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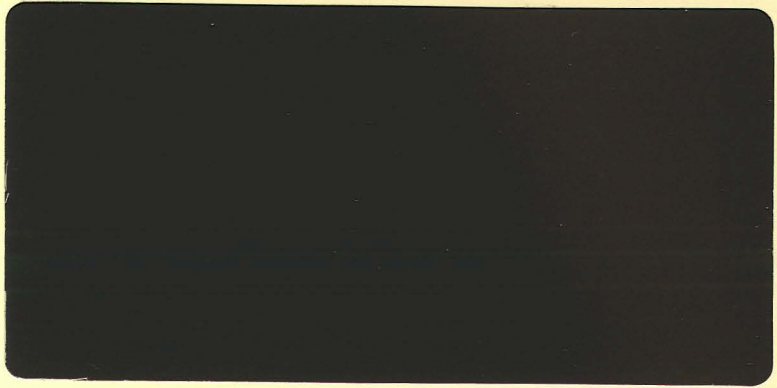
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF WATER PIPE TRENCH  
BETWEEN  
BARROWBY AND CASTHORPE,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BCP96)**



**A P S**  
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Contents

1. SUMMARY

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

2.2 The Project

2.3 Archaeological Context

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LINCOLNSHIRE  
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Work Undertaken For  
Anglian Water Services Ltd

December 1996

Report  
compiled by  
Fiona Walker

A.P.S. Report No. 58.96

## Contents

1.	SUMMARY . . . . .	1
2.	INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
	2.1 Background . . . . .	1
	2.2 Topography and Geology . . . . .	1
	2.3 Archaeological Setting . . . . .	2
3.	AIMS . . . . .	2
4.	METHODS . . . . .	2
5.	ANALYSIS . . . . .	2
	5.1 Natural Deposits . . . . .	3
	5.2 Undated Deposits . . . . .	3
	5.3 Modern Deposits . . . . .	3
6.	DISCUSSION . . . . .	3
7.	CONCLUSIONS . . . . .	4
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS . . . . .	4
9.	PERSONNEL . . . . .	4
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	5
11.	ABBREVIATIONS . . . . .	5

## Appendices

- Appendix 1 Context Summary
- Appendix 2 The Finds
- Appendix 3 Glossary
- Appendix 4 The Archive

## List of Figures

- Fig. 1 General Location
- Fig. 2 Site Location
- Fig. 3 Investigation Area and Surrounding Archaeology
- Fig. 4 Location of Sections
- Fig. 5 Section Drawings

## Plates

- 1 General Site View
- 2 Possible Wall Foundation (006), section 4
- 3 Stone Layer/Foundation (005), section 3
- 4 Stone Layer (014)
- 5 Aerial Photograph of cropmarks of West Casthorpe deserted medieval village, looking south

## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during excavation of a water pipe trench along the roadside from Barrowby, via Casthorpe, to Sedgebrook, Lincolnshire. The pipeline traverses an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic (c. 10,000 - c. 3,400 B.C.) to post-medieval periods (A.D. 1500 - 1800). In particular, two stretches of the pipe trench pass through the sites of deserted settlements of medieval date (A.D. 1066 - 1500) at Casthorpe.*

*Several possible stone walls and surfaces were identified above the natural deposits. These structural remains were undated but were all located in the area of the deserted medieval settlement of West Casthorpe. Pottery of 13th-14th century date was also recovered during the investigation. A modern service trench and foundations for the present road were also recognised.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

Between 22nd October and 8th November 1996, an archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a pipeline on land alongside the road between Barrowby and Sedgebrook, Lincolnshire. Two separate sections of the pipeline were monitored. These were located at Casthorpe Hill (Grid Reference SK 87353584-86923576) and close to Casthorpe House Farm (Grid Reference SK 86453575-85753586). The work was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services.

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Barrowby is located approximately 37km

south of Lincoln and c. 3km west of Grantham in the civil parish of Barrowby, South Kesteven district, Lincolnshire (Fig.1).

The village is situated on the crest of the western edge of the Jurassic limestone ridge which sweeps through the county from the southwest to Lincoln, the Humber and beyond (Fig.2). Barrowby village overlooks the Trent Valley and the Vale of Belvoir. From the escarpment, to the west of the village, many springs rise and meander west to join the Old Beck, a tributary of the Witham which rises near Denton and flows north through Casthorpe.

Barrowby lies on a solid geology of Lower Jurassic limestone. The principal soils on the ridge are fine loamy over clayey stagnogleyic ferritic brown earths of the Banbury Association. Soils on the low land to the west and below Casthorpe Covert are stoneless clays of the Denchworth Association (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 103; 155) formed on a solid geology of lower Lias clays.

The pipeline crosses land c. 3km west of the centre of Barrowby, as defined by All Saints' Church. Two separate parts of the pipeline were monitored (Figs. 3 and 4). A 460m length of pipe trench (Area 1) was recorded on the downhill slope on the west side of Casthorpe Hill (SK 87353584-86923576). At its eastern end this section of the trench was at 107m OD, rising gently westward to 110m at the scarp edge before dropping sharply to 80m above sea level.

The second section of pipeline (Area 2), measuring approximately 1.25km long and located near Casthorpe House Farm, was also monitored (Grid Reference SK 86453575-85753586). This part of the pipeline crossed the gentle valley of the

Old Beck, descending from approximately 58m OD at the eastern end to 52m crossing the stream, thereafter rising to c. 60m above sea level at the western limit of observation.

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Two sections of the pipeline were identified as having a potential impact on archaeological remains (Fig.3). The best known of these are the deserted medieval villages of West and East Casthorpe (SK 06.14 and 06.13). Prehistoric activity has been recognised, mainly to the east of East Casthorpe, in the form of artefacts such as flint tools, pottery and quern stones (Smith and Manterfield 1969). A number of prehistoric settlements have been identified in the Barrowby area. Finds are also known of Saxon material (SK 06.58) and Roman sites (SK 06.20 and 06.10).

In the Middle Ages Casthorpe had some form of connection with *Neubo*, an abbey and hamlet situated near Sedgebrook and some 2.4km to the north of Casthorpe House Farm. The ecclesiastical holding/interest can still be seen in the field names around Casthorpe (Fig.3). The abbey at *Neubo* disappeared with the Dissolution in the mid 16th century but even before then, in the early 14th century, Casthorpe was said to be in decline (Smith and Manterfield 1969; Platts 1985, 165). Traces of the village are visible on aerial photographs (eg Plate 5) opposite Casthorpe House and to the west of the Old Beck. Nearby, alongside the Beck, is the possible site of a water mill (T Lane, pers comm).

Barrowby is referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Bergebi*, a manor with a mill and church. Casthorpe (West and East) are referred to in Domesday as *Caschingethorp*, *Chaschintorp* or *Kaschingetorp*, of which much of the land

was held by the Bishop of Bayeux, who had two mills there (Foster and Longley 1976).

The place-name Barrowby is of Old Scandinavian derivation, *Berga-by* meaning 'bi, or village, on the hill of Berga.' Casthorpe is also of Old Scandinavian origin and means 'the thorp, or hamlet, of Kaskin' (Ekwall 1974, 28 and 89).

### 3. AIMS

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

### 4. METHODS

A pipe trench c. 0.35m wide was machine cut to a depth of 1.1m. The excavated trench was recorded using the standard *Archaeological Project Services* recording system, and artefactual material retrieved. The sides of the trench, where possible, were cleaned by hand and each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. Natural geological deposits were also recorded. A photographic record was compiled and selected sections were drawn at scale 1:10 (Fig.5).

### 5. ANALYSIS

Records of the deposits and features recognised during the evaluation were examined. A stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was created and phased. 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. Three phases were identified:

### 5.1 Phase 1 Natural Deposits

Located in the base of the pipe trench for much of the extent was a layer of light brown to mid brown/grey clay with occasional limestone fragments (002 and 013), which formed the earliest deposit encountered (Fig.5, sections 1-5). This has been interpreted as a natural subsoil.

### 5.2 Phase 2 Undated Deposits

Laid onto 002/013 were two layers or spreads of limestone fragments (005, 007). Measuring 2m wide by 0.2m thick and 10m wide by 0.1m thick respectively, these are considered to represent surfaces (Fig.5, sections 3 and 4).

Similarly, laid on, or set into the natural deposit (002/013) were three possible linear structures (003, 004, 006) made of limestone pieces (Fig.5, sections 1, 2 and 4). The full extents of these features were not determined as they were only seen in section but the putative 'structures' were each between 0.5-0.9m wide. There was no clear evidence of the structures being within cuts, though (004) was particularly confined and was possibly located in a foundation trench (Fig.5, section 2). These structures were interpreted as footings for stone walls, though with unknown function. Wall (006) appeared to be abutted by surface (007) (Fig.5, section 4).

### 5.3 Phase 3 Modern Deposits

Cut into natural 002/013 immediately south of Casthorpe House Farm was a possibly linear feature 2.5m wide by 0.55m deep (008). This cut had steep sides, a flat base and was filled by a red sandy clay (009). The feature was thought

to represent a service trench (Fig.5, section 5).

Sealing 008 was a deposit of compacted pink stone and sand to mid brown clayey silt and limestone lumps (010, 012) forming a layer 0.15-0.3m thick along much of the pipeline course. This deposit formed the hard core for the modern tarmac road surface (011).

Overlying natural layer 002, in the area of the bridge over the Beck, was a layer of limestone fragments 0.4-0.5m thick (014). This appeared to be part of the hardcore foundation for the road but extended beyond the carriageway limits (Plate 4).

Sealing the road foundation (014) and the undated archaeological features (003, 004, 005, 006 and 007) was a brown clayey silt (001). This deposit formed the topsoil of the grass verge besides the road.

A small quantity of artefacts and animal bones were recovered as disturbed finds from the pipe trench. Three pieces of probable Nottingham-type pottery of 13th-14th century date and two sherds of 18th-20th century black-glazed earthenware were found along with pieces of machine-made brick and cow bones (Appendix 2). All of the finds were recovered within 100m either side of the crossing of the Old Beck.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Above the natural subsoil were three stone wall footings and two stone surfaces. These were generally unrelated though there was one instance of a wall associated with a surface and this conjunction may represent a structure or walled yard. The other walls may also be remains of structures or, possibly, field boundaries. All of these stone structures were located



close to and on either side of the Old Beck. This area is known to be the site of the deserted medieval settlement of West Casthorpe. In consequence, it is probable that the various stone features identified during the investigation represent remains of structures of the medieval village.

Recovered in the vicinity of the stone structural remains were artefacts of 13th-14th century and 18th-20th century date. These probably relate to the settlement of the area in both periods. In particular, the break in date of the artefacts probably reflects the desertion of the medieval occupation, and the post-medieval re-settlement of the area. Moreover, that the medieval pottery is no later than 14th century perhaps relates to the documented reference that Casthorpe was in decline in the early 14th century (Platts 1985, 165).

Overlying the stone walls and surfaces was the present road. This relationship implies that either the thoroughfare is a relatively modern creation, or that the original course of the road has been re-aligned and that it now crosses land previously occupied by structures.

Cut into the natural was a steep-sided, flat based feature, the full extent of which was not seen. It is believed that this represents a trench for a sewage disposal pipe or other service, perhaps associated with the adjacent Casthorpe House Farm.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken during the construction of a pipeline on land between Barrowby and Sedgebrook, near Grantham, Lincolnshire. This was because the pipe trench cut through the sites of two deserted medieval settlements and fell within an area of suspected prehistoric to Romano-British

activity. Consequently, there was a likelihood that remains from these periods may have been disturbed as a result of the development.

A limited number of archaeological deposits were encountered. These consisted of stone wall footings and floor surfaces and were undated, though artefacts of the 13th-14th centuries and 18th-20th centuries, were recovered in proximity during the investigations.

A large, modern service trench was also identified. It is possible that archaeological deposits have been damaged by this or other modern services and perhaps also by the construction of the road. However, the modern intrusion is fairly restricted in extent and, beyond the limits of this disturbance, it is probable that archaeological deposits will remain relatively well preserved. No environmental remains were identified during the investigation, though there is high potential that such evidence may survive through waterlogging in the area of the watercourse, the Old Beck.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Julie Bakewell of Anglian Water Services Ltd. who commissioned the fieldwork and analysis. This report was edited by Tom Lane and Gary Taylor. Jenny Stevens, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, kindly permitted access to information on archaeological sites and finds in the proximity of the investigation areas.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Research: Fiona Walker and Tom Lane

Supervisors: Fiona Walker, Rene  
Mouraille, Chris Moulis  
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
Illustration: Denise Buckley  
Post-excavation Analyst: Fiona Walker

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Manterfield, J.B. and Smith, J.E., 1969 *Barrowby A guide to the archaeology of the parish*, The King's School Archaeological Society

Platts, G., 1985 *Land and People in Medieval Lincolnshire*. History of Lincolnshire IV

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed by 'SK' are the primary reference codes used in the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist's Sites and Monuments Record.

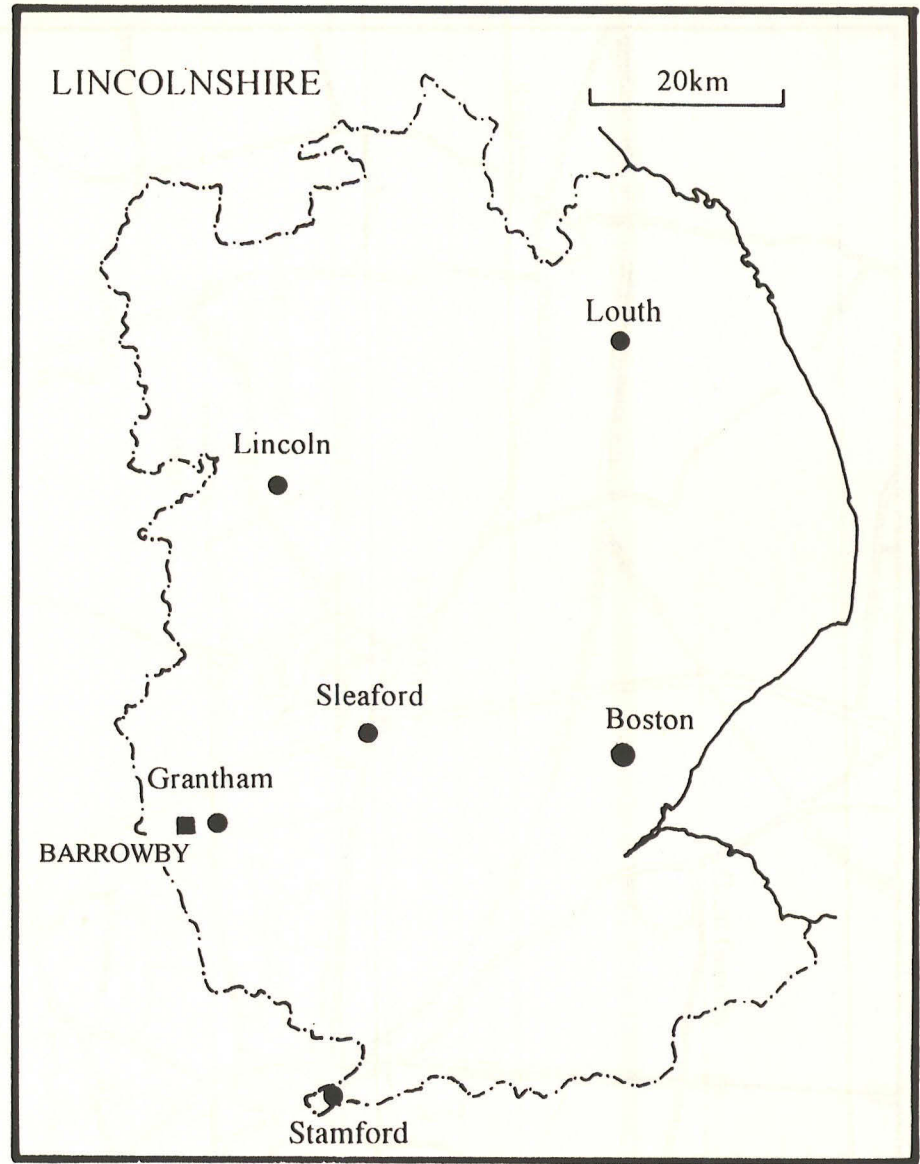
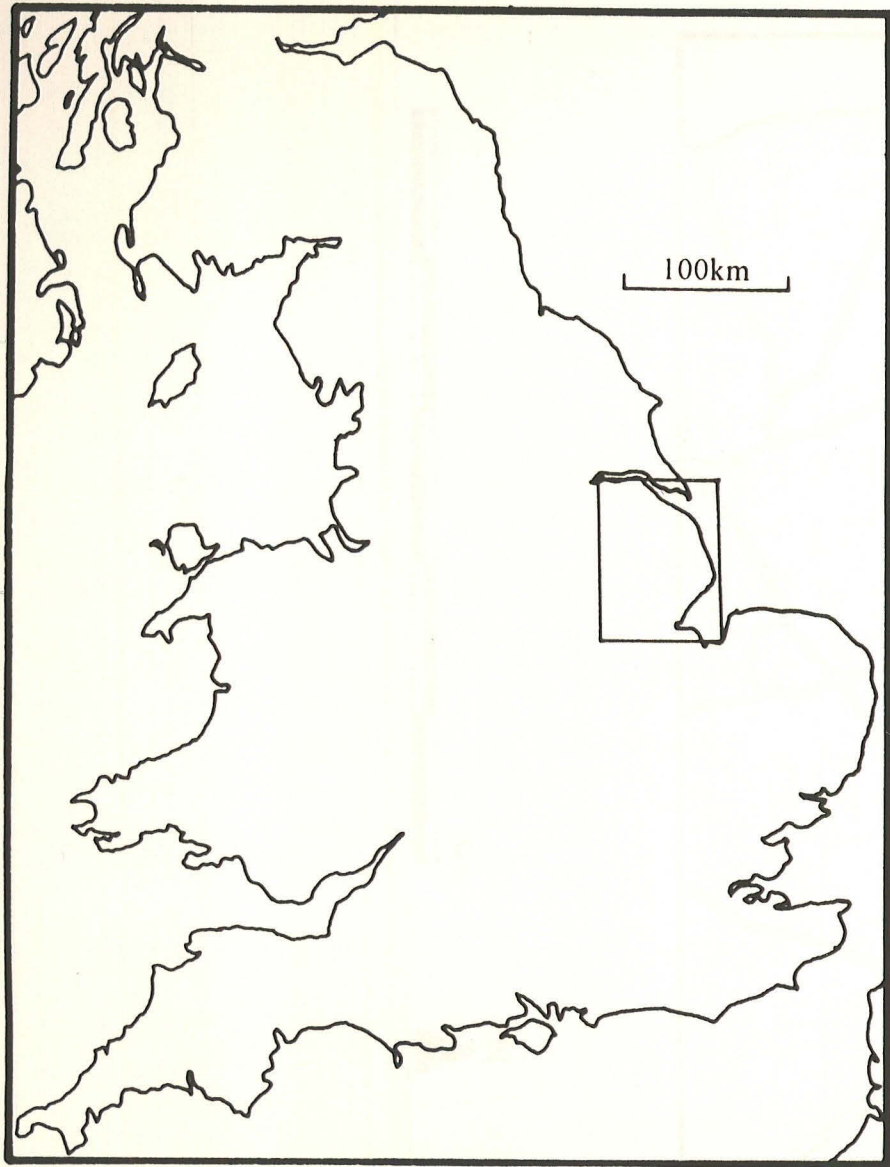


FIGURE 1 GENERAL LOCATION

FIGURE 2 SITE LOCATION

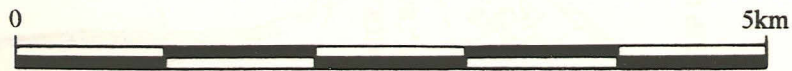
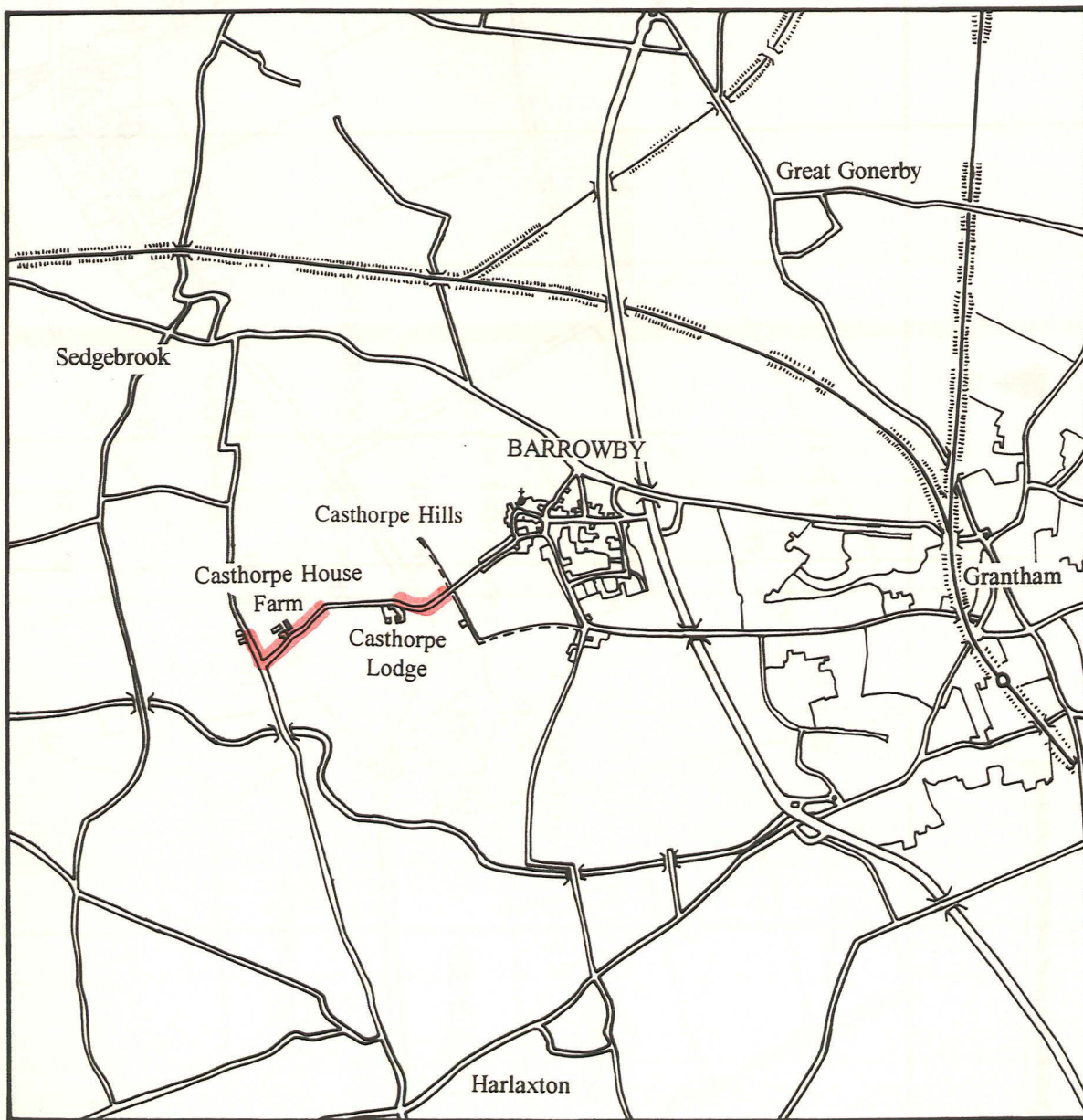


FIGURE 2 SITE LOCATION

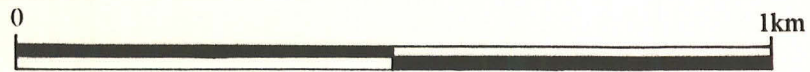
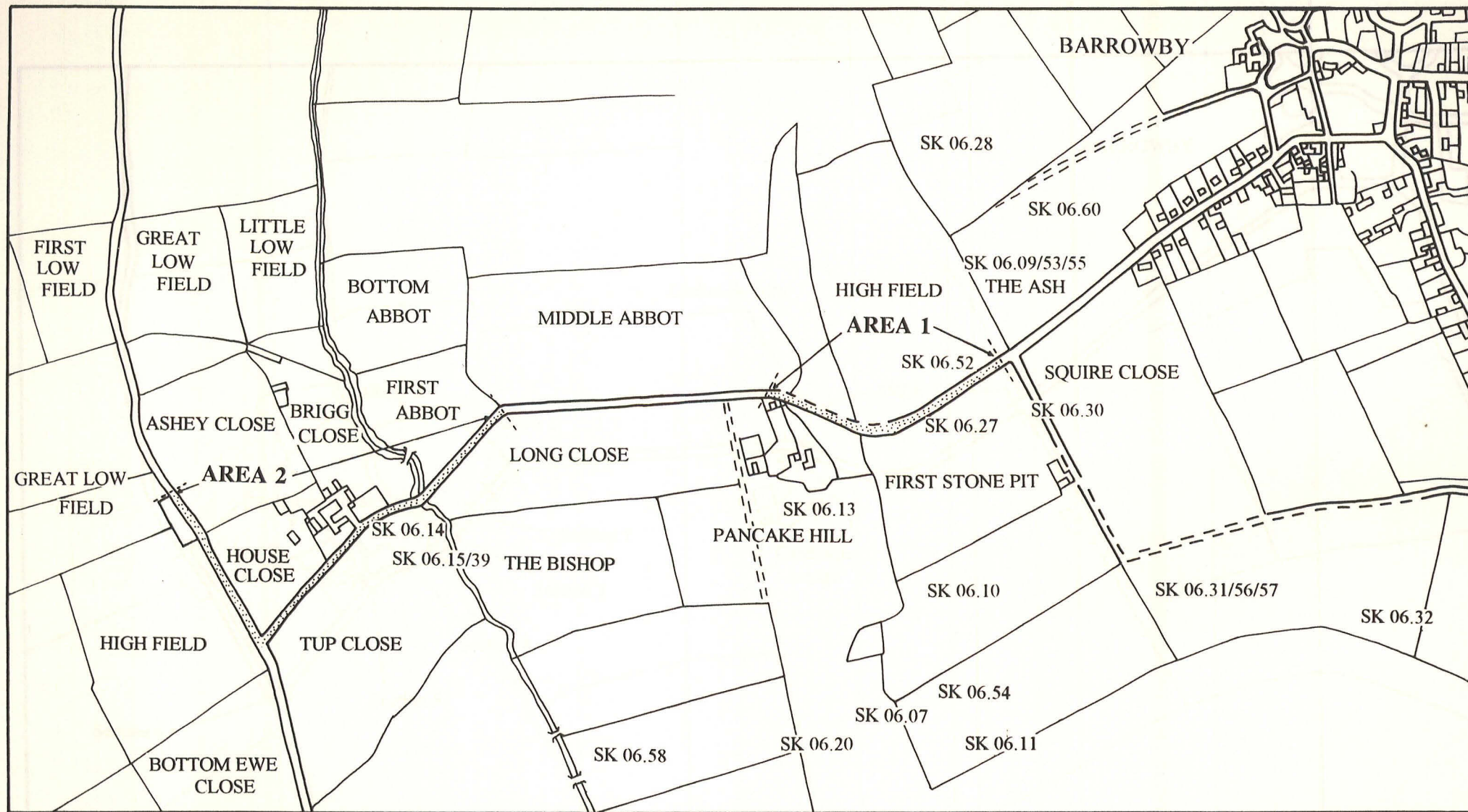


FIGURE 3 INVESTIGATION AREA AND SURROUNDING ARCHAEOLOGY

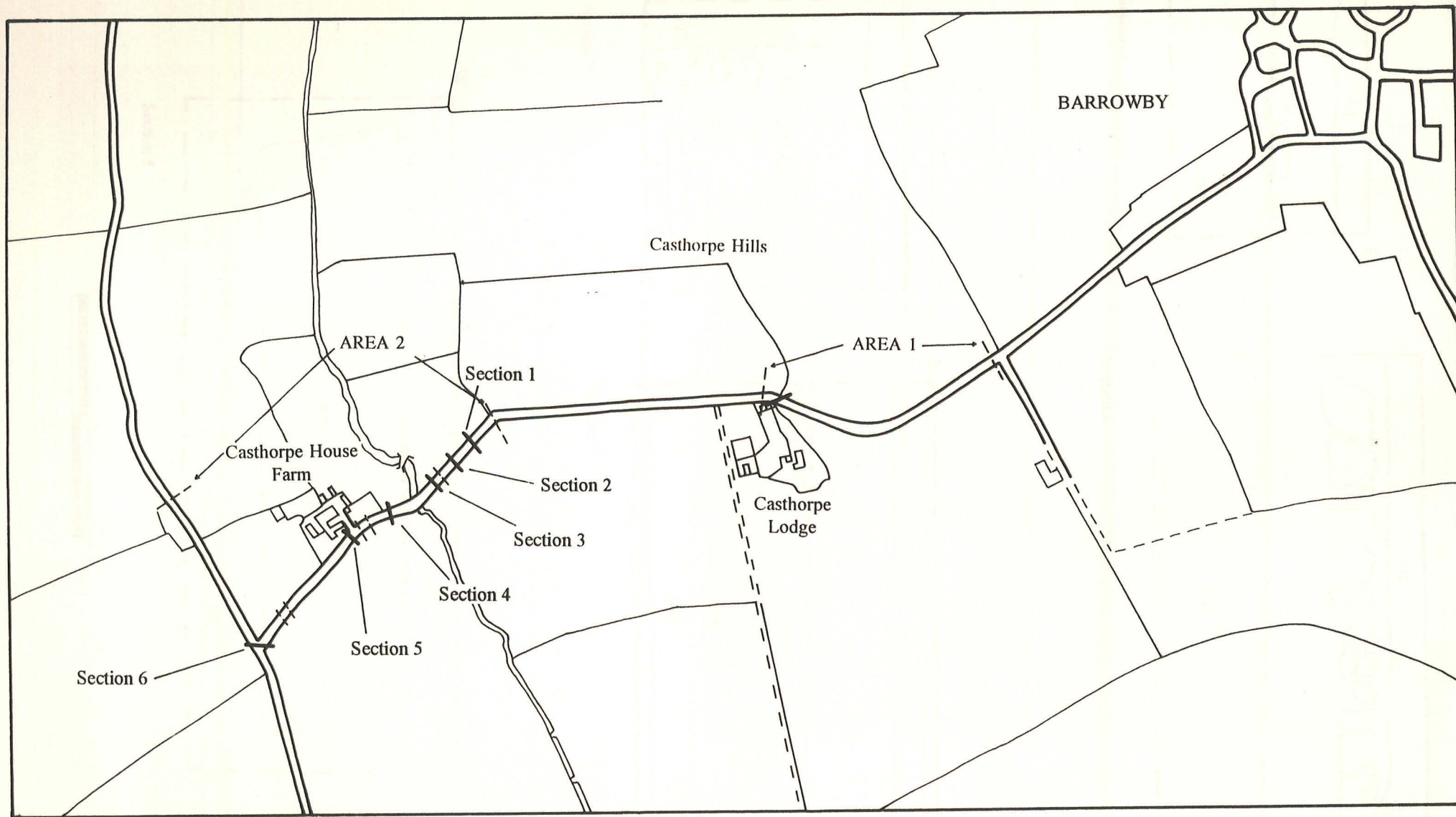
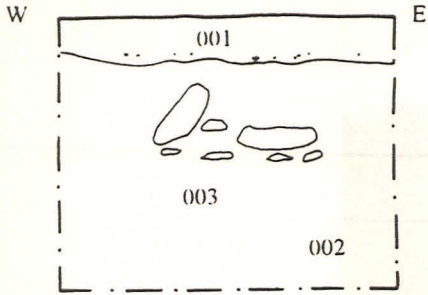
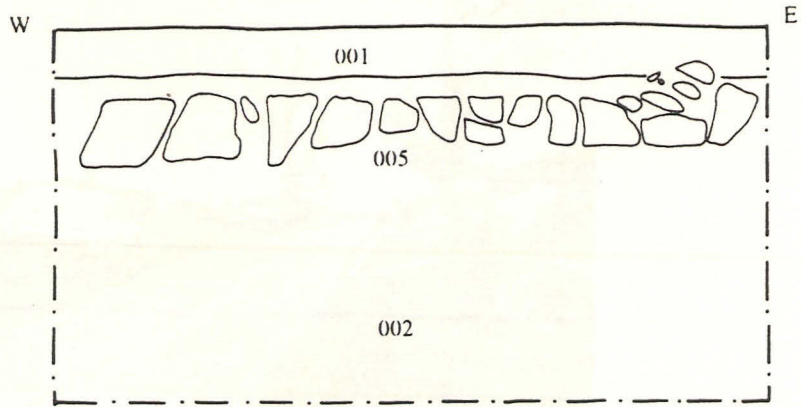


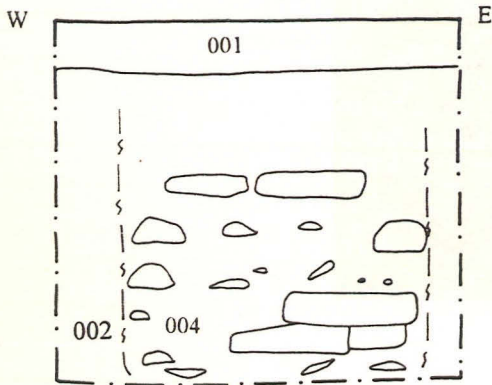
FIGURE 4 LOCATION OF SECTIONS



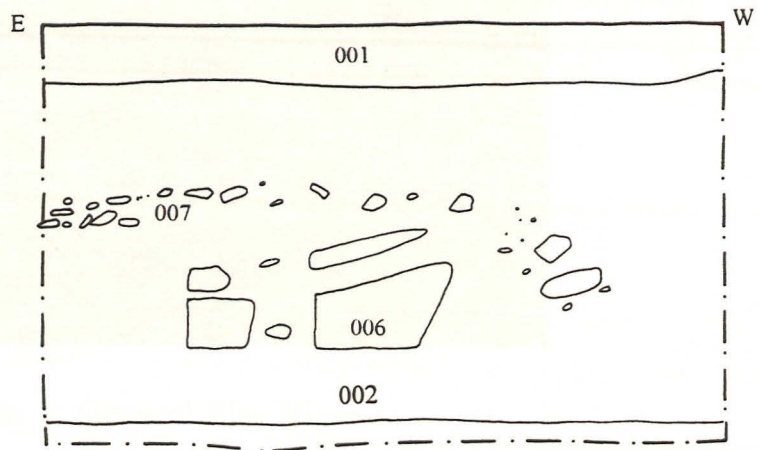
Section 1



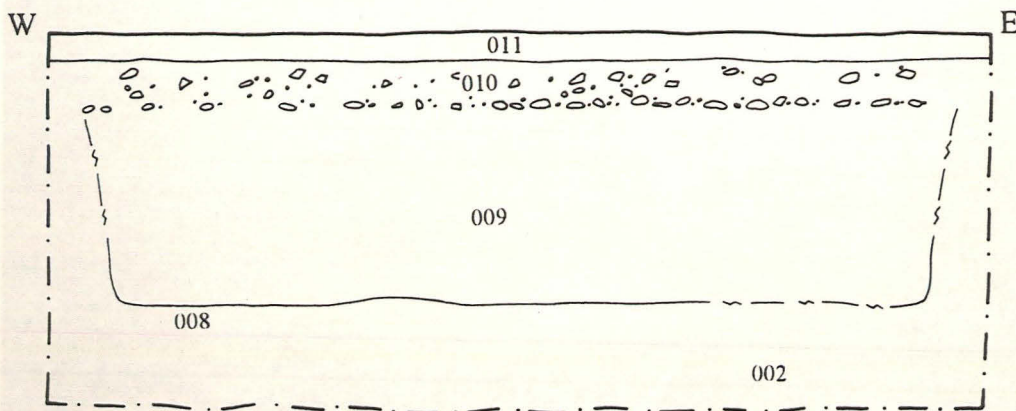
Section 3



Section 2



Section 4



Section 5



Plate 2: Possible Wall Foundation (006), section 4

FIGURE 5 SECTION DRAWINGS



Plate 1: General Site View



Plate 2: Possible Wall Foundation (006), section 4





Plate 3: Stone Layer/Foundation (005), section 3



Plate 4: Stone Layer (014)

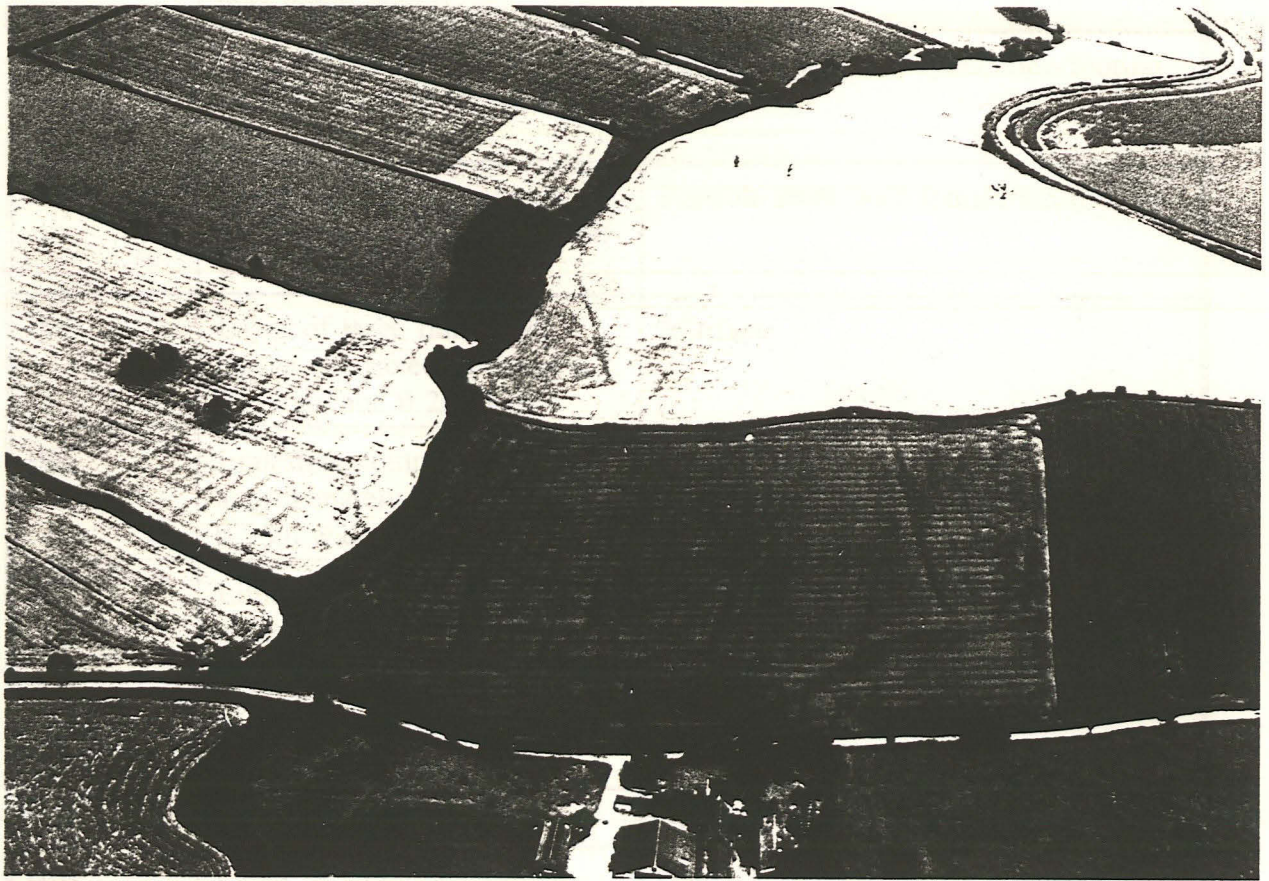


Plate 5 Aerial Photograph of cropmarks of West Casthorpe deserted medieval village, looking south (Note: Casthorpe House Farm at bottom of picture)

## APPENDIX 1

### Context Summary

Context	Description	Interpretation
001	Layer of mid brown clayey silt up to 0.15m thick	Topsoil
002	Layer of light brown clay with occasional small stones, max depth seen 0.7m.	Natural alluvial clay
003	Limestone pieces, approximately 0.5m wide, 0.2m deep	Possible stone wall foundation/footing
004	Limestone lumps, vaguely coursed, approximately 0.9m wide, 0.6m deep	Possible stone wall foundation/footing
005	Layer of large limestone pieces, restricted in extent to 2m wide and 0.2m thick	?Surface
006	Limestone lumps approximately 0.8m wide and 0.35m wide, vaguely coursed	?Footing for wall
007	Limestone pieces in layer length 30m by 0.1m thick	?Surface
008	?Linear cut 2.5m wide by 0.55m deep with steep sides and flat base. Filled by 009.	Possible service trench
009	Red sandy clay deposit	Fill of 008
010	Layer of yellow packed stone pieces	Hardcore foundation for road surface 011
011	Layer of tarmac 0.08m thick	Road surface
012	Layer of mid brown clayey silt with moderate-frequent largish sub-rounded limestone fragments. Deposit c. 0.3m thick.	Possibly surface or foundations of earlier road
013	Layer of mid grey-brown to grey clay with occasional limestone fragments	Natural deposit



## APPENDIX 2

### The Finds

by Hilary Healey and Paul Cope-Faulkner

Context no.	Grid Location	Find Description	Date
+	862/356	1 fragment of black-glazed earthenware	18th-20th century
+	862/356	2 fragments of brick	19th-20th century
+	862/356	6 cattle-size bones	
+	864/353	1 fragment black-glazed earthenware pancheon	18th-20th centuries
+	864/353	1 fragment Nottingham-type ware pottery	13th-14th century
+	864/353	1 fragment Nottingham/Lincoln ware pottery	13th-14th century
+	864/353	1 fragment of cattle leg bone	
+	864/357	1 fragment of Nottingham-type ware pottery	13th-14th century

In view of the location of the site, just west of Grantham in west Lincolnshire, it is probable that the fragment of uncertain Nottingham/Lincoln ware from grid location 864/353 is a Nottingham product.

The brick fragments from grid location 862/356 include a machine-made frogged brick of possible London manufacture.

All the bone recovered is from cattle-sized animals. The fragment of cattle leg bone from grid location 864/353 is the distal end of a tibia (the foot end of the shin). Of the bones from grid location 862/356, four pieces are cattle-sized limb bones, 1 is a possible pelvic fragment and the last is a molar tooth. All the bones are in poor condition though there is no clear evidence of butchery.

## APPENDIX 3

### Glossary

<b>Context</b>	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, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Fill</b>	Once a feature has been dug it may begin to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Mesolithic</b>	The Middle Stone Age, dating from approximately 10,000-3,400 BC.
<b>Natural</b>	Deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Period of history known as the Dark Ages that covers the time between the Roman and Medieval periods (AD 410-1066).

## APPENDIX 4

### The Archive

The archive consists of:

14	Context records
7	Scale drawings
3	Photographic film records
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Bag of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

Archaeological Project Services project code: BCP96  
City and County Museum, Lincoln Accession Number: 153.96