0.6m thick. Modern topsoil along roadside verge.

6. DISCUSSION

Weathered bedrock (phase 1) was recorded at a single locality, northwest of the church, although was also observed at other positions along the pipeline route. Representing the

underlying solid geology of Jurassic limestone, the weathering is possibly due to glacial action. Overlying the limestone were naturally derived deposits of grey clay, deposited as a result of glacio-fluvial action. A layer of reddish brown sands and gravel also occurred, although was absent along a short length of the eastern part of the pipeline route.

No dating evidence was obtained in the form of artefactual material from phase 2 deposits. Three walls were located during the investigation (Sections 1, 10 and 11). Wall (006) crossed the road at an oblique angle and dates to before the highway was constructed. The remaining two walls, by virtue of their proximity and alignment, may have been separate parts of the same wall. Its removal was probably due to highway improvements to allow easier access through the village. A stone drain was recorded in Section 3 aligned east to west. Stone drains have been a recognised feature from the Romano-British period to the 19th century.

Pits and ditches were also encountered during the investigation, all of which were located to the west of the village. A former boundary ditch was recorded in Section 5 and probably relates to agricultural land division. Two features interpreted as pits were situated in Section 6. There is no indication as to the use of these pits, but refuse disposal appears unlikely. A broad shallow feature (030) was also identified as a pit or hollow though its function was not ascertained.

Modern deposits (phase 3) comprise the make-up and tarmac of the modern thoroughfare. Section 13 indicates road improvements with a previous tarmac surface identified 0.36m below the present road. Additionally, the make-up layer for this former road was of substantial thickness and may indicate an attempt to improve the gradient of the road.

One location (Section 15) recorded the topsoil of the roadside verge.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations along the route of the water main relay pipe line through Witham-on-the-Hill, Lincolnshire were undertaken because the site fell within an area of known archaeological activity and the likelihood existed of the pipeline impinging on archaeological remains.

A limited number of archaeological remains were encountered, although precise dating was not ascertained as no finds were retrieved from the investigation. Function was established for the former boundary walls and ditch as well as a stone drain. No function was established for three pits recorded during the investigation. As dating evidence was not secured, the features may be regarded as being of local significance only. More significant are the walls that were encountered suggesting some change to the village street plan.

Those features encountered were relatively intact, with the exception of the limestone walls that had been partially robbed. As such, the degree of preservation observed is probably typical of that of any other archaeological feature in the vicinity. Site conditions generally prevail against the survival of environmental indicators, although an 'organic' deposit was encountered beneath a limestone wall.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Matthew Vickers of Anglian Water Services Ltd who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated the work and Tom Lane 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 Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Supervisor: Chris Moulis
Illustrations: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Foster, C.W., and Longley, T., 1924 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, Lincoln Record Society 19 (Reprint of 1984).

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.

'DoE' refers to publications by the Department of the Environment.

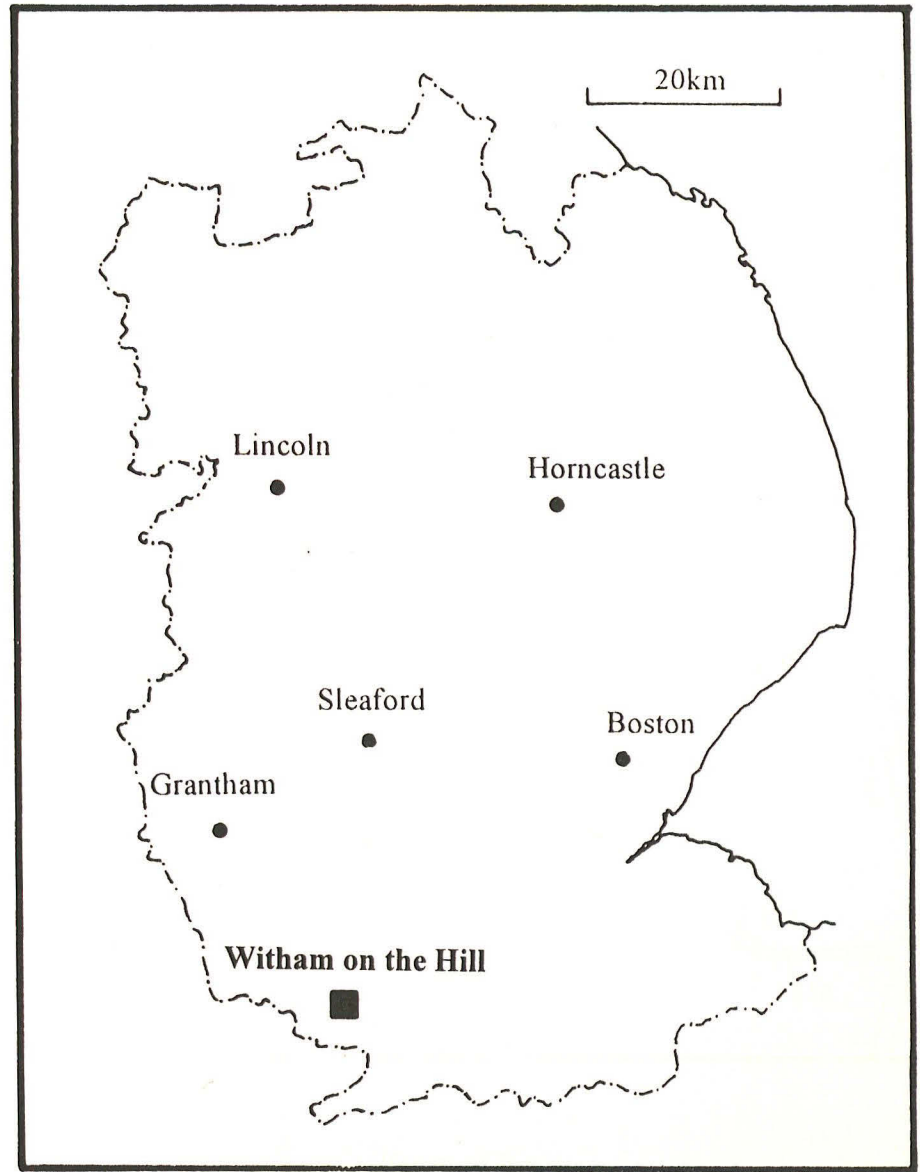
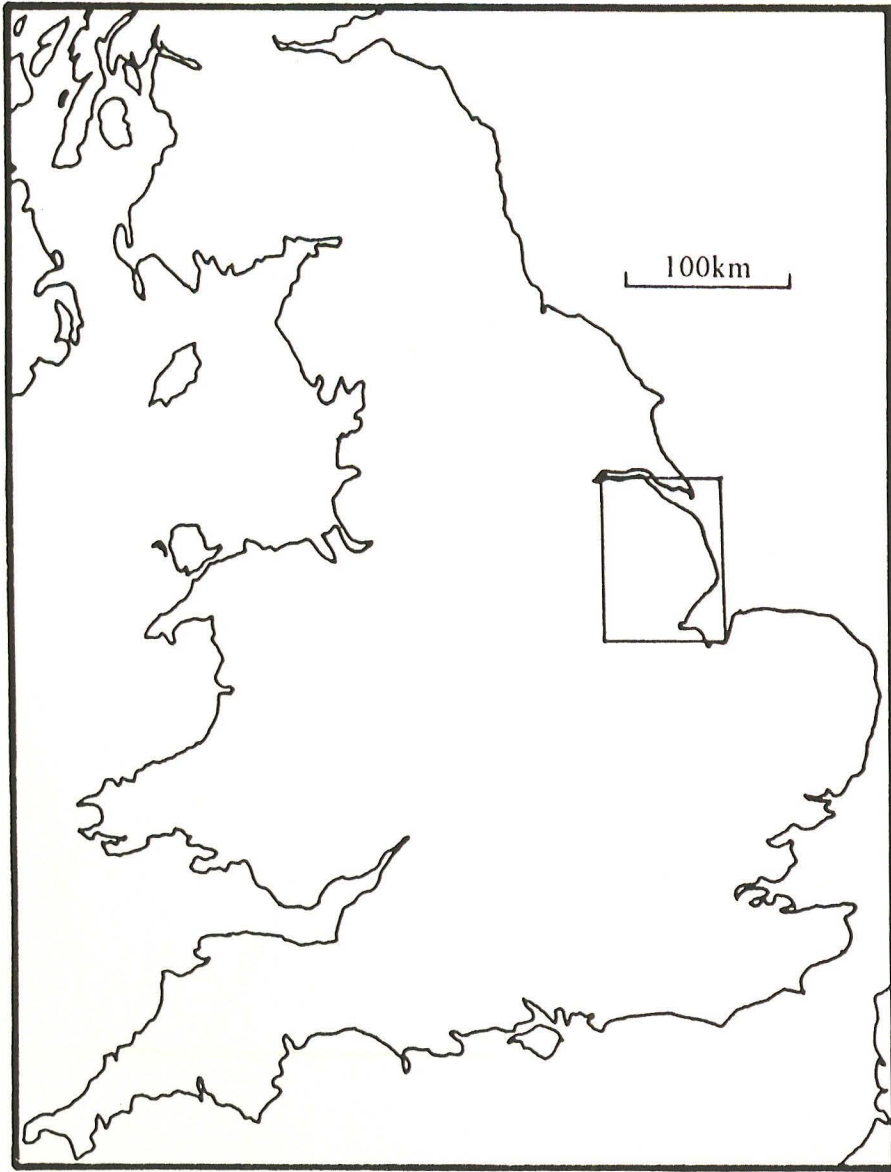


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

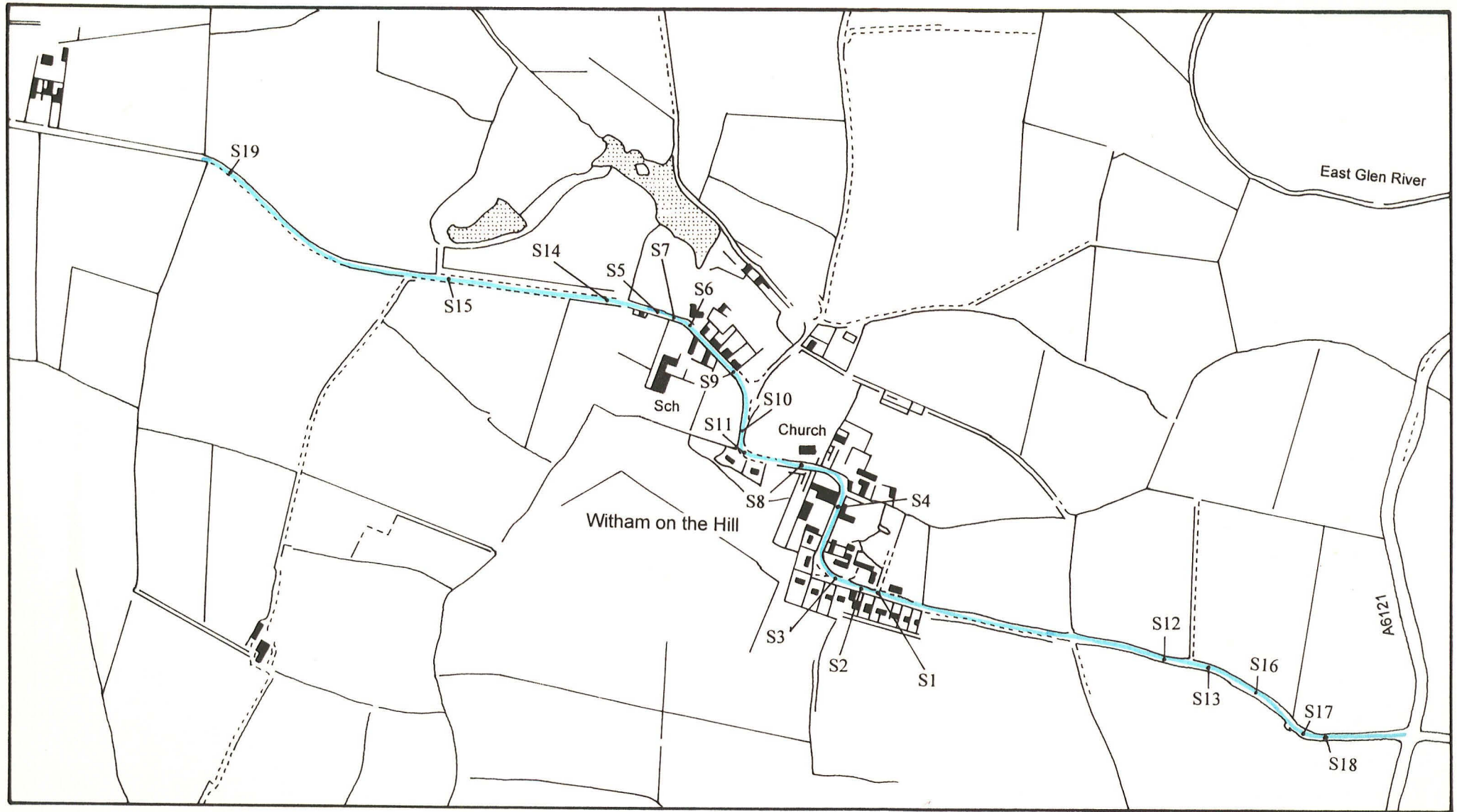
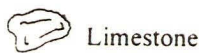
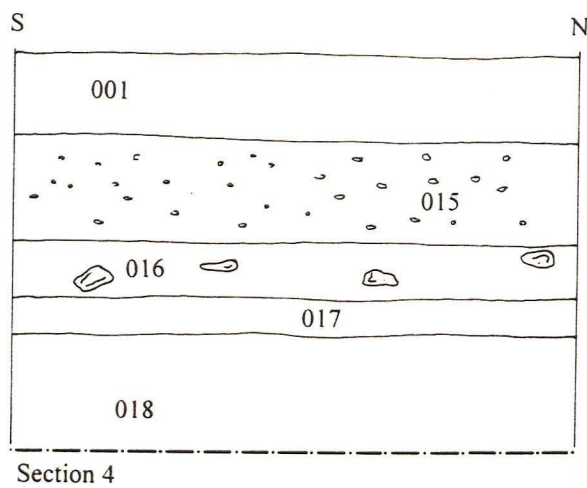
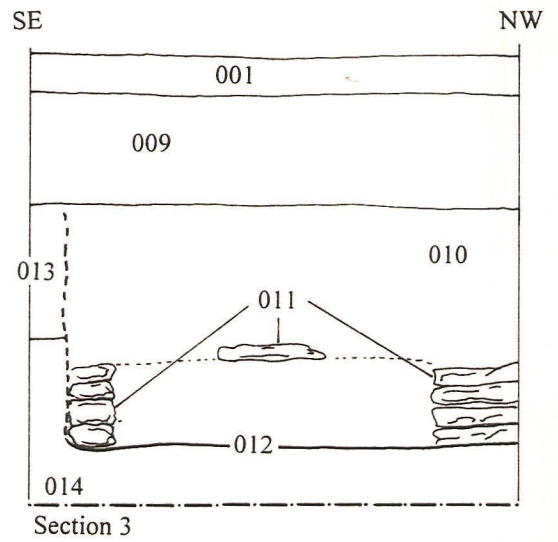
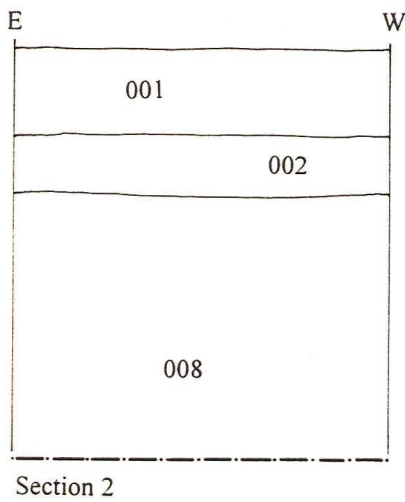
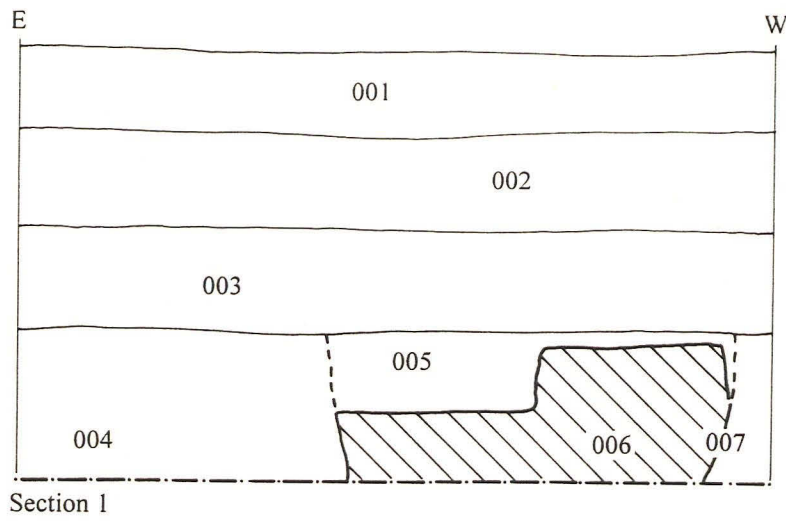
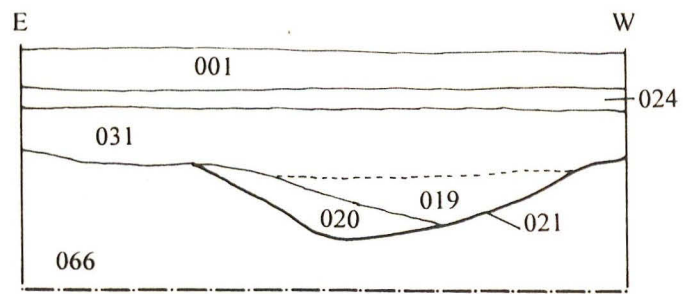


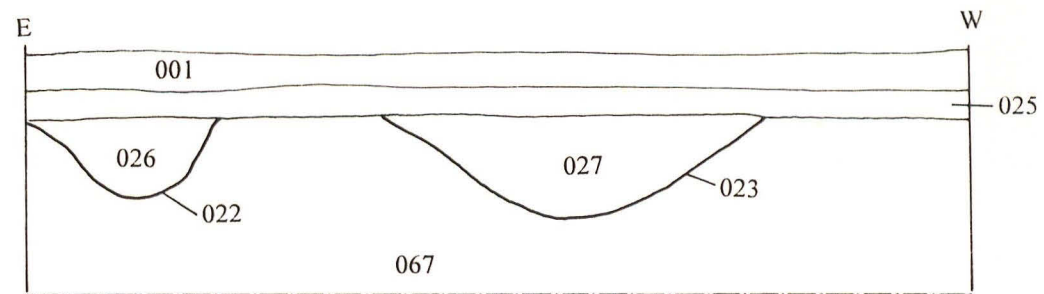
Fig. 2 Site Location Plan

Fig. 3 Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4

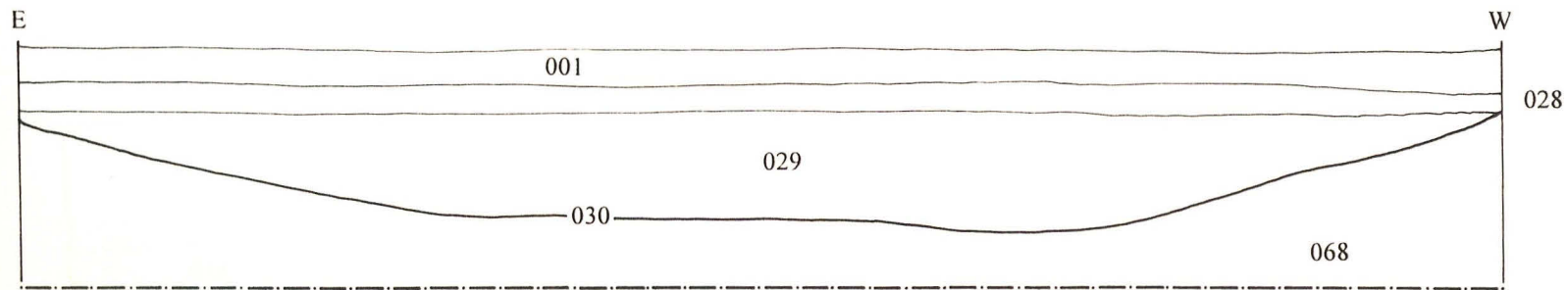




Section 5



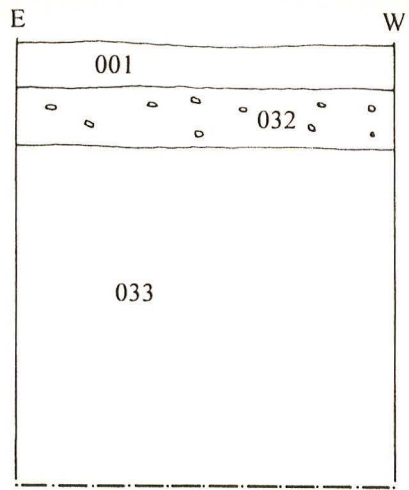
Section 6



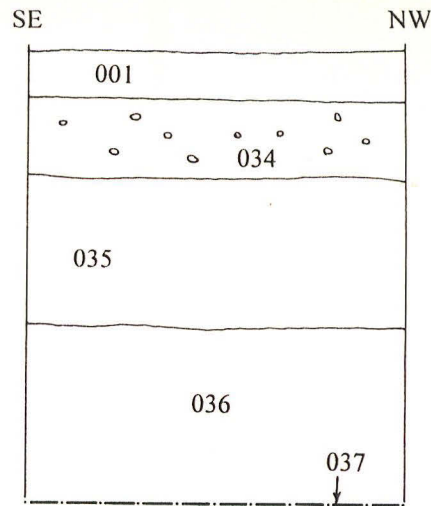
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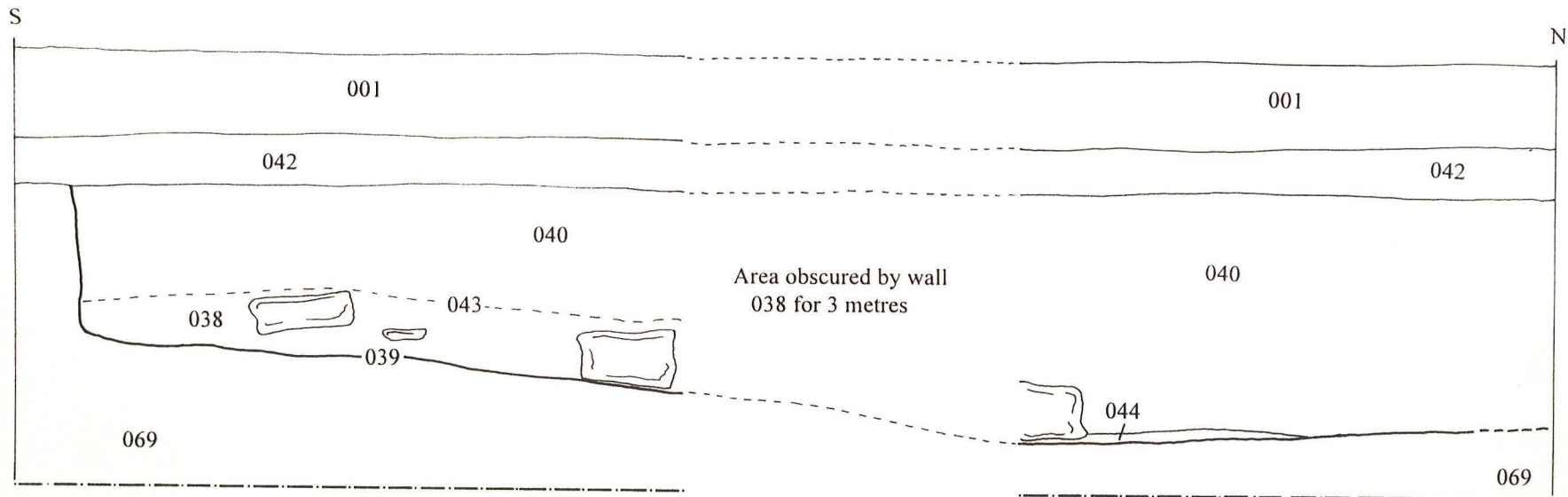
Fig. 4 Sections 5, 6 and 7



Section 8



Section 9



Section 10




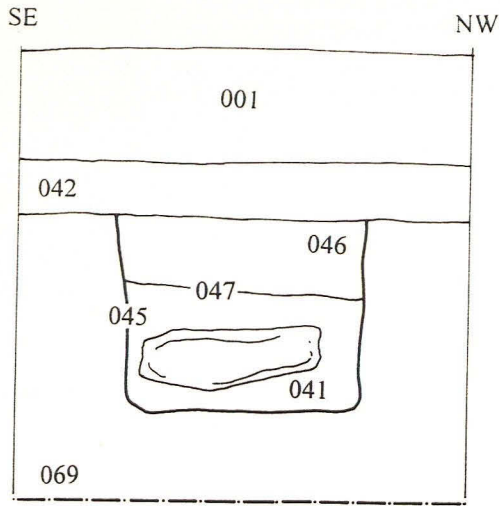
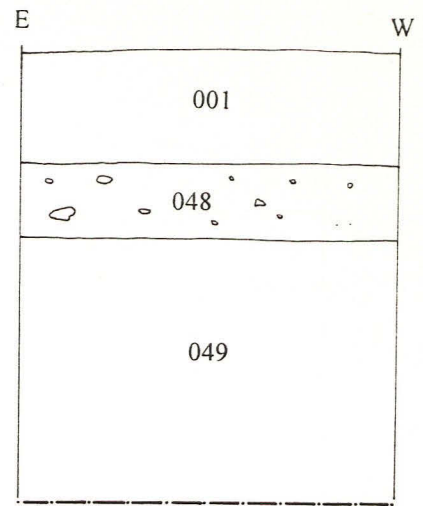
 Limestone

Fig. 5 Sections 8, 9 and 10

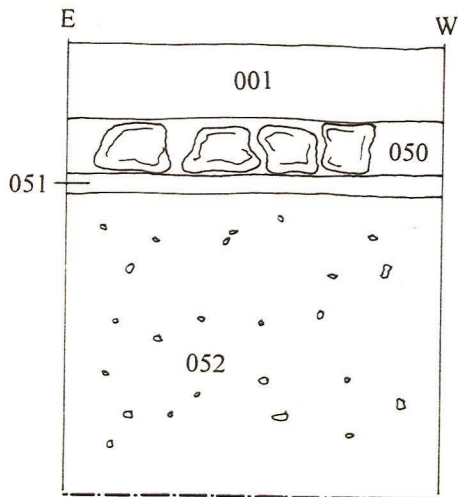
Fig. 6 Sections 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15



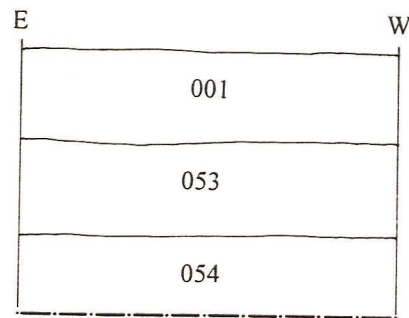
Section 11



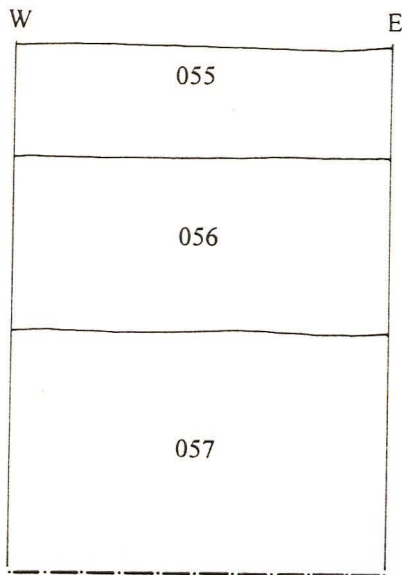
Section 12



Section 13



Section 14



Section 15




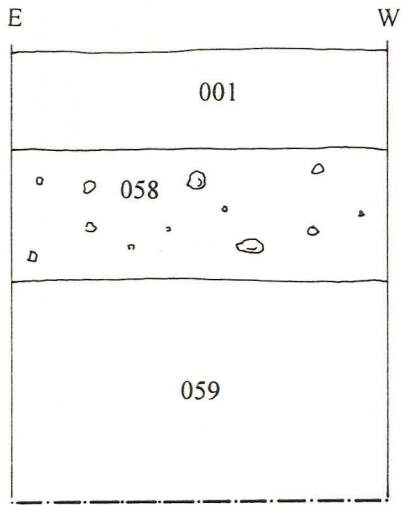
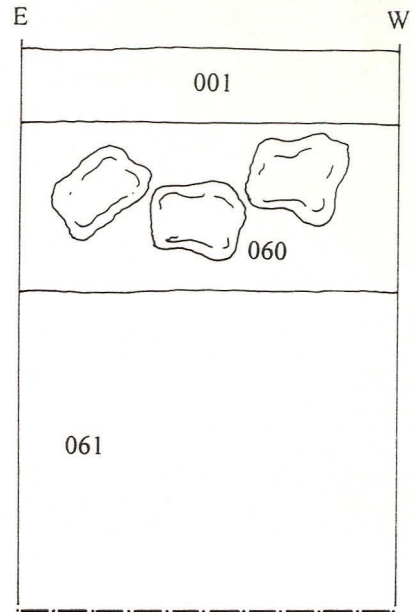
 Limestone

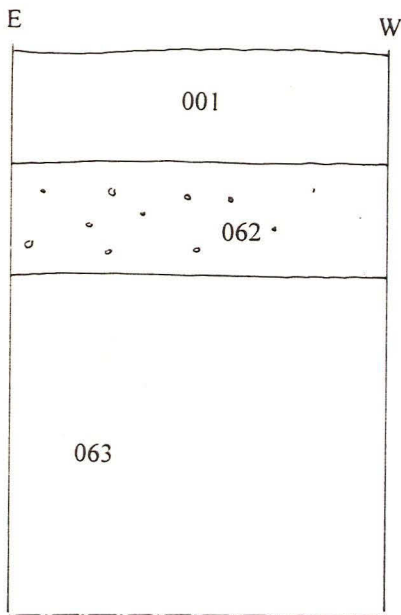
Fig. 7 Sections 16, 17, 18 and 19



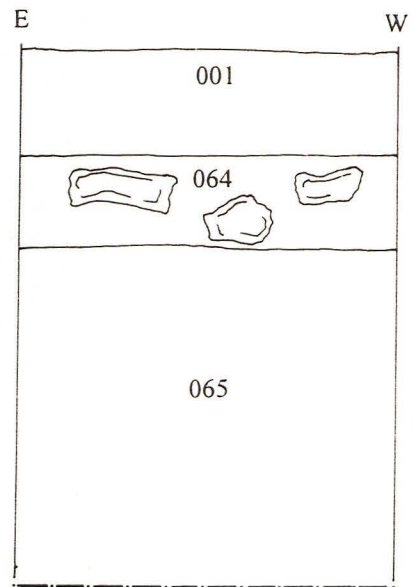
Section 16



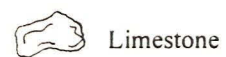
Section 17



Section 18



Section 19





1. General view of pipe laying operations in Witham-on-the-Hill



2. Section 11, showing Wall (041).

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Tarmac	Modern road surface
002	1	Yellowish white limestone rubble	Make-up layer
003	1	Grey clay	Make-up layer
004	1	Dark reddish brown silty sand	Natural layer
005	1	Brown clay with gravel	Fill of 007
006	1	Limestone blocks, aligned SW to NE	Wall
007	1	Linear cut, c. 1m wide by 0.3m deep.	Foundation trench for wall 006
008	2	Reddish brown sand	Natural layer
009	3	Mixed clay with stones	Make-up layer
010	3	Brown silty clay	Fill within 011
011	3	Limestone walls covered with a limestone slab	Drain
012	3	Linear cut, 0.75m wide by 0.7m deep	Foundation trench for 011
013	3	Reddish brown sand	Natural layer
014	3	Dark grey clay	Natural layer
015	4	Yellowish grey sandy clay	Make-up layer
016	4	Light yellowish grey sandy clay with limestone fragments	Make-up layer
017	4	Dark grey clayey silt	Miscellaneous layer
018	4	Dark brownish red sand and gravel	Natural layer
019	5	Greyish brown clayey silt	Fill of 021
020	5	Dark grey sandy silt	Fill of 021
021	5	Linear? cut, 2.1m wide by 0.4m deep	Bondary ditch?
022	6	Cut, 1m wide by 0.44m deep	Possible pit
023	6	Cut, 2m wide by 0.54m deep	Pit, unknown function
024	5	Light yellowish brown limestone rubble	Make-up layer

Context	Section	Description	Interpretation
025	6	Grey sandy clay	Make-up layer
026	6	Dark grey sandy clay	Fill of 022
027	6	Dark grey sandy clay	Fill of 023
028	7	Grey sandy clay with stones	Make-up layer
029	7	Dark brown clayey silt	Fill of 030
030	7	Linear? cut, c. 8m wide by 0.66m deep	Shallow pit
031	5	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	Miscellaneous deposit
032	8	Light brown sandy clay with stones	Make-up layer
033	8	Reddish brown sand and gravel	Natural layer
034	9	Brown sandy clay with stones	Make-up layer
035	9	Reddish brown sand and gravel	Natural layer
036	9	Dark grey clay	Natural layer
037	9	Yellow limestone and clay	Weathered bedrock
038	10	Limestone blocks, aligned N to S	Wall
039	10	Linear cut, 0.7m wide by 0.38m deep	Foundation trench for 038
040	10	Light yellowish brown sandy silt	Backfill of 043
041	11	Limestone blocks, aligned W to E	Wall
042	10	Light greyish brown sandy clay with stones	Make-up layer
043	10	Cut, above wall 038	Robber trench
044	10	Dark brown silty organic matter	Fill of 039
045	11	Linear cut, 0.6m wide by 0.5m deep	Foundation trench for 041
046	11	Brown sandy silt with stones	Backfill of 047
047	11	Cut, above wall 041	Robber trench
048	12	Limestone fragments with yellow sandy clay	Make-up layer
049	12	Brown clay	Natural deposit
050	13	Limestone blocks	Make-up layer
051	13	Tarmac	Former road surface
052	13	Brown stones and sandy clay	Make-up for 051
053	14	Limestone blocks	Make-up layer

Context	Section	Description	Interpretation
054	14	Brown sand	Natural layer
055	15	Dark brown sandy silt	Topsoil
056	15	Light brown sandy clay	Natural layer
057	15	Reddish brown sand and gravel	Natural layer
058	16	Yellowish brown gravel and sandy clay	Make-up layer
059	16	Brown clayey sand	Natural layer
060	17	Limestone blocks	Make-up layer
061	17	Greyish brown sandy clay	Natural layer
062	18	Light brown gravel and sandy clay	Make-up layer
063	18	Greyish brown sandy clay	Natural layer
064	19	Limestone blocks	Make-up layer
065	19	Reddish brown sand	Natural layer
066	5	Light reddish brown gravel	Natural layer
067	6	Clay	Natural layer
068	7	Reddish brown sand and gravel	Natural layer
069	11	Reddish brown sand	Natural layer

Appendix 2

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 69 . . Context records
- 3 . . . Photographic records
- 21 . . Scale drawings
- 1 . . . Stratigraphic matrix

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: 44.96

Archaeological Project Services, project code: WOH96