

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF MAINS LAYING BETWEEN
COLSTERWORTH AND LOBTHORPE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(COP97)**

Gunby with Stainby 35039 - Roman

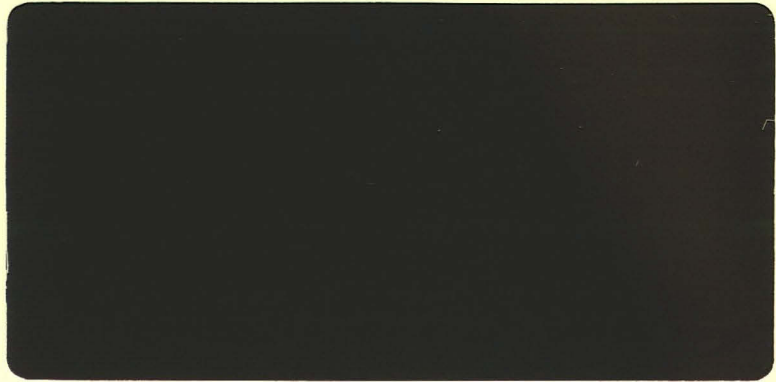


A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

**Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section**

1 2. SEPT 97

12 Friars Lane
LINCOLN LN2 5AL
Tel: 01522 575292 Fax: 01522 530724



ELI 6914

SLI 5240

1652

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
OF MAINS LAYING BETWEEN
COLSTERWORTH AND LOBTHORPE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(COP97)**

Gunby with Stainby 35039 - Roman

Work Undertaken For
Anglian Water Services Ltd

August 1997

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

A.P.S. Report No. 37/97

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	4
11.	Abbreviations	4

Appendices

1	Context Summary
2	The Roman Pottery <i>Barbara Precious</i>
3	The Archive
4	Glossary

List of Figures

Figure 1 . . . General Location Plan

Figure 2 . . . Site Location Plan

Figure 3 . . . Pipeline route showing location of drawn Sections

Figure 4 . . . Sections 1, 2 and 3

Figure. 5 . . . Section 4

1. SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken along the course of a pipeline trench between Colsterworth and Lobthorpe, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the pipeline trench for a length of 300m along Old Post Lane.

The pipeline comes close to areas of archaeological interest including a barrow of Bronze Age date (2250-1600 BC) and Stainby villa, the site of a Romano-British (AD 50-410) farmstead. Medieval (AD 1066-1500) activity has been located in the vicinity and is represented by the deserted village of Twyford which survives as a series of earthworks 300m east of the pipeline route.

The investigation revealed deposits of the Romano-British period, including a possible robbed foundation trench, indicating the presence of structural remains. Finds include locally made Roman pottery and a single sherd of imported samian ware pottery from France.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Between the 10th and the 17th July 1997, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during mains waterpipe laying between Colsterworth and Lobthorpe. The archaeological work was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd and was carried out by Archaeological Project Services.

An archaeological watching brief is 'defined as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological purposes within a specified

area, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA 1994, 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Colsterworth is located 12km south of Grantham and 20km north of Stamford in South Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Lobthorpe is situated a further 3.3km to the southeast.

Although the pipeline replacement is part of a larger scheme, only a single area was to be observed archaeologically. This was a stretch of 300m located between National Grid References SK 9256 2241 and SK 9259 2269

The local topography is gently undulating. The pipeline parallels the course of the River Witham and is situated at heights of between 107m and 95m OD.

The pipeline traverses soils of the Elmton 1 Association, brown clayey or loamy soils developed on a bedrock of Jurassic limestone (Hodge *et.al.* 1984, 179-80). However, pockets of glacial Boulder Clay are also known to the south (BGS 1978).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The pipeline was laid across an area of known archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric period. Located within 100m southeast of the pipeline route is a Bronze Age round barrow (SMR33882).

Romano-British activity is represented by Stainby Roman Villa, discovered in 1815 and situated approximately 100m east of Old Post Lane and within 1.5km of Ermine Street, a former Roman thoroughfare that connected London to Lincoln, and eventually to York (Margary 1973, 189).

Colsterworth is mentioned in the Domesday

Survey of 1086. Referred to as 'colsteuorde' the name is derived from the Old English and means the valley of the charcoal burners (Ekwall 1974, 118). However, the area under investigation may have been within the land of the village of Twyford, a deserted village located 300m east of the pipeline. At the time of the Domesday Survey, Twyford had manors of the Archbishop of York and Countess Judith, 19 acres of meadow and several acres of woodland (Foster and Longley 1976).

The deserted medieval village of Twyford survives as a series of earthworks representing former house platforms and trackways (SMR34805). Surrounding the former village are remnants of ridge and furrow (SMR34807 and 34808)

3. AIMS

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

4. METHODS

The proposed pipeline required the excavation of a single trench to a depth of between 1m and 1.1m. Monitoring of the excavation was undertaken on a daily basis and features were identified and noted.

The sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each deposit or feature revealed within an opened area was allocated a unique reference number (Context number) with an individual written description. A plan was drawn at a scale of 1:100 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10. Where no features or unusual

archaeological deposits were apparent, sketch drawings were compiled (Fig. 3, Sections A and B). A photographic record was also compiled. Recording of deposits encountered during the evaluation was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

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. Three periods of activity were recognised:

- Group 1 Natural deposits
- Group 2 Romano-British activity
- Group 3 Modern activity

The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Group 1 Natural deposits

Natural deposits were encountered at the base of all recorded sections. Usually comprising reddish or yellowish brown clayey silt (003, 004, 007 and 021), limestone fragments were also incorporated in these deposits (005) as was a layer of silty clay (006).

Group 2 Romano-British activity

Three features are assigned to this phase. In Section 1 (Fig. 4), an east-west linear cut was recorded (013). The lowest fill of this feature was a deposit of burnt stone, limestone and mortar (017). This was overlain by silt slumping (016) and a layer of brown silt that contained stone and mortar and a single sherd of 3rd century pottery.

This feature may represent a robbed foundation trench.

The possible linear cut of a ditch (020), 1.18m wide was revealed in Section 3 (Fig. 4). This contained a single fill of mid brown silt that produced a sherd of 2nd-3rd century pottery (018).

A third linear feature was revealed in Section 4. This feature (023) was aligned east-west and was 1.2m wide with a single fill of brown silt and clay (022).

Group 3 Modern activity

Sealing the above features were subsoil deposits of brown silt (009 and 015) and light yellowish brown silt with limestone (019).

Recorded in Sections 1 and 2 were make-up layers associated with the road. Generally, these consisted of silts with demolition material and were up to 1m thick as in Section 2. A topsoil of blackish brown silt sealed all layers.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits (Group 1) are possible remnants of Boulder Clay relating to the last glaciation. However, the proximity of the River Witham may indicate an alluvial origin for these layers.

Romano-British activity (Group 2) comprises three features. Two are likely to be ditches for drainage or served as a boundary. A third feature may be a robbed foundation trench, thus indicating a structure in the vicinity. There is no indication of the final form of the structure, nor its function. It may be an isolated farm structure such as a barn or animal shelter as the paucity of sherds argue against

domestic activity.

Group 3 activity is related to the modern road and roadside verge.

A collection of pottery was retrieved from the watching brief and comprised several sherds of Grey ware and Nene Valley Colour Coated pottery, all made locally. A single samian ware was also retrieved and was possibly imported from southern France.

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations of the pipeline route along Old Post Lane were undertaken because the site fell within an area of known archaeological activity, notably the site of Stainby Villa and a Bronze Age Barrow, and the likelihood existed of archaeological remains being disturbed.

No deposits were encountered that relate to the Bronze Age Barrow, but three features of Romano-British date were recorded and comprise two ditches and a possible robbed foundation trench of some non-domestic building. No other deposits of significant archaeological interest were encountered and as such, these deposits may be regarded as of local significance only.

A few sherds of pottery were recovered and represent a typical, if small, Romano-British collection common in Lincolnshire. The nature of the local site conditions would suggest that few environmental indicators would survive, other than through charring.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish acknowledge the assistance of Gavin Stanley of Anglian Water Services Ltd for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Gary Taylor coordinated

the work and Tom Lane edited this report. Jenny Stevens, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, permitted examination of the relevant parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. Mark Bennett kindly provided data held by the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Site Supervisor: Fiona Walker
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Post-excavation Analyst: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, 1978, *Stamford, Solid and Drift geology*, 1:50,000 map sheet 157 (Keyworth)

Ekwall, E., 1974 *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th edition)

Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. (Eds), 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society 19

Hodge, C.A.H., Burton, R.G.O., Corbett, W.M., Evans, R. and Seale, R.S., 1984, *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

IFA, 1994, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Margary, I.D., 1973, *Roman Roads in Britain*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

- BGS British Geological Survey
IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists
SMR These letters refer to the primary code used by the Sites and Monuments Record maintained by Lincolnshire County Council

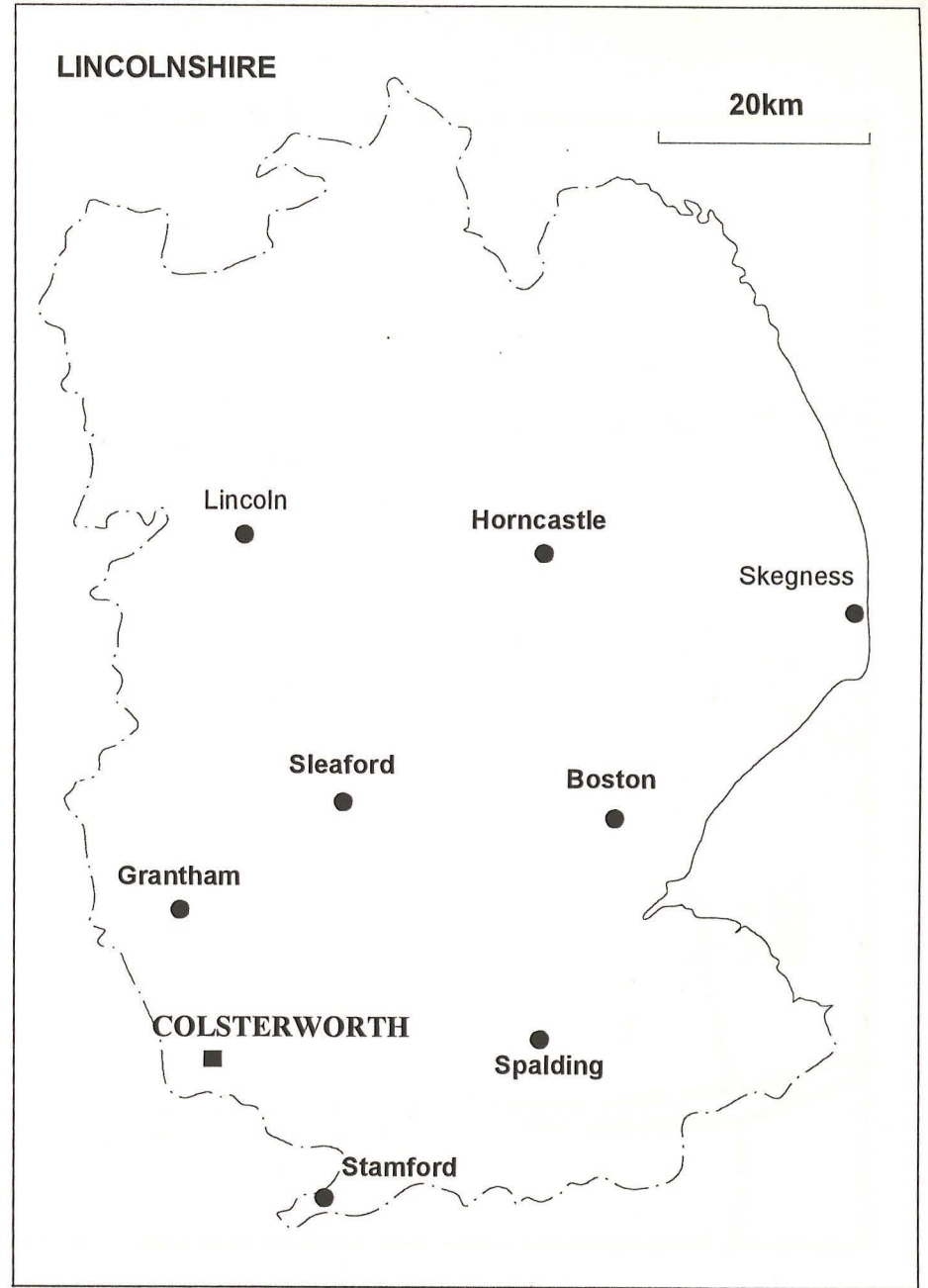
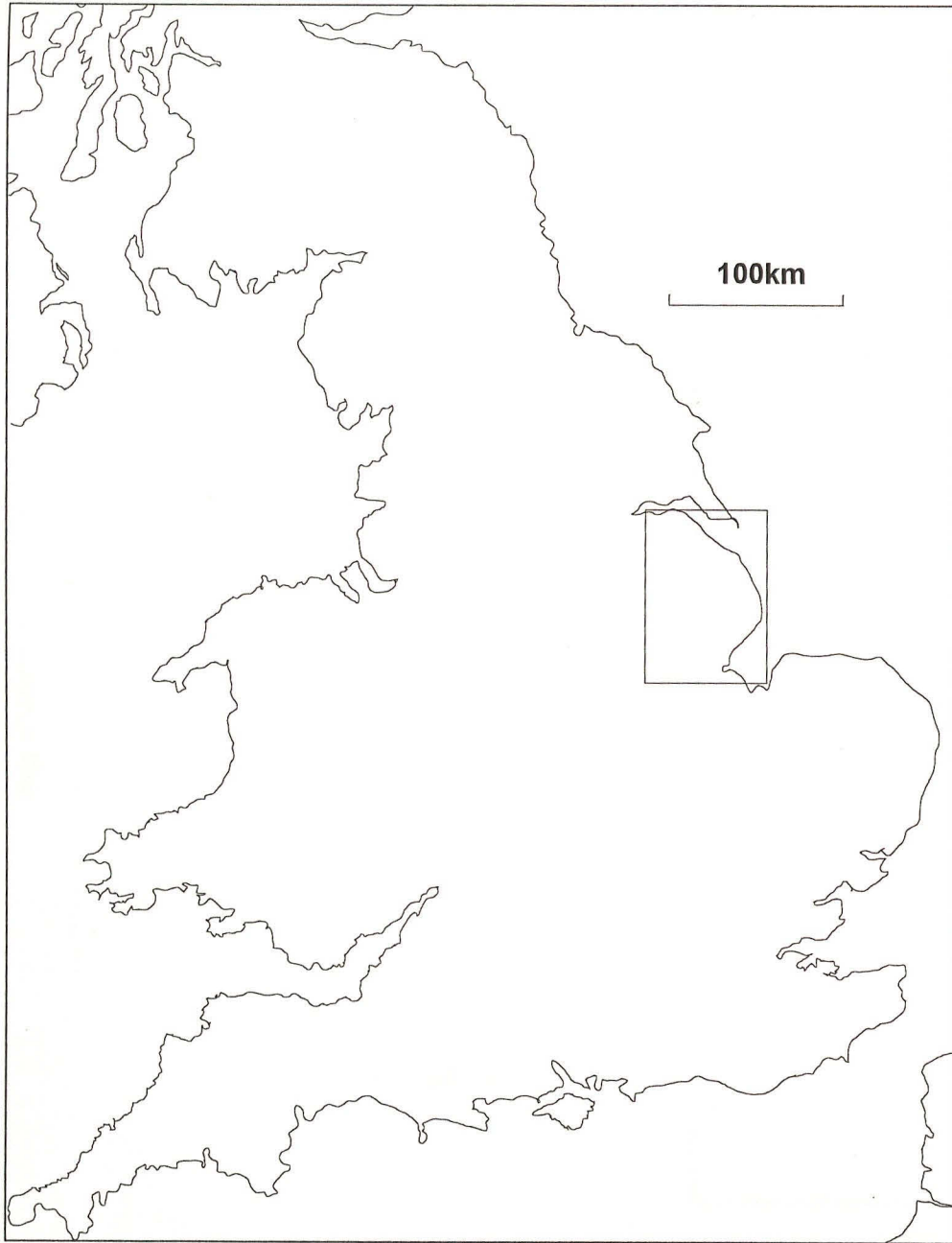
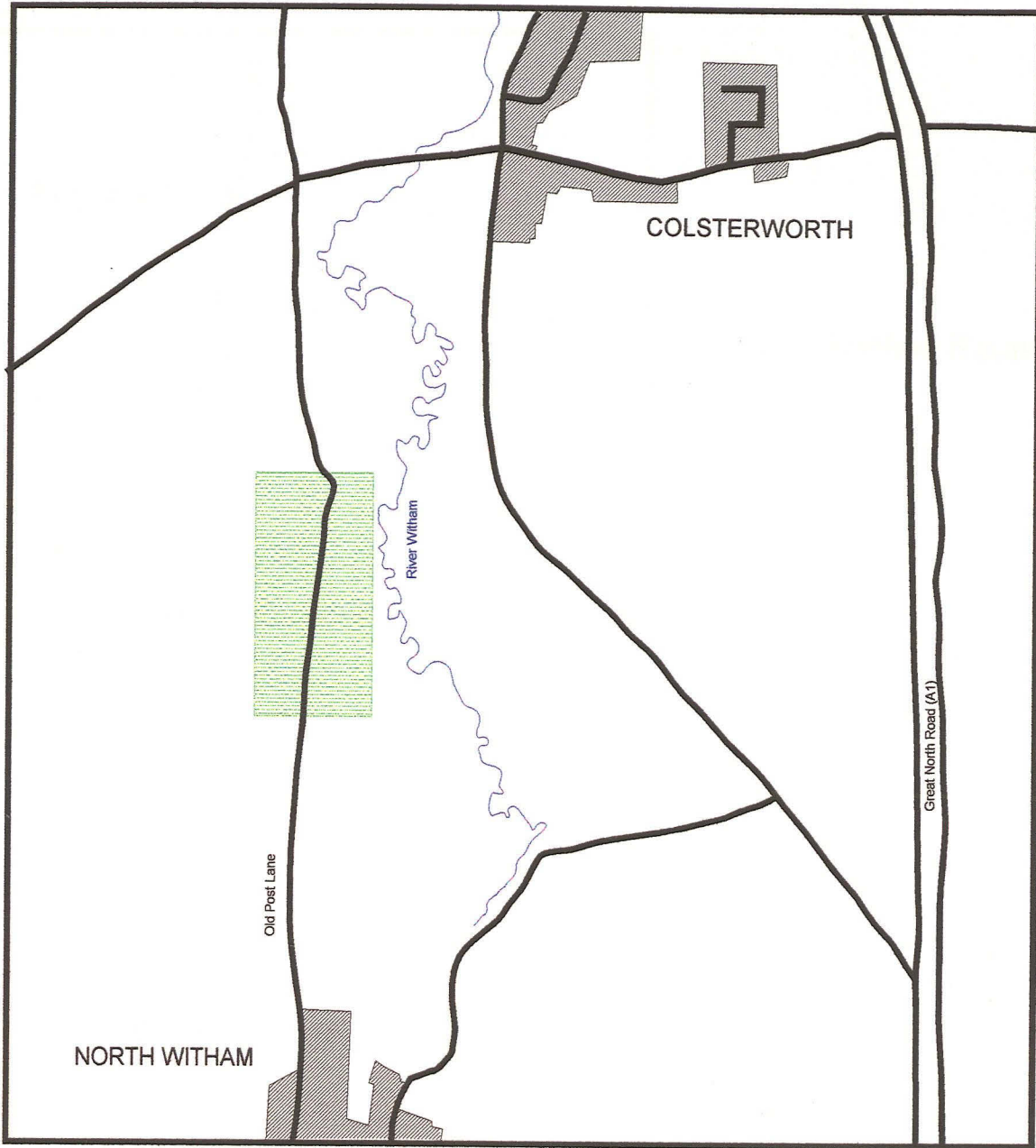


Figure 1 - General Location Plan

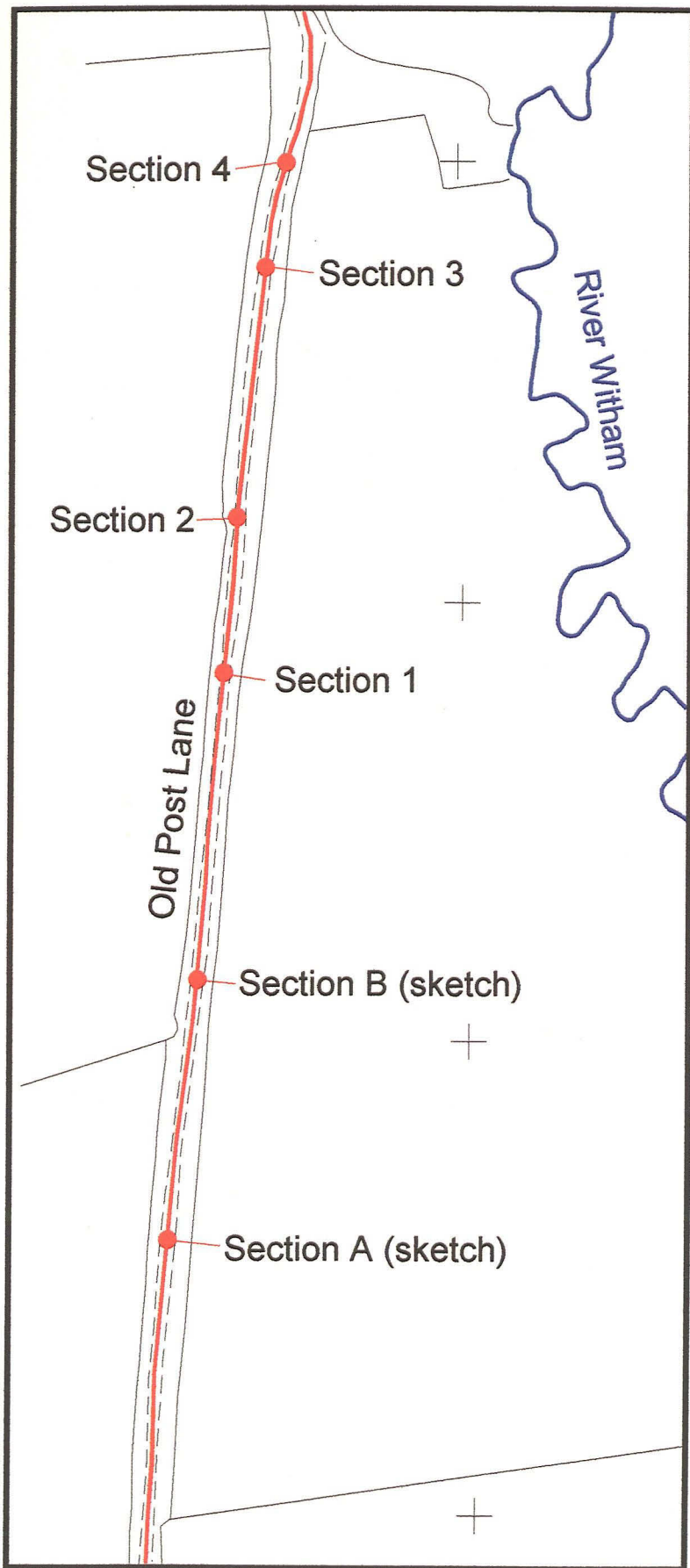


Area to be archaeologically recorded



Built up areas

Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



Pipeline Route



0 50m

Figure 3 - Pipeline route showing location of drawn Sections

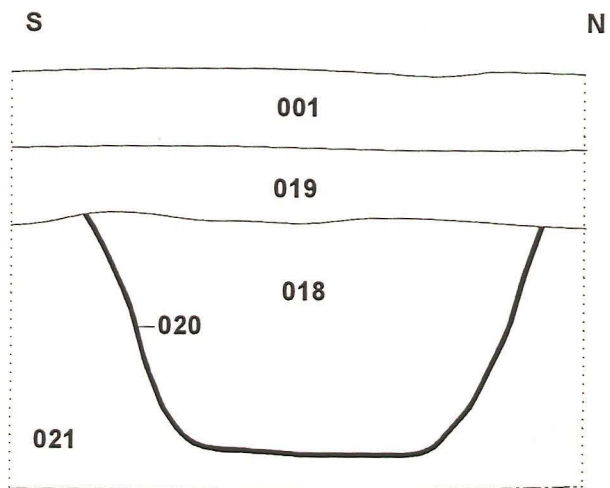
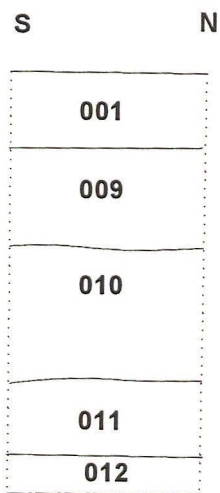
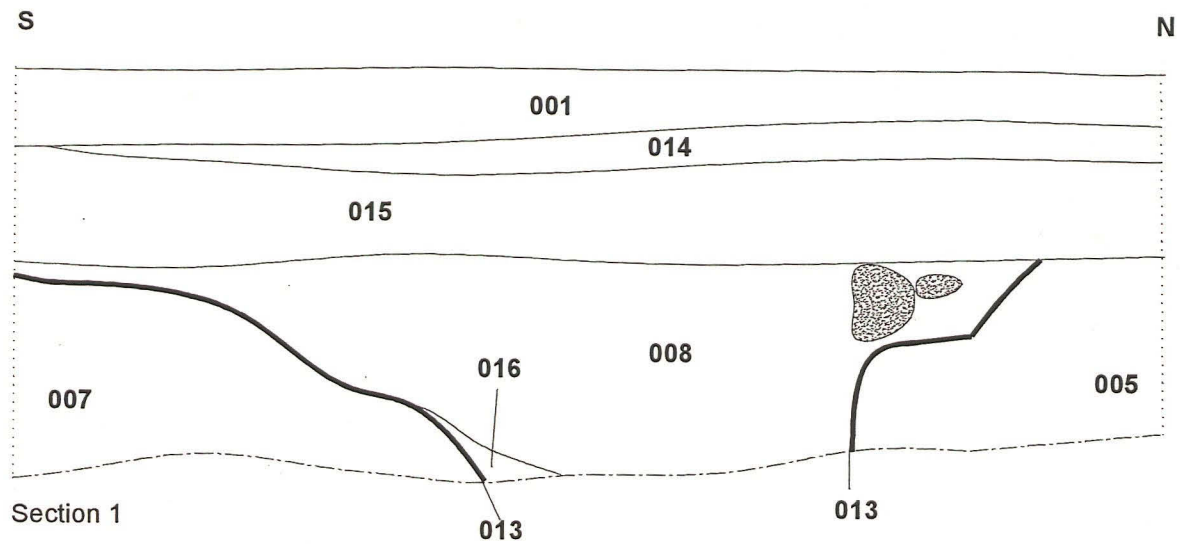
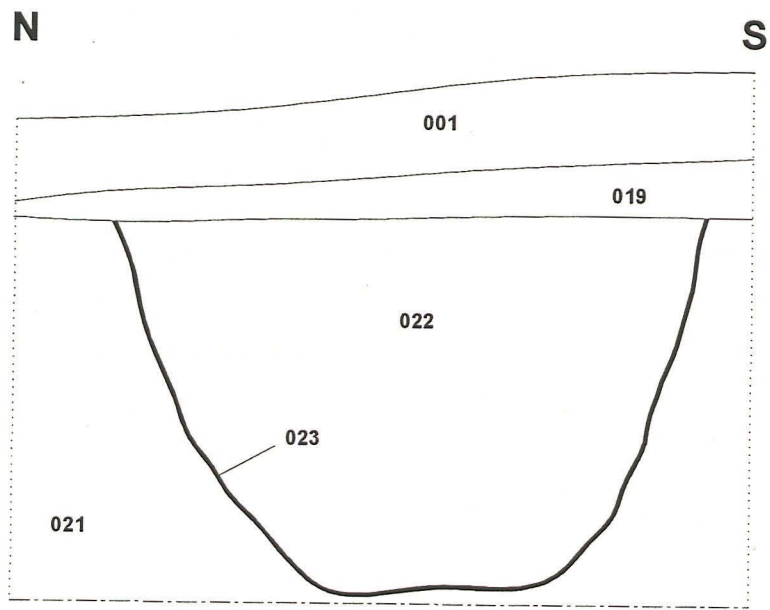


Figure 4 - Sections 1, 2 and 3



Section 4



Figure 5 - Section 4

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTION

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	All	Blackish brown silt, 0.3m thick	Topsoil
002	A	Mid greyish brown, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
003	A	Light yellowish brown clayey silt, 0.2m thick	Natural deposit
004	A	Mid reddish brown clayey silt	Natural deposit
005	1	Light reddish brown silt with limestone	Natural deposit
006	B	Light grey and brown silty clay	Natural deposit
007	1	Light to mid reddish brown silt, 0.4m thick	Natural deposit
008	1	Mid brown silt	Fill of 013
009	2	Mid brown silt	Subsoil
010	2	Mid yellowish brown silt with limestone and mortar frags	Make-up layer
011	2	Blackish grey sandy silt	Make-up layer
012	2	Yellow decayed mortar, stone and tile	Make-up layer
013	1	Linear cut, 1.3m wide, 0.46m deep	Foundation trench?
014	1	Light yellowish brown silt	Make-up layer
015	1	Mid brown silt, 0.3m thick	Subsoil
016	1	Yellowish brown silt	Fill of 013
017	1	Red and yellow stone and brick	Make-up layer
018	3	Mid brown silt	Fill of 020
019	3, 4	Light yellowish brown silt with limestone, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
020	3	Linear? cut, 1.18m wide by 0.6m deep	Pit or ditch
021	3, 4	Reddish yellow clayey silt	Natural deposit
022	4	Light to mid brown mixed silt and clayey silt	Fill of 023
023	4	Linear? cut 1.2m wide by 0.76m deep	Pit or ditch

Appendix 2

THE ROMAN POTTERY Barbara Precious

Context	Description	Latest date
+ 52m N. of Section 1	1 Nene Valley Colour Coated, Base sherd	4th century
	1 Nene Valley Colour Coated, Body sherd	
	1 Nene Valley Colour Coated, abraded body sherd	
	Samian (Mid to late 2nd century), Rim, Drag 37	
+	Greyware, rouletted body sherd	2nd-3rd century
008	Greyware, body sherd	Prob. 3rd century
011	Greyware, rim and neck sherd	Late 3rd century
018	Greyware, rim sherd	Mid 2nd-3rd century

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 23 . . . Context records
- 3 . . . Photographic records
- 4 . . . 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: 161.97

Archaeological Project Services, project code: COP97

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.

Appendix 4

GLOSSARY

Boulder Clay	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as till, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.
Bronze Age	Part of the prehistoric era characterised by the introduction and use of bronze for tools and weapons. In Britain this period dates from approximately 2000-700 BC.
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, <i>e.g.</i> (4).
Cut	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.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins 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).
Layer	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Prehistoric	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.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.