

SMR 98/8

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT  
NORTH KYME TO SOUTH KYME WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Site Code:       NSK98  
LCNCC Acc. No: 1.98  
NGR               TF152527 to TF172495

60732 - med  
60815 - Post Med  
60816 - Med  
60817 - Roman.

Event LI3352

Sowa LIS259  
LI1675

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Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

10 JUN 98

Report prepared Anglian Water Services Ltd  
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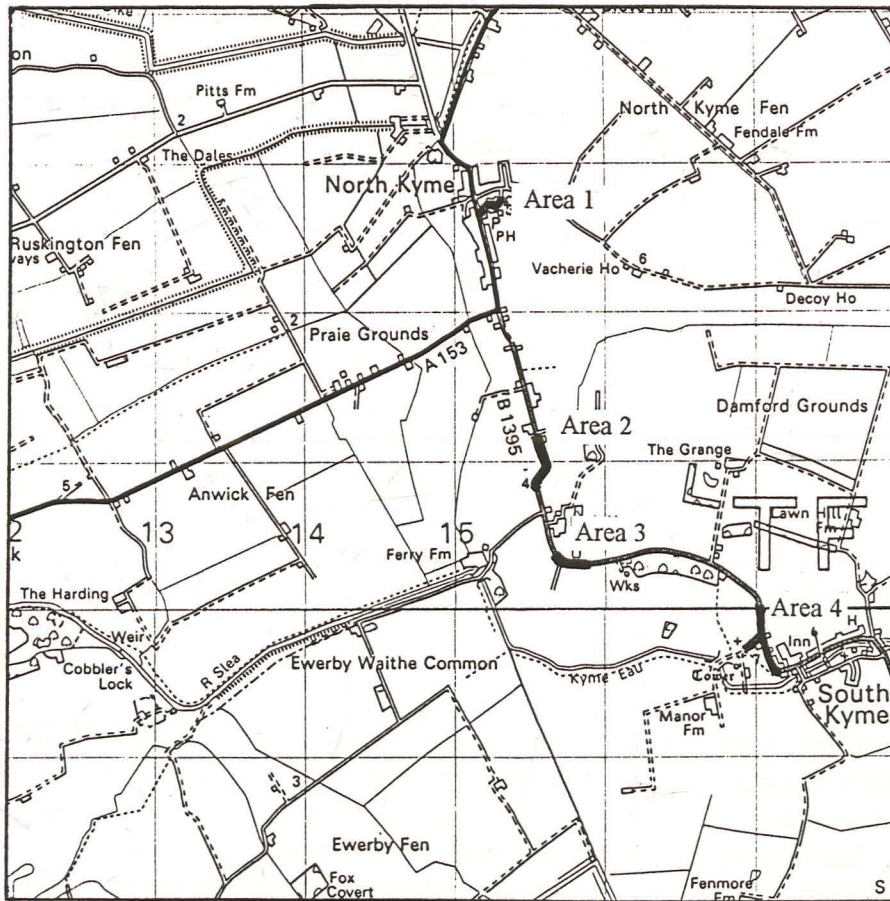
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*Summary*

- \* *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during water mains replacement through the villages of North and South Kyme on the edge of the Lincolnshire Fens. (Fig. 1).*
- \* *The main was replaced using an open cut trench and thrust-bore techniques.*
- \* *A series of archaeological remains were identified at the junction of Wood Lane and Church Lane at South Kyme (TF17034983). These included a medieval post pit, an undated gully and a pit containing a sherd of Roman pottery, which may have been residual.*
- \* *Remains of a limestone wall, possibly associated with South Kyme Augustinian priory, were located during excavation work in the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument at TF16944974.*



**Fig. 1: Location of Areas 1 to 4. (1:50,000)**  
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## 1.0 Introduction

Anglian Water Services Ltd have been undertaking widespread water main replacement schemes throughout the region. In consideration of the impacts to the archaeological resource which take place as a result of such developments, the clients routinely fund archaeological work, as defined in their own conservation policy.

Information held at the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) indicates that the new main through North and South Kyme would run close to a number of areas of archaeological importance. Most notable among these were two Scheduled Ancient Monuments; a medieval cross at North Kyme and the area of South Kyme Priory.

A copy of this report will be deposited at the County SMR, and a short text will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*; effectively placing the information in the public domain. Reports will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied with an ordered project archive.

## 2.0 Location and Description

The villages of North and South Kyme lie on the edge of the Lincolnshire Fens, at a height of around 5m O.D. just east of the Roman Car Dyke (an ancient canal). South Kyme lies approximately 4km south of North Kyme, the pipeline runs down the line of the existing road between the two. They lie roughly 10km north-east of Sleaford and 25km south-west of Lincoln.

## 3.0 Purpose and Methods

The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) contains entries which indicate the potential for the disturbance of important archaeological remains along the chosen replacement route. The level of recording considered to be appropriate on this occasion was an archaeological watching brief. This has been defined as follows:

*'An archaeological watching brief is defined as a programme of observation and investigation conducted during the destruction of archaeological deposits, resulting in the preparation of a report and ordered archive' (IFA, 1994 Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs)*

A combination of open cut trenches and thrust-boring was used in the water mains replacement. The use of an open cut trench for the replacement of the water main resulted in potential for the disturbance and destruction of archaeological deposits along parts of its route. Thrust-bore techniques resulted in less excavation and subsequently had less impact on the archaeological resource. Monitoring consisted of the inspection of the excavated trench and the cleaning and recording of exposed soil surfaces.

Recording was undertaken using standard watching brief record sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations, and stratigraphic relationships). Features were drawn to scale (1:20) in section, and photographic recording was undertaken (some prints are reproduced in this report). A small quantity of pottery was recovered and the appropriate specialist report is included in the appendices. No archaeological deposits were encountered which were considered to have potential for environmental remains and subsequently no sampling was undertaken.

The locations of archaeological features were plotted on a 1:2500 development plan which was provided by the clients. In archaeologically sterile areas, representative column sections were drawn. The plan, and the rest of the paper record, will form the basis for a long-term project archive.

The watching brief was undertaken by the writers and Colin Palmer-Brown.

An additional area which was not included in the original proposal was added to the scheme of works. It consisted of the replacement of the existing water main along Church Lane at South Kyme. It was recognised that this section would have a high archaeological potential and after liaison with the client and the Assistant County Archaeologist it was added to the areas to be monitored.

#### **4.0 Archaeological and Historic Background**

North and South Kyme have both received a considerable amount of archaeological attention from the eighteenth century onwards.

The earliest evidence from the parishes is of Neolithic date (4000 to 2500 BC). This period is principally represented by a number of finds of polished stone and flint axes including one from just to the north-west of Kyme Tower.

The Bronze Age (2500 to 1000 BC) is equally well represented by finds from the area. Four bronze axes have been found, three of the socketed type and one flat. One of these was found in North Kyme churchyard. Two bronze rapiers were excavated from a barrow during the nineteenth century. Further evidence of prehistoric activity in the area comes from Stukeley who recorded finds of dug out canoes.

The Car Dyke runs to the west of the settlements. This served to drain the higher ground to the west. Roman pottery, including a nearly complete mortaria have been dredged up from it.

Between the two settlement is the site of a supposed Roman camp. This consisted of a parallelogram enclosure with concentric banks and three mounds in its centre. The earthworks were levelled in the nineteenth century. Fieldwalking on the site has failed to produce any artefacts and doubts have been expressed over the Roman date of this site (Whitwell 1992, 14).

During the restoration of the parish church at South Kyme in 1888, six fragments of stone sculpture were found. These have been dated to the eighth century and are taken as evidence of an early monastic site (Stocker 1993).

At the time of the Domesday survey in 1086 land at North Kyme is recorded as being held by Robert of Tosny and Kolsveinn and at South Kyme by the King and Gilbert of Ghent. At this time South Kyme is recorded as having two chapels (Morris 1986). The place-name Kyme was recorded as *Chime* in 1086, which refer to the place at the hollow (Mills 1993, 201).

An Augustinian priory was founded at South Kyme by Philip de Kyme around the year 1170. The priory was expanded at various point during its history and the present parish church, of St Mary and All Saints, incorporates the only standing remains.

The Tower at South Kyme is the only remaining part of a medieval tower house built by Sir Gilbert de Umfraville between 1338 and 1381. It was substantially demolished between 1720 and 1725 with much of the stone reused in the construction of local buildings (Pevsner et al 1995, 664).

North Kyme has a medieval cross at the junction of Main Street and Church Lane, which is a scheduled ancient monument. St. Luke's church at North Kyme was constructed in 1877 to replace its predecessor which had been pulled down in the Reformation (ibid, 584).

The later history of South Kyme parish has recently been published in some detail by Newton (1995).

## 5.0 Results

### Area 1

This was the section of pipeline in North Kyme which runs along Church Lane close to the scheduled medieval cross and the Church of St. Thomas. This area was included in the brief because of the cross and a stone axe found in the churchyard. Unfortunately, due to breakdown in communications no monitoring was carried out on this section.

### Area 2

This section was located along an S-bend in Ferry Lane to the east of the former earthwork site interpreted as a Roman camp. The pipe was replaced using thrust-boring. Regrettably all of the access pits in this section of the pipeline had been filled in by the time of site visits, and, as a result, no recording took place.

### Area 3

This section was located along Wood Lane to the north of South Kyme in an area where a number of prehistoric stone axes have been found. Two thrust boring access pits were excavated in the monitored area. However, the road along this section is raised above the adjacent fields and only make-up deposits were encountered. A stone axe was found in a field adjacent to the road by the farmer during the course of the pipeline replacement. This artefact was not seen by the archaeologist on site, so the find could not be confirmed.

### Area 4

This section ran along the east side of the South Kyme Priory scheduled area. The majority of the main in this area was replaced using thrust-boring although two short lengths of open cut trench were excavated.

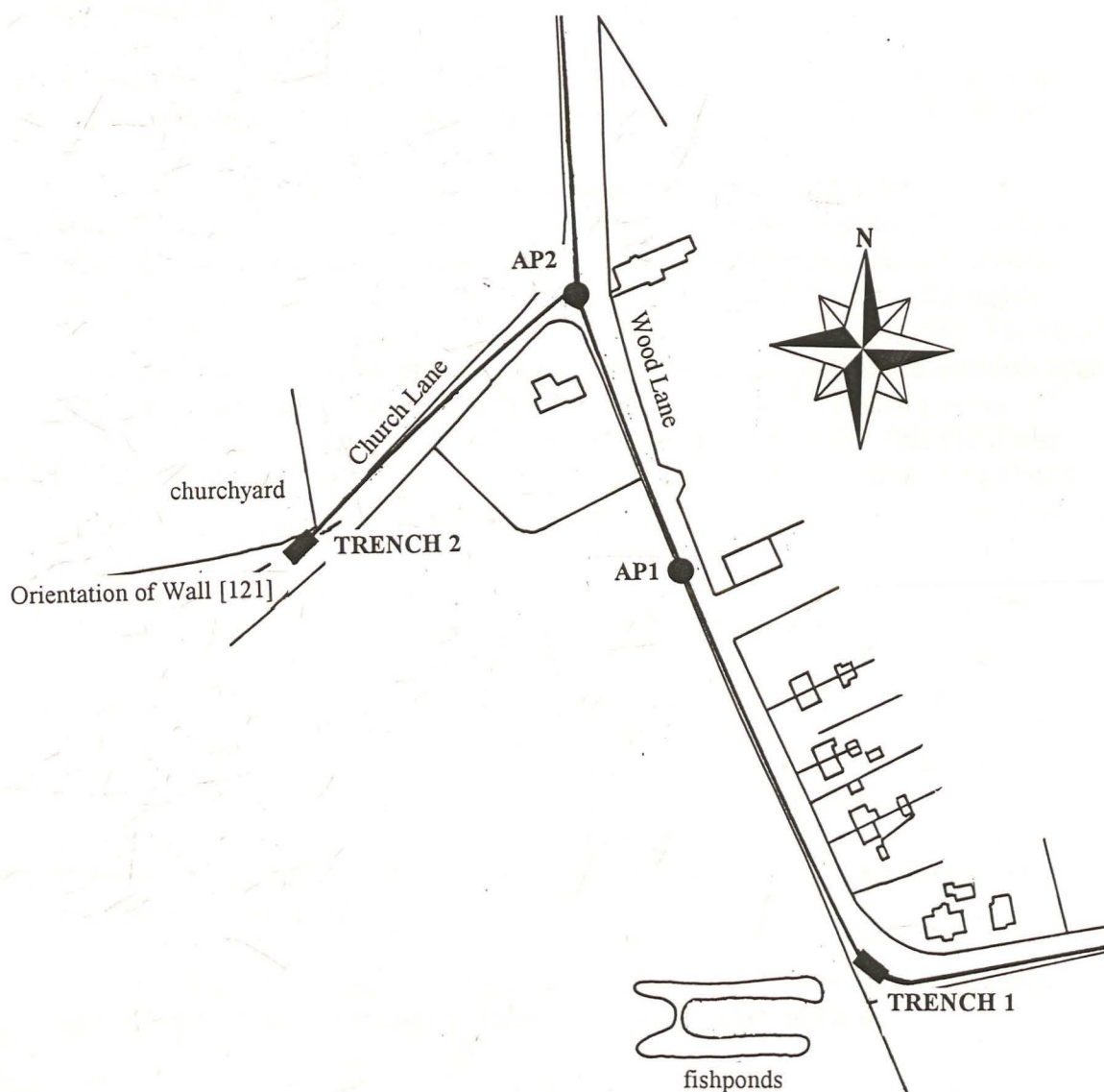


Fig. 2 Location of access pits and trenches in Areas 4 and 4a. (Scale 1:2500).



At the southern end of the area, close to the medieval fishponds, a short section of wall [105] was located in trench 1. Two substantial limestone blocks, on a south-west to north-east alignment were revealed, one of which was ashlar with a chamfered edge indicating that the stonework was reused. It is likely that the stonework had come from the demolished parts of the fortified manor house, which would place the construction of the wall sometime after 1720-5. Although the adjacent part of the trench was flooded the thickness of the blocks was traced by hand and the presence of another course beneath was confirmed. The rest of the trench was not deep enough for any other structural remains to be exposed.

To the south-east of, and dipping down towards, the wall was a layer of clayey limestone rubble (106). The nature of this deposit suggested that it related either to the construction or demolition of the structure. A demolition deposit seemed more likely as both this layer and the wall remains were covered by gravely clay layer (104). The deposits overlying this layer related to a possible earlier road surface (103) and the raising of the ground level on the bend in the road. 18th to 19th century pottery was recovered from (103).

Access pit 1 was excavated in the road c.130 m. to the north of trench 1 and the same sequence of road surface and make up deposits was observed above the water level.

Access pit 2 was excavated in the grassed triangular traffic island at the junction of Wood Lane and Church Lane. Beneath the topsoil (100), and separated from it by a layer of fine gravel, was a dark brown silt (111) which contained a sherd of medieval pottery. This was overlying an orange-brown gravely sand (112) above the natural sand (110). Cutting through (112) into (110) was a broad shallow pit [109]. The fill of this feature (108) was essentially the same as (111) making it difficult to establish what level the pit had been cut from. A single sherd of Roman colour coated pottery (probably of Nene Valley manufacture) was recovered from the fill. This sherd was fairly abraded and may have been residual in this context. Despite this it is significant in being the first Roman evidence from within the village area of South Kyme. The feature was not observed in trench 2 which passed to the east of the access pit.

In the north end section of access pit 2 was a U-shaped post pit [114] which cut through layer (111). It contained a dark brown silt fill (113) with limestone post packing. Two sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery were found in the fill.

To the west of access pit 2 a small slot was dug for thrust-boring (which was unsuccessful). A steep sided and flat bottomed gully [116] was observed running north to south in this slot. Unfortunately no time was available for recording of this feature. It seemed possible that it was a beam slot and may have related in some way to the post setting [114] to the east.

A possible section of limestone rubble wall foundation [117] was located in trench 3 opposite the northern boundary of Lawn Hill House on Wood Lane.

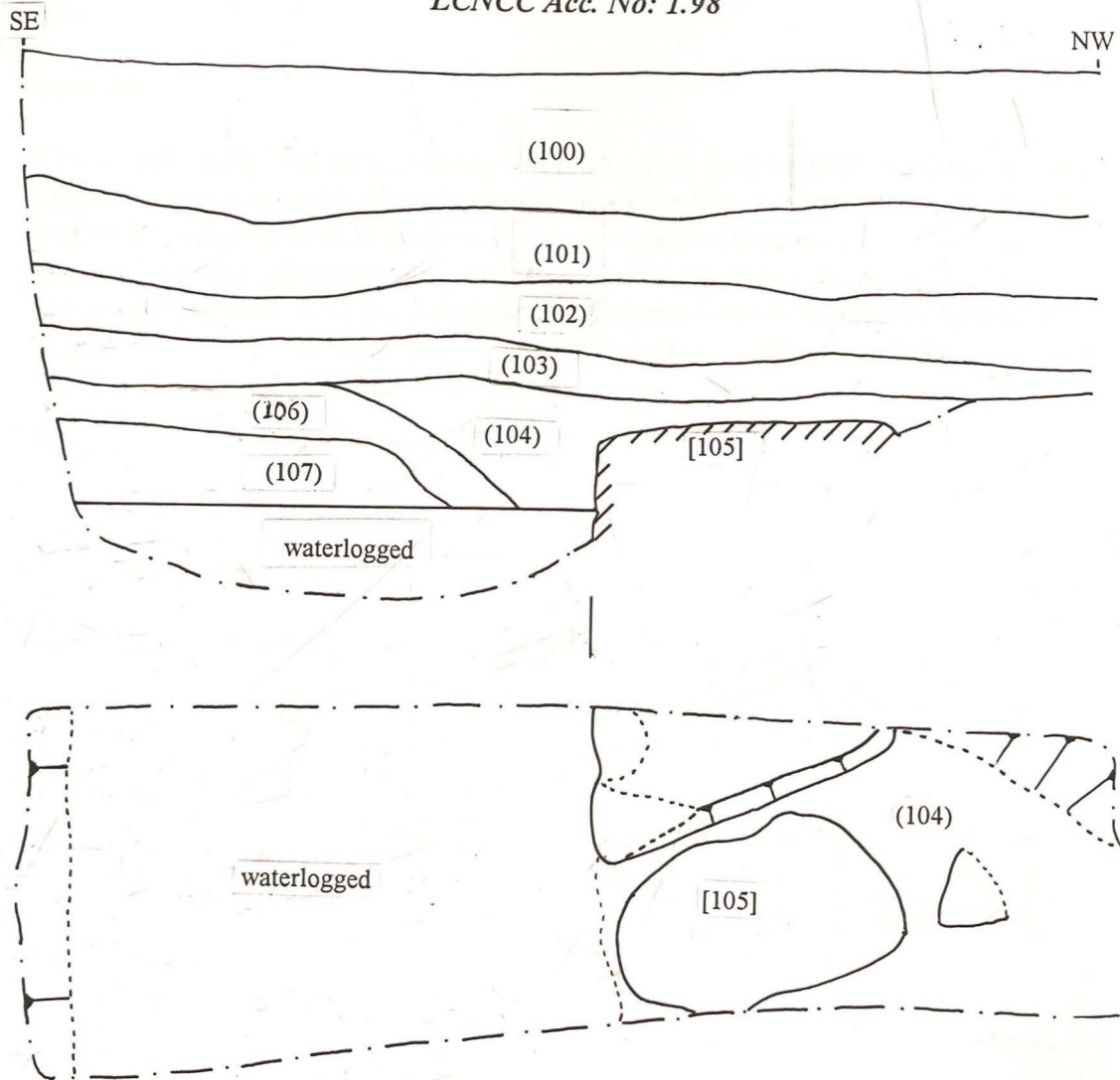


Fig. 3 Section and plan of the south end of trench 1, showing wall [105].  
(Scale 1:20).

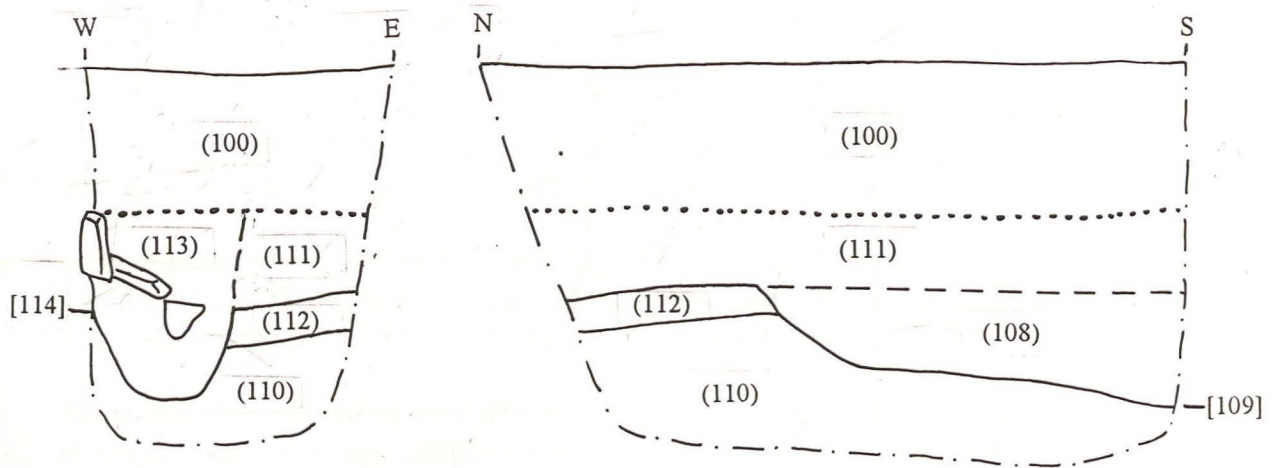


Fig. 4 Sections of access pit 2, showing pits [109] and [114]. (Scale 1:20).

Area 4A

This was the additional section along Church Lane at South Kyme. An open cut trench (trench 2) was excavated along the north side of the lane. Unfortunately, most of this was backfilled prior to examination. Due to a misunderstanding, the trench was extended into the scheduled area. In this section of the trench the remains of a wall [121] were exposed. This was composed of limestone pieces bonded by light green-grey clay (119) and ran from east to west. Although the wall was undated it was likely that it related to the priory complex.

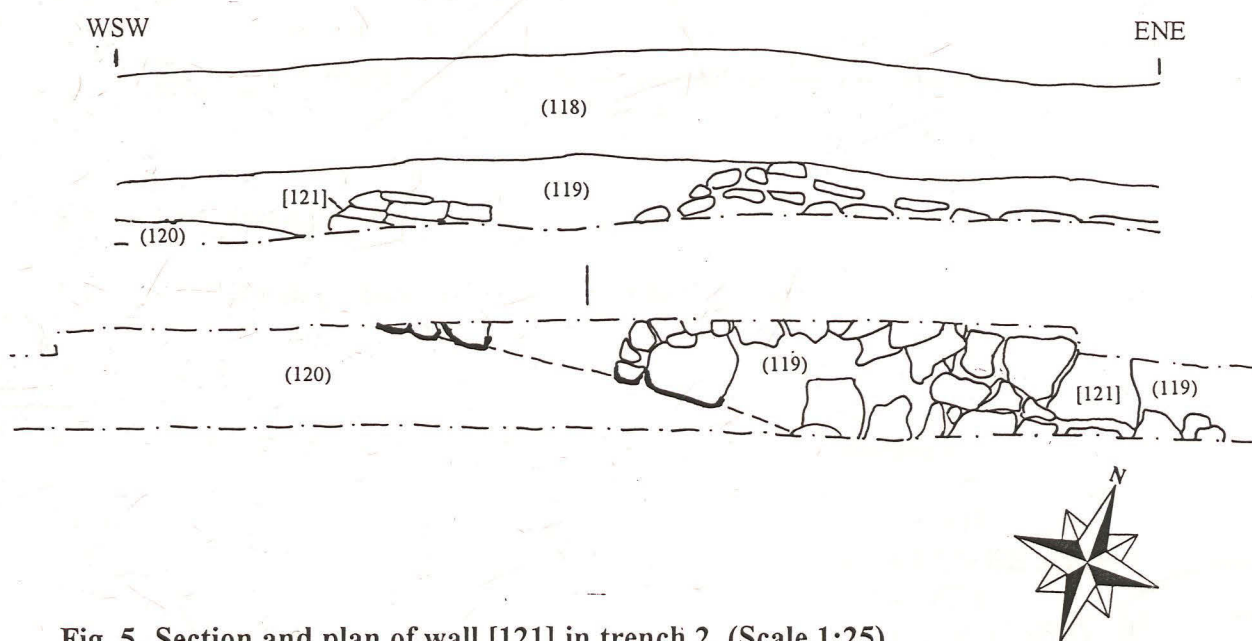


Fig. 5 Section and plan of wall [121] in trench 2. (Scale 1:25).

6.0 Discussion and Conclusion

The presence of the structural remains at the junction of Church Lane and Wood Lane at South Kyme is interesting, although nothing can really be said about them given the small amount exposed. The 13th to 14th century date of these would make them contemporary with both the priory and tower house. The fact that they underlie the modern road would point to Wood Lane and Church Lane both being late medieval or post-medieval routes. It is possible, although it must be stressed that there is no supporting evidence, that the footpath which runs north-west to south-east from the church to Wood Lane represents the course of an earlier road.

The post-medieval building remains exposed in trench 1 are equally difficult to interpret. Apart from suggesting that the re-used stone was from the tower house little can be said.

The sherd of Roman pottery, although probably residual, is quite important as this is the first find of this date from the South Kyme village area and may be indicative of further buried remains.

The lack of success in the monitoring of areas 1 and 2 is regrettable. This is particularly so in the vicinity of the possible Roman camp (area 2), where the possibility of clarifying the nature of this ambiguous site existed.

## 7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) express their sincere thanks to Anglian Water Services Ltd. for this commission; in particular, Mr D. Waterfield and Mr P. Holditch. Thanks also to Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy (County SMR) for allowing access to the parish files.

## 8.0 Appendices:

### 8.1 Post-Roman pottery archive: ware types by context

By Jane Young

Context	Ware	Sherds	Form	Comments
SPOIL	BL	1	BOWL	BS; 17/18TH
SPOIL	TB	1	JUG	BS; COULD BE MED
103	BL	1	BOWL	BS; 18/19TH
104	MISC	1	?	TILE OR POT; MED
113	TOY	1	?JUG	BS; OR TOYII
113	MEDLOC	11	JAR/COOK- POT	BS; SHELL FABRIC; CARB DEPOSIT

#### Dates

103 PMH8, EMH,-,MID 18TH-19TH

104 MH3, MH10,-,12TH-15TH

113 MH5, MH7,-,13TH-14TH

Local group of medieval and post-medieval pottery

#### The Tile

Context	Type	Sherds	Comments
103	PNR	1	PROB LATE/POST-MED

## 8.2 References

- Mills, A.D. 1993 English Place-Names
- Morris, J. (gen. ed.) 1986 'Lincolnshire' Domesday Book.
- Newton, M. 1995 South Kyme. The History of a Fenland Village.
- Pevsner, N. & Harris, J. 1995 The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire.
- Stocker, D 1993 'The Early Church in Lincolnshire', in Vince (ed) 1993 *Pre-Viking Lindsey*, 101 - 122
- Whitwell, J.B. 1992 Roman Lincolnshire

## 8.3 List of Contexts

Context	Description
100	Topsoil
101	Gravel make up layer
102	Layer of clay
103	Layer of clay.
104	Layer of gravelly clay
105	Wall foundation
106	Degraded limestone rubble fragments
107	Layer of gravelly clay
108	Pit fill
109	Cut of pit
110	Natural sand
111	Silty subsoil
112	Layer of gravelly sand
113	Fill of post pit

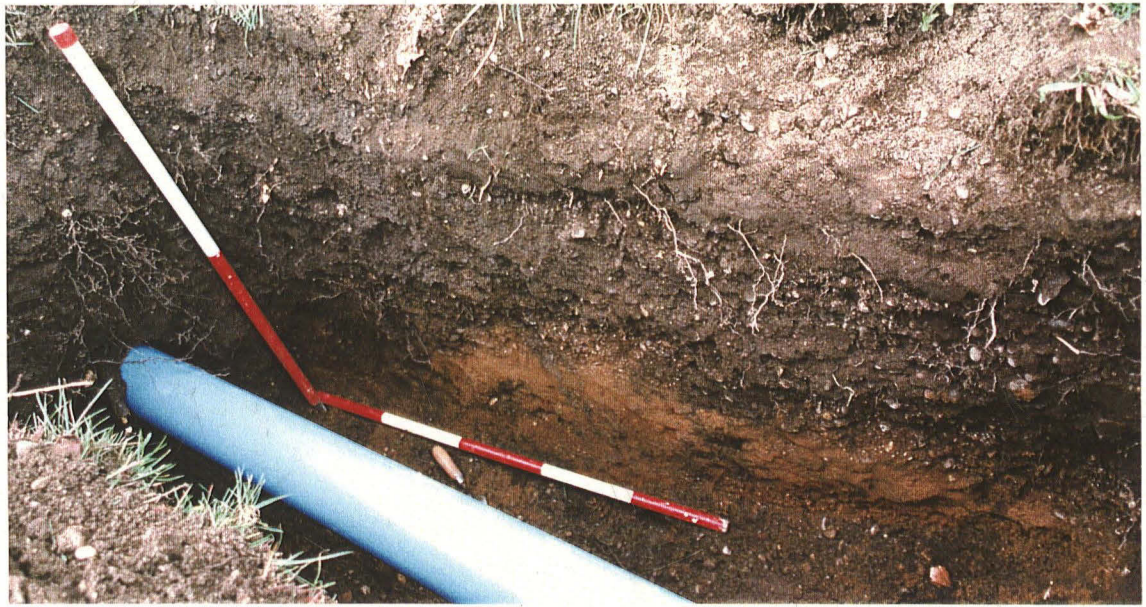
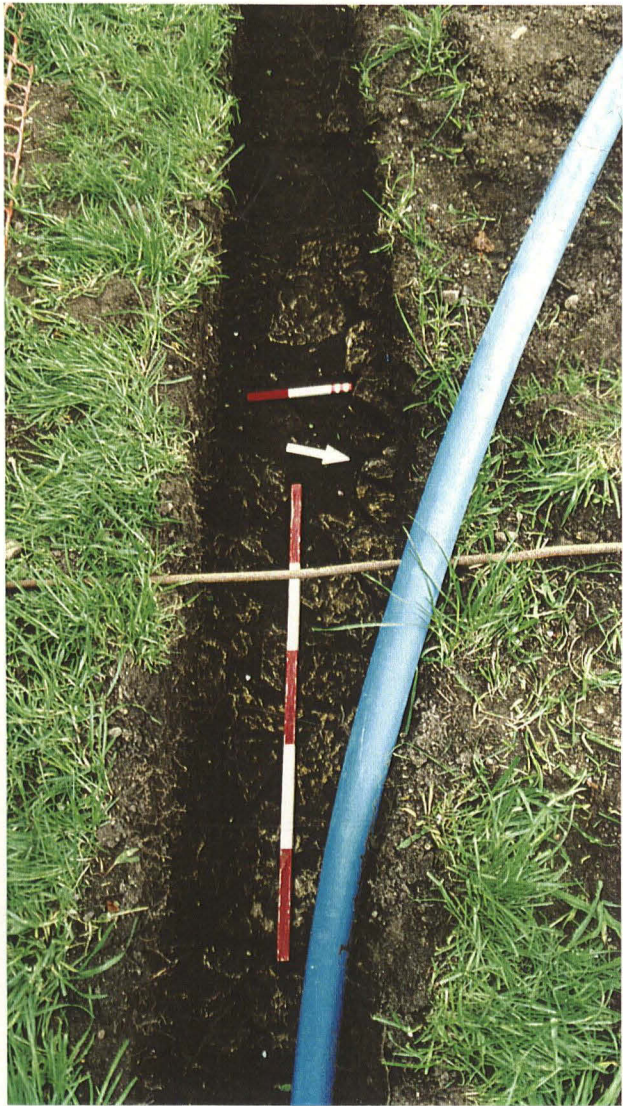
- 114            Cut of post pit
- 115            Fill of gully
- 116            Cut of gully
- 117            Possible limestone wall remains
- 108            Topsoil
- 119            Clay layer
- 120            ?Natural gravel
- 121            Wall remains



P 1. Wall [105] in trench 1 looking north-west.



P 2. Post pit [114] in access pit 2 looking north-west.



P 3. Pit [109] in access pit 2 looking south.

P 4. Wall [121] in trench 2 looking west.