

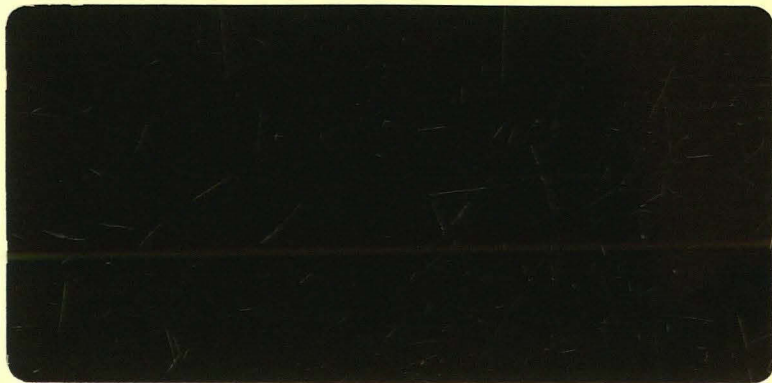
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF MAINS LAYING BETWEEN  
OLD POST LANE AND MOTHERFORDS SPRING,  
COLSTERWORTH,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(COP98)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES





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OF MAINS LAYING BETWEEN  
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Work Undertaken For  
Anglian Water Services Ltd

March 1998

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the laying of a new pipeline between Old Post Lane and Motherfords Spring, near Colsterworth and Lobthorpe, Lincolnshire.*

*The pipeline comes close to areas of archaeological interest including a barrow of Early 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 northeast of the pipeline route.*

*The investigation revealed a sequence of natural and recent deposits. No archaeological deposits were found. Finds from topsoil and unstratified layers included a number of flint artefacts, tile and slag.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

Between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 1998, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during mains waterpipe laying between Old Post Lane and Motherfords Spring, near 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.

The proposed pipeline was to run between Old Post Lane and Motherfords Spring, a distance of some 400m between National Grid References SK 9257 2240 and SK 9295 2241.

The local topography is gently undulating and located on the east facing side of the River Witham. The pipeline is perpendicular to the course of the River Witham and is situated at heights of between 107m and 80m OD.

The pipeline traverses soils of the Elmton 1 Association, typically brown clayey or loamy soils (Hodge *et.al.* 1984, 179-80). Beneath these soils is a solid geology of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone, with outcrops of Lower Estuarine Series and Northampton Sands as the pipeline nears the River Witham (GSGB 1964).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

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

Romano-British archaeology 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).

A watching brief was carried out along Old Post Lane during construction of a pipeline trench in 1997 (Cope-Faulkner 1997). Features of Romano-British date were recorded and comprise two ditches and a possible robbed foundation trench of some non-domestic building.

### 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 six trenches from which directional drilling methods were to be employed to lay the pipeline between Old

Post Lane and Motherfords Spring. Monitoring of the excavation was undertaken on a daily basis and deposits 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 revealed within an opened area was allocated a unique reference number (Context number) with an individual written description. As no features or unusual archaeological deposits were apparent, sketch drawings were compiled (Fig. 4). A photographic record was also compiled. Recording of deposits encountered during the evaluation was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice. 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.

## 5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis a total of two periods of activity were recognised:

Group 1 Natural deposits  
Group 2 Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. 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 holes. Towards the River Witham, in Hole 1 (Fig. 3), natural deposits comprised reddish brown silty sand with clay and flints (003 and 005). Moving west, the



next two holes contained a light yellowish brown clay or sandy silt natural (007 and 009). Holes 4, 5 and 6 had natural deposits of brownish grey silty clay (011, 013 and 017).

### **Group 2 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.

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

A limited number of finds were retrieved. Flint artefacts were the most numerous and comprised a scraper, four cores and two flakes. A field drain fragment and a piece of slag were also recovered.

## **7. CONCLUSIONS**

Archaeological investigations of the pipeline route adjacent to 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 of archaeological significance were encountered during the investigation.

A few artefacts of flint were recovered and represent a typical, if small, 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 David Waterfield 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

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

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

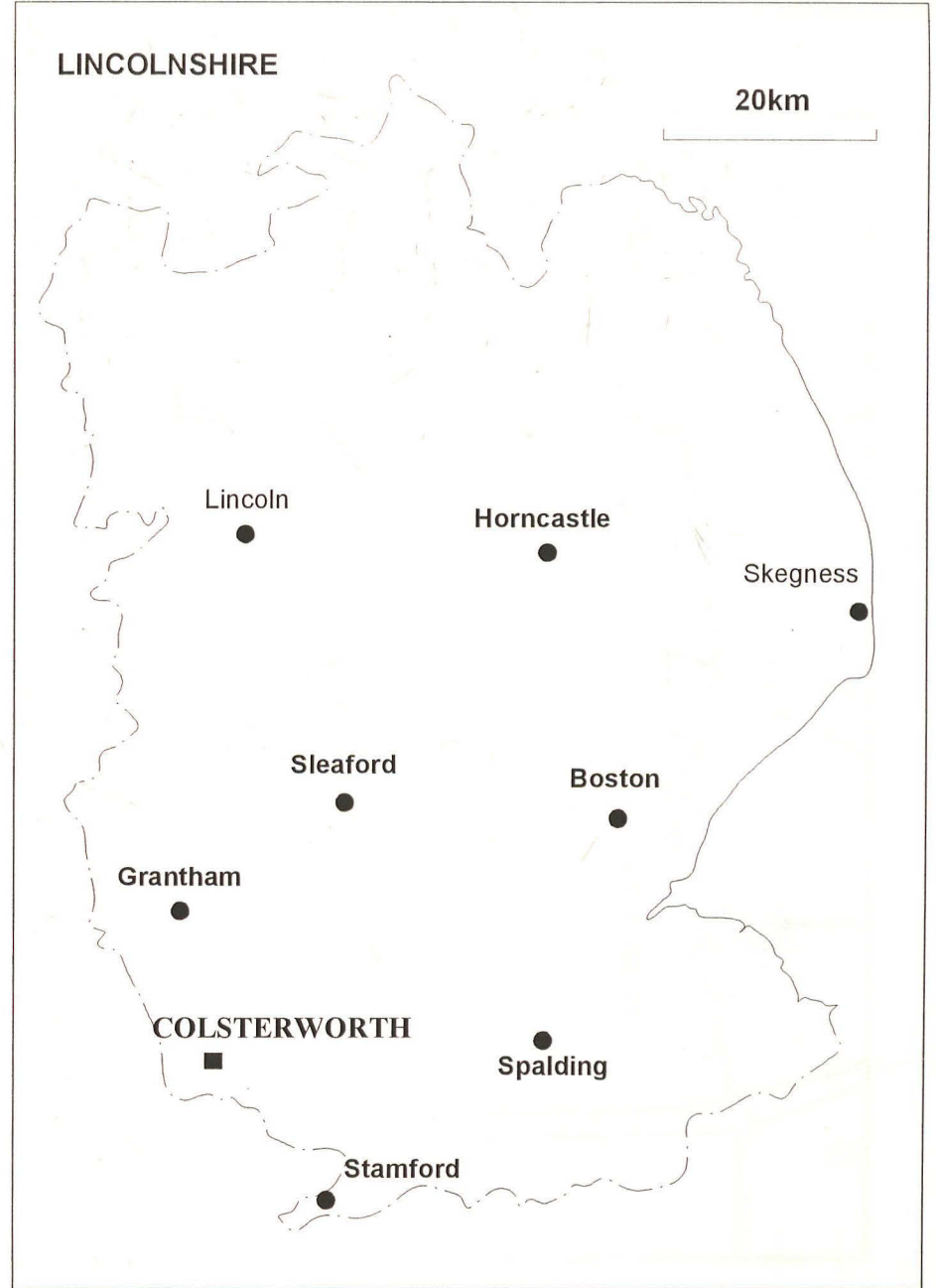
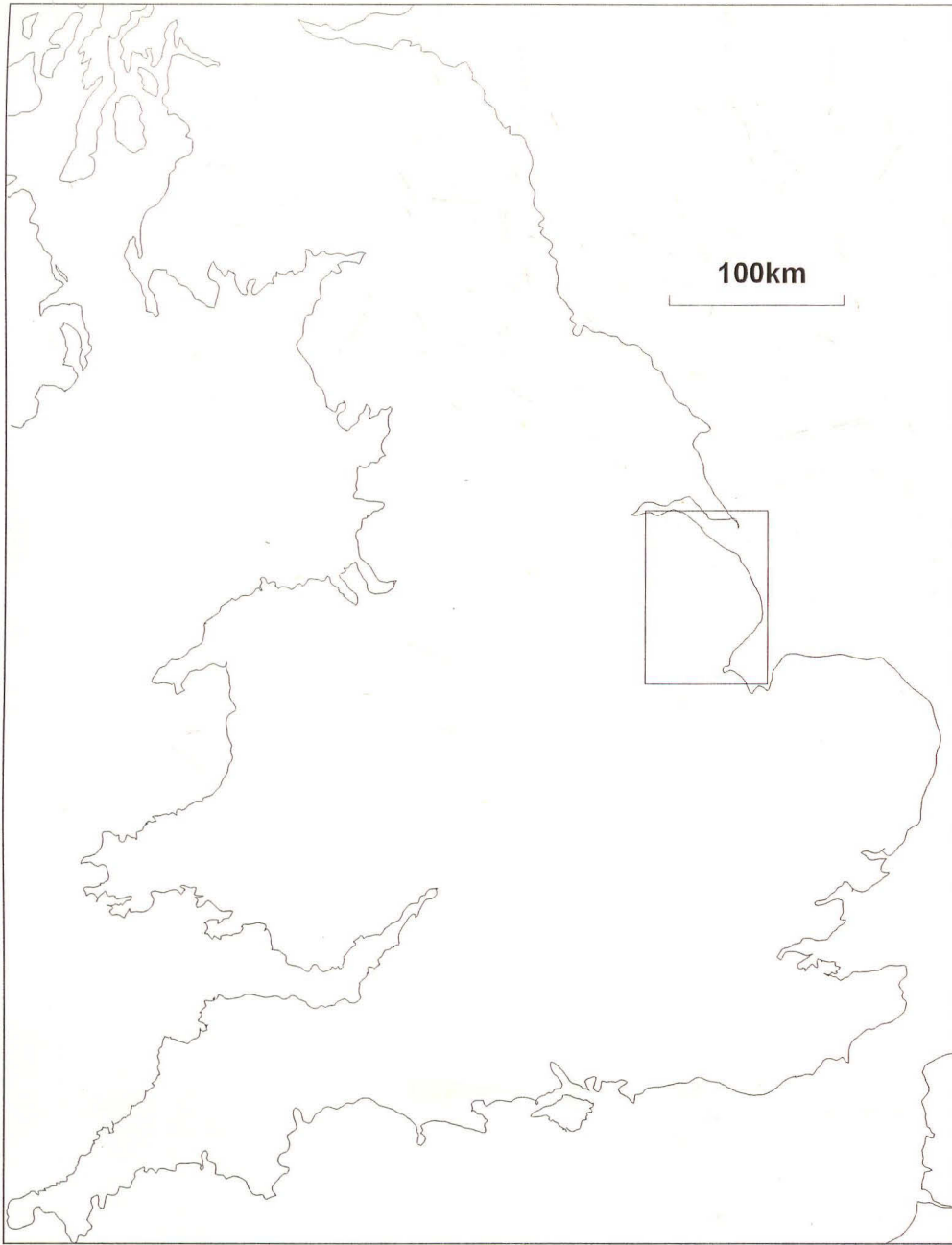
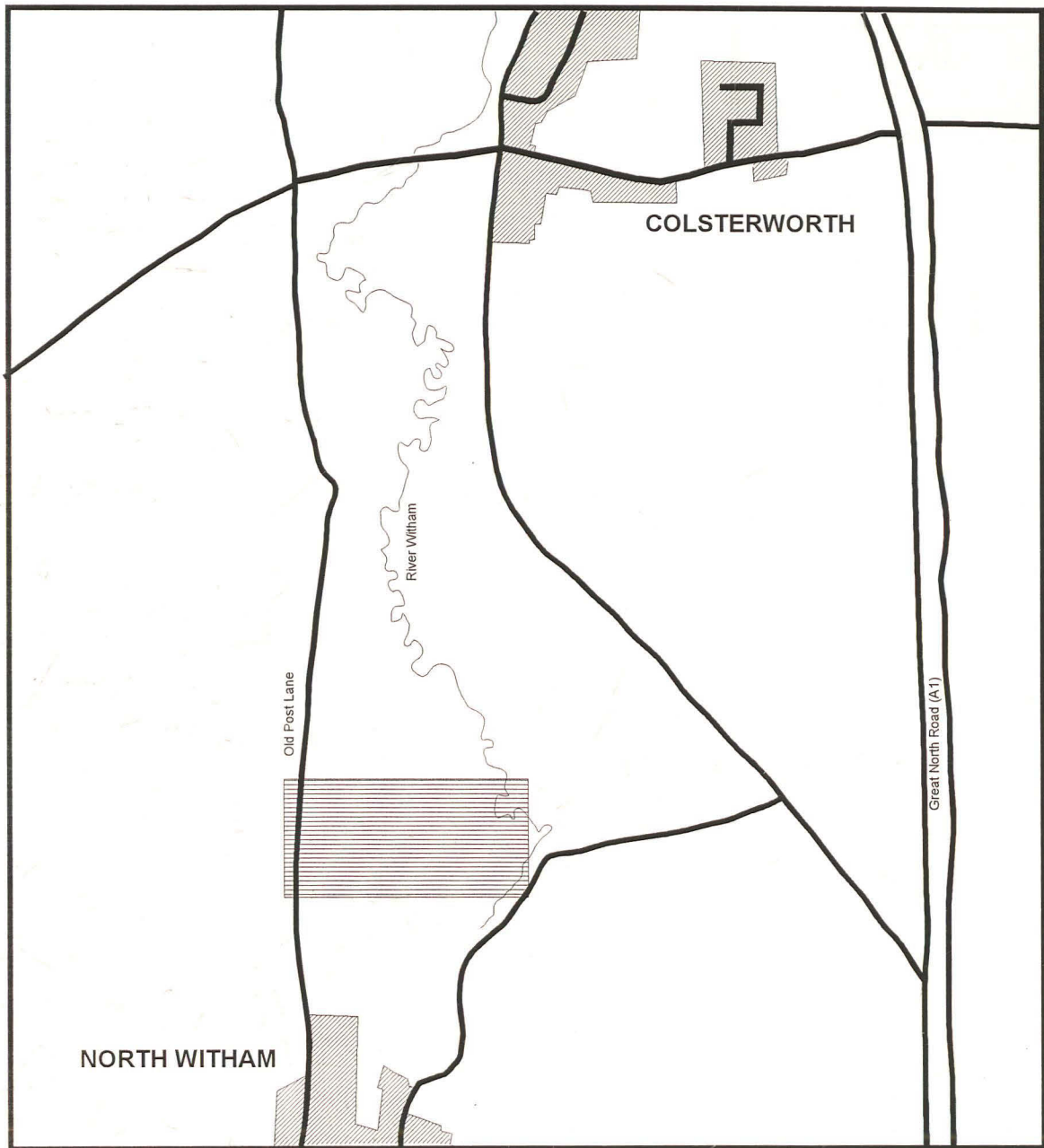


Figure 1 - General Location Plan





Area to be archaeologically recorded



Built up areas

Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

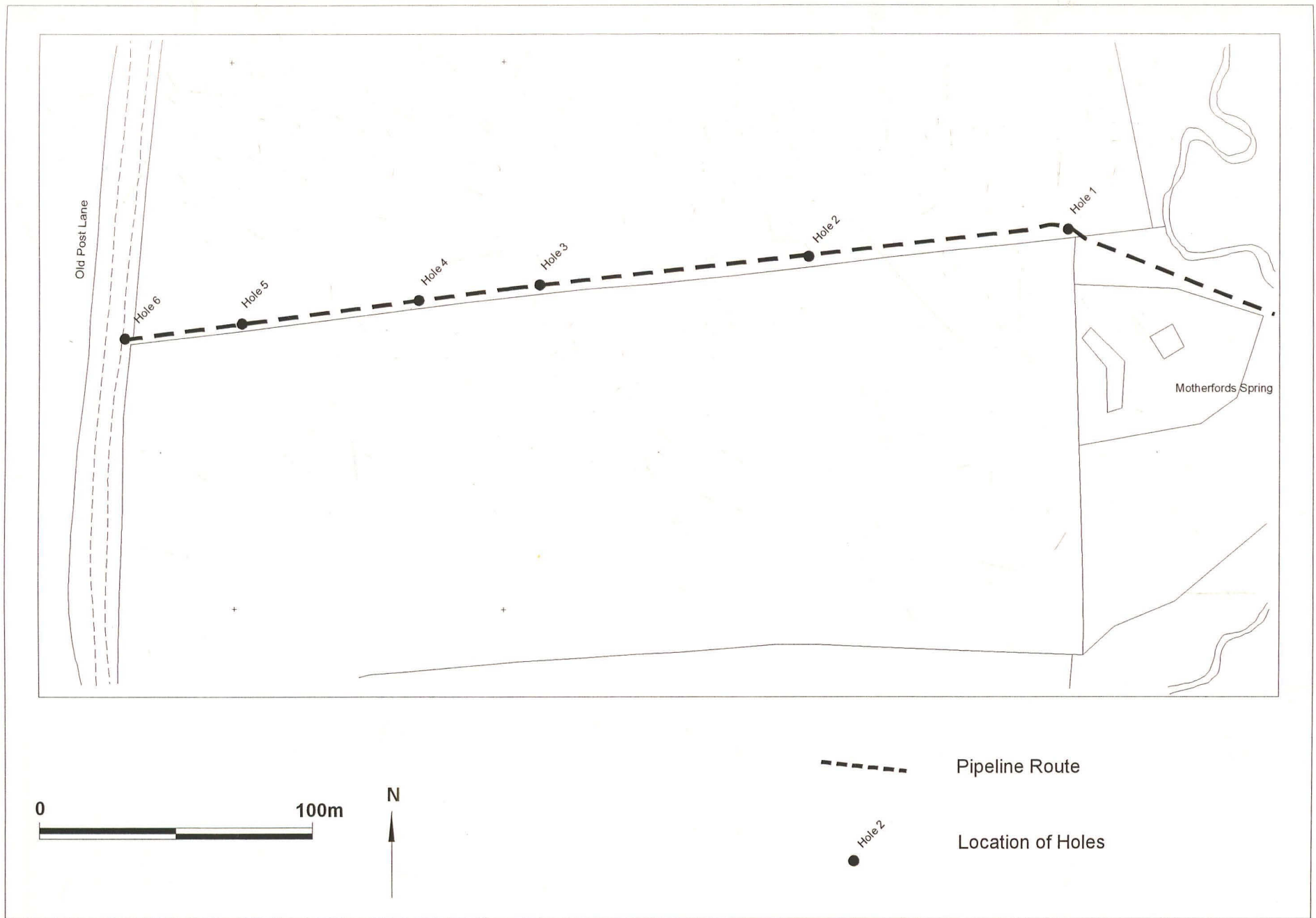


Figure 3 - Pipeline route, showing location of recorded holes



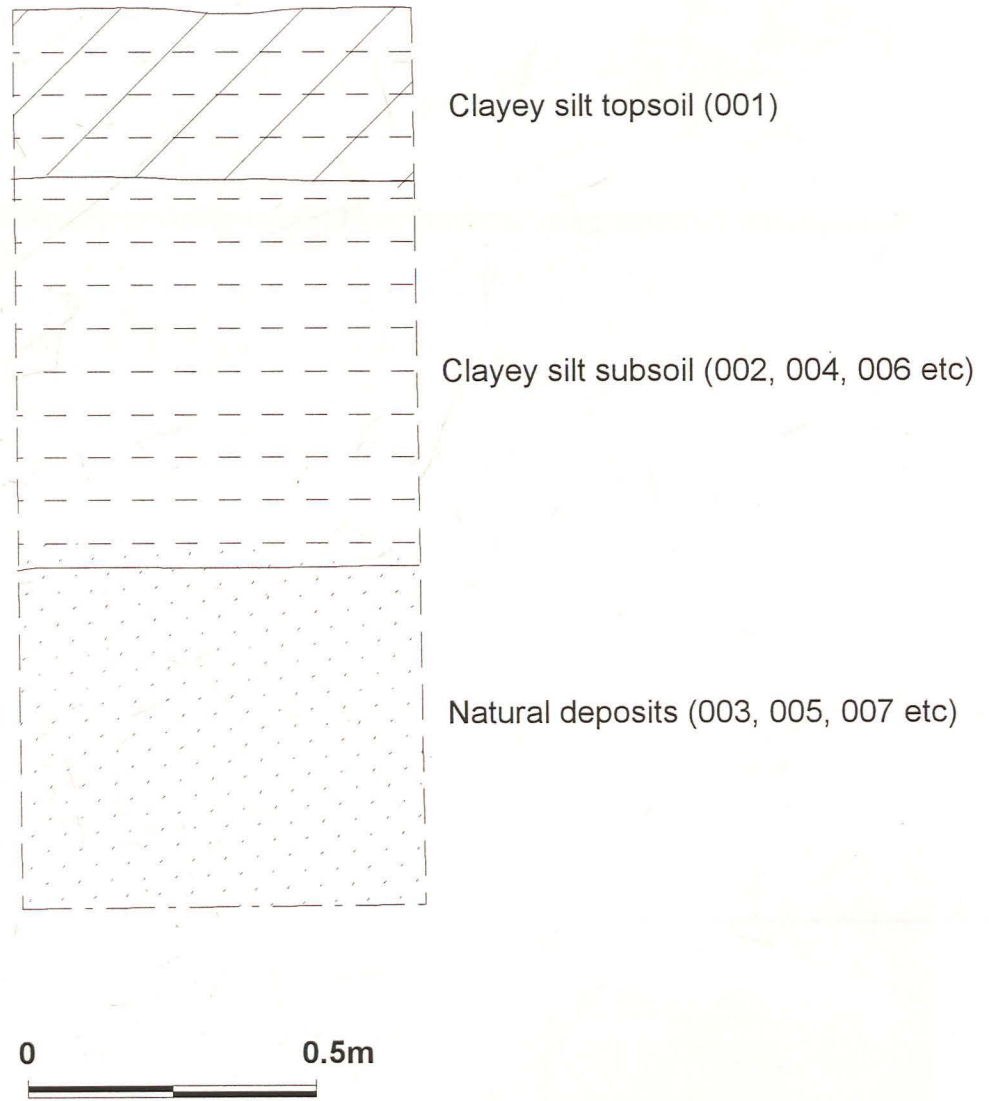


Figure 4 - Schematic section to show general sequence of deposits



Plate 1 - General view from Old Post Lane towards Motherfords Spring, looking southeast



Plate 2 - Hole 2, showing general sequence of deposits



## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Hole	Description	Interpretation
001	1 - 5	Light brown clayey silt, 0.36m thick	Topsoil
002	1	Light reddish brown clayey silt, 0.67m thick	Subsoil
003	1	Reddish brown silty sand with clay and flint	Natural deposit
004	1	Same as 002, 0.26m thick	Subsoil
005	1	Light yellowish brown clay	Natural deposit
006	2	Same as 002, 0.75m thick	Subsoil
007	2	Same as 005	Natural deposit
008	3	Same as 002, 0.2m thick	Subsoil
009	3	Yellowish brown sandy silt and limestone	Natural deposit
010	4	Same as 002, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
011	4	Brownish grey silty clay	Natural deposit
012	5	Same as 002, 0.6m thick	Subsoil
013	5	Same as 011	Natural deposit
014	6	Crushed yellow stone, 0.22m thick	Hardcore for field access
015	6	Same as 001, 0.14m thick	Topsoil
016	6	Same as 002, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
017	6	Same as 011	Natural deposit

## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS by Tom Lane

#### Provenance

All artefacts are from either unstratified or topsoil contexts.

All of the flint artefacts are likely to be from locally derived sources such as river gravel deposits. Field drains were probably mass produced and slag cannot be sourced without further examination.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

The earliest artefacts are the prehistoric flint tools which are non-diagnostic as far as date is concerned. In general, the assemblage has a limited range and there are no faunal remains.

CONTEXT	DESCRIPTION	LATEST DATE
Unstratified	1 broken flint core 1 broken and burnt flint core	Non-diagnostic
001	2 broken cores (Hole 1) 2 flint flakes (between Holes 1 and 2) 1 flint scraper (between Holes 1 and 2) 1 ceramic field drain fragment 1 slag fragment	19 <sup>th</sup> century

#### Condition

All of the material is in stable condition and presents no long-term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class.

#### Documentation

Flint assemblages from Lincolnshire have previously been produced.

#### Potential

The small amount of material has little potential for further study.



## Appendix 3

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

17	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Scale drawings
1	Bag of finds
1	Stratigraphic matrix

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 161.97

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: COP98

The material from this current investigation has been archived along with the earlier investigations undertaken in 1997 (COP97).

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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## Appendix 4

### GLOSSARY

<b>Bronze Age</b>	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.
<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> (4).
<b>Cropmark</b>	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
<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>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>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<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.