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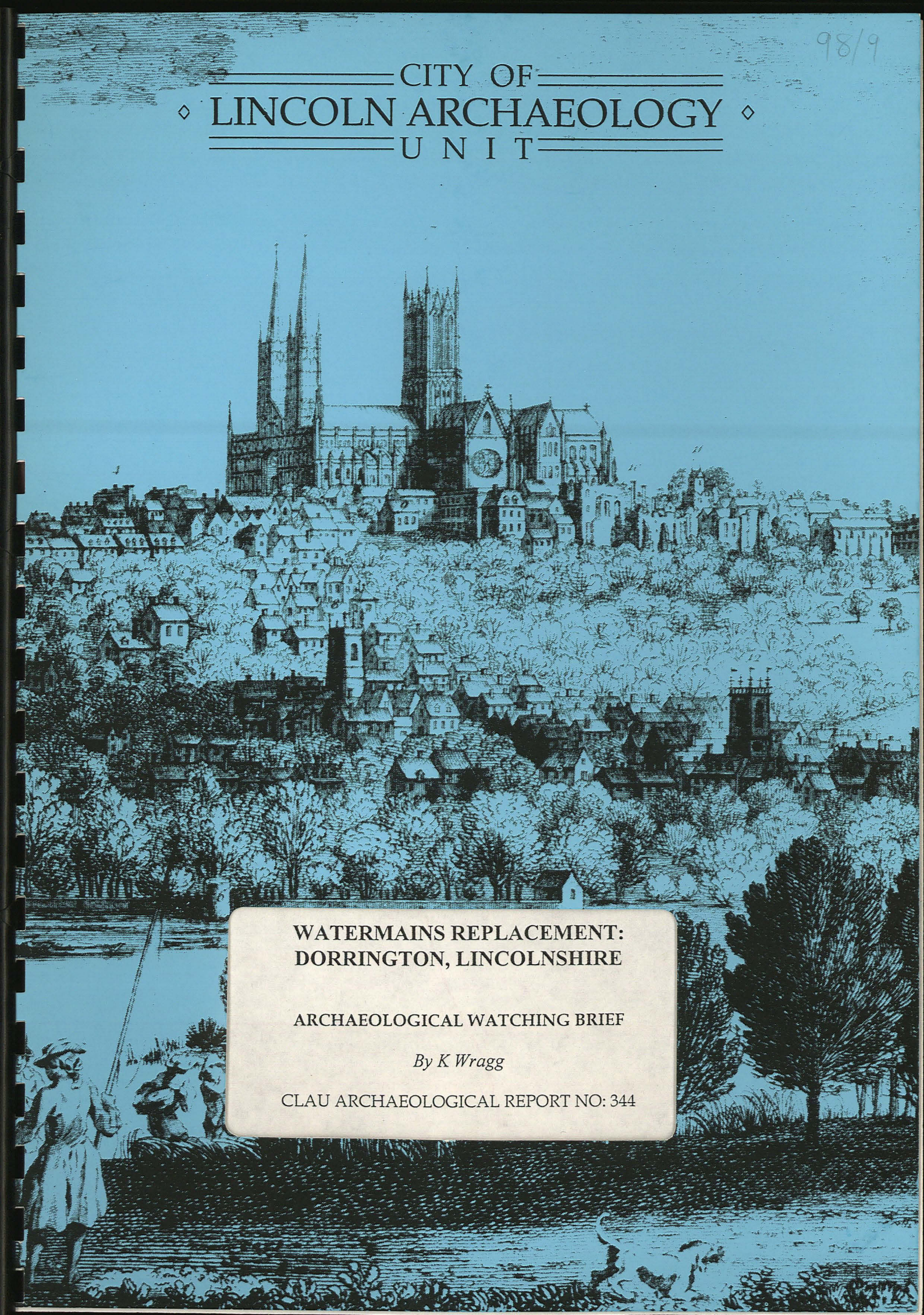
— CITY OF —  
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇  
— UNIT —

**WATERMAINS REPLACEMENT:  
DORRINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*By K Wragg*

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 344





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EV: L12246  
Source: L16942  
L110317

A  
Report to  
*Anglian Water Services Limited*

July 1998

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Prepared by

*The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit  
Charlotte House  
The Lawn  
Union Road  
Lincoln  
LN1 3BL*

*Tel: Lincoln (01522) 545326  
Fax: Lincoln (01522) 548089*

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*Site Code: DWR97  
LCCM Accession No.: 262.97  
NGR: TF 0770/5300*

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*Full ack 10 July*



# WATERMAINS REPLACEMENT: DORRINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE

## *Archaeological Watching Brief*

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# **WATERMAINS REPLACEMENT: DORRINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

roads may have been a contributing factor to this dearth of evidence. It may be the case that any surviving archaeological remains (which are unlikely to be deeply stratified), have in fact been progressively truncated by successive road-building and resurfacing, to the point where nothing now remains.

### ***NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY***

This scheme involved the insertion of both 125mm & 225mm diameter MDPE watermains between the village of Ashby-de-la-Launde (3km to the north-west of Dorrington) and Fen House Farm, Dorrington (2km to the east of the actual village).

In view of the possibility of encountering archaeological remains at various locations along the route, it was recommended (by Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section) that groundworks in these areas should be monitored archaeologically.

As a result, the C.L.A.U. was commissioned to carry out an intermittent watching brief on four areas of the scheme, and observation was carried out on the site between the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 1997 and the 20<sup>th</sup> April 1998.

In the event, however, although the trenching carried out for this scheme covered a wide area, and notwithstanding the potential of the four Areas selected for investigation, the results of this project have proved to be largely negative. The layers revealed during the watching brief can either be associated with the geological deposits for the area, or with the modern road network.

No evidence was revealed in any of the Areas for any continuation of the archaeological occupation recorded by the Lincolnshire SMR. In fact, no evidence was forthcoming for any obvious signs of surviving archaeological deposits, finds or features, at any point during the trenching.

The position of the majority of the trenching within the existing carriageway of the modern



# **WATERMAINS REPLACEMENT: DORRINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

During October 1997, the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was approached by Anglian Water Services Limited (A.W.S.L.), to provide an archaeological watching brief on elements of a proposed new watermain scheme.

The scheme involved the insertion of both 125mm & 225mm diameter MDPE watermains between the village of Ashby-de-la-Launde (3km to the north-west of Dorrington) and Fen House Farm, Dorrington (2km to the east of the actual village) (see Figs.1-5).

The new pipework was to be installed using a combination of mechanical excavator, trenching machine, and 'guided moling' (see 3.0, below). While it was recognised that the first method offered considerable potential for archaeological discovery and recording, it was acknowledged that the remaining options would be unlikely to produce meaningful results.

The trenches themselves were expected to be between 1m and 1.2m deep, and c.350mm-400mm wide. It was planned to carry out the majority of the pipelaying in the carriageway of the road, except for the elements of work to the east of Dorrington village (Area D - see 3.4, below), which were to be laid using 'guided moling' in the grass verge.

In view of the possibility of encountering archaeological remains at various locations along the route (see 2.0, below), it was recommended (by Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section) that

groundworks in these areas should be monitored archaeologically.

As a result, the C.L.A.U. was commissioned to carry out an intermittent watching brief on four areas of the scheme, and observation was carried out on the site between the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 1997 and the 20<sup>th</sup> April 1998.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its members and employees cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the terms of the Unit's Articles of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage, 1991).

### **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

In order to determine any potential archaeological implications of this scheme, the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section was consulted by A.W.S.L. in advance of the commencement of the project.

While the scheme as a whole lies in the general historic landscape of North Kesteven, the Archaeology Section deemed that four specific areas of the route were of sufficiently high potential to warrant an archaeological watching brief. These areas were as follows (together with the county Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) appraisal for each area):

#### **Area A - Main Street, Ashby-de-la-Launde**

'Here the route passes close to the site of a Roman villa and possible Roman road (SMR 60353).'

#### **Area B - Sleaford Road, Dorrington (B1188)**

'Prehistoric flint implements have been found at the side of the road in this area. Further along the route passes the church of Saint James & John which is of late 12<sup>th</sup>/early 13<sup>th</sup> century date. This church served a medieval



settlement in this area and medieval pottery has been found in the adjacent field.'

Area C - Main Street, Dorrington

'This area has produced a Roman period pottery kiln and a large area of prehistoric activity has also been identified from artefact scatters.'

Area D - Fen Road, Dorrington

'This area has produced evidence of Roman period activity in the form of pottery scatters.'

### 3.0 RESULTS

*In order to maintain continuity between the original assessment of the archaeological potential of the route (carried out by LCC Archaeology Section, see above), and the later watching brief, the same area codes have been used below. This sequence did not, however, actually reflect the order in which the work was undertaken.*

#### 3.1 Area A - Main Street, Ashby-de-la-Launde (see Figs.2 & 6)

This Area was the first to begin trenching, and comprised approximately 750m of trench (for 225mm diameter pipes) along Main Street, Ashby-de-la-Launde. The trench itself ran from the water tower (close to the centre of the village) to the parish boundary (approximately 250m to the east of the village limits).

The pipelaying along this part of the route was originally to be carried out using 'guided moling'. In the event, however, problems were encountered in the western part of the village (in the areas close to the water tower) where it was found that the passage of the 'mole' was causing the overlying tarmac road surface to break-up. As a result, the trenching within the village limits was carried out using a mechanical excavator, while that to the east of the village was completed using a trenching machine.

The trenches in all cases measured c.350mm-400mm wide and were excavated to a depth of c.1m. The trenching within the village was located along the northern edge of the existing carriageway, crossing to the south side of the road adjacent to the village limit.

Notwithstanding the substantial length of trench involved in this Area, a total of only six different deposits was recorded during the trenchside observations. The stratigraphic sequence was as follows:

The earliest deposit recorded was [206], a moderately compacted mid orange sand and gravel. This layer was c.450mm thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.), and would appear to be the prevailing natural (i.e., geological) deposit for this area.



Overlying [206], in several intermittent positions along the route, was a very thin (c.50mm) layer of clay, [205]. This comprised a moderate-well compacted mid grey-brown clay containing no obvious inclusions.

[205] was itself then sealed beneath [204], a 100mm thick layer of moderate-well compacted, mid-light brown sandy lime mortar. [204] contained infrequent, very small, pieces of brick/tile, frequent small limestone pieces/flecks, and occasional small pieces of coal/charcoal. When first revealed, it was possible that this deposit may have been associated with the Roman road expected to be present in this Area. As trenching continued, however, it quickly became apparent that [204] was present throughout the entirety of the Area A, thereby discounting any possibility of an association with the Roman road (if the road had been revealed, it would have been expected to cross perpendicular to the modern Main Street). It therefore appears much more likely that [204] is actually part of the bedding/foundation of an earlier version of the modern road.

Above [204], a 100mm-200mm thick mixed mid-grey sand, silt and gravel deposit was present, [203]. This layer contained stones up to 50mm in diameter, together with occasional small pieces of brick/tile (or fired clay), and again appeared to be associated with the present road alignment.

[203] was then sealed, firstly by [202], a loose-moderately compacted tar and gravel bedding layer, and finally by [201], a 100mm thick layer of tarmac. The latter deposit formed the existing road surface throughout Area A.

### 3.2 Area B - Sleaford Road, Dorrington (B1188) (see Figs.3 & 8)

This section of the trenching was actually the third area to be undertaken, and followed the line of the B1188. The area of archaeological interest extended from a point c.200m north of the parish church, down a falling incline to the junction with Main Street, a distance of approximately 600m.

As with the majority of Area A above, the trenching was carried out using a mechanical excavator, with the trench located in the

eastern side of the carriageway. The trench again measured c.350mm-400mm wide with a depth of between 1m-1.2m. The pipework was again of 225mm diameter.

The earliest deposit revealed in Area B was recorded at its southern end (and also during casual observation of the trenching to the north of Area B), and comprised a moderate-well compacted mid-dark orange-brown sand. This layer, [211], was up to 800mm thick, and contained occasional clay flecks and gravel pieces, and represents the top of the natural strata (equating to layers [206] in Area A, and [220] in Area C).

To the north of Area B (which was excavated at least in part in the grass verge), [211] was overlain by [210], a mid-dark brown slightly sandy topsoil, containing occasional small limestone and gravel inclusions, and a covering of rough turf.

In the main part of the trench, [211] was sealed beneath [217], a moderate-well compacted mid-brown clay layer containing no obvious inclusions. This layer was at least 600mm thick to L.O.E., and was more in evidence towards the northern end of Area B (i.e., at the top of the hill), gradually merging with [211] as the height reduced.

Adjacent to the church, [217] was overlain with [216], which was very similar in appearance, except for a higher proportion of sand and small limestone inclusions.

[216] was up to 300mm thick, and was sealed beneath a series of four layers, all appearing to relate to the existing B1188, or its predecessors.

The first of these layers was [215], a 50mm-100mm thick layer of gravel and limestone hardcore, which was overlain by [214], a series of thin tarmac/bitumen lenses, probably part of an earlier carriageway.

[214] was then sealed by [213], the limestone hardcore bedding, and [212] the existing tarmac surface, of the present B1188.



### **3.3 Area C - Main Street, Dorrington (see Figs.4 & 9)**

Area C encompassed the trenching within the western part of Dorrington village itself, from the junction with the B1188 (Area B, above) to the former Methodist Church, c.400m to the east. This trench was the final area to commence trenching.

The trenching in this Area was located along the northern carriageway of the road, and was again carried out using a mechanical excavator. The trench was slightly wider than in previous Areas, measuring c.450mm wide, but again with a depth of between 1m-1.2m, and a pipe diameter of 225mm.

The most substantial deposit recorded along this section of the trench comprised [220], a moderately compacted mid yellow/orange-brown sandy silt layer. This layer bore definite similarities to the previously mentioned [206] (Area A), and [211] (Area B), and would appear to represent the upper boundary of the geological strata. [220] was at least 700mm thick to L.O.E., with its upper surface lying at approximately 15.75m O.D.

Towards the western end of Area C, [220] was cut by a possible feature, [222], which comprised a shallow (c.300mm) cut, which appeared to be oriented N-S, and was at least 15m wide. [222] was filled by [221], a moderately compacted mid-dark grey sandy silt, which contained no obvious inclusions.

This possible feature was only revealed at the junction of Main Street and the B1188, appearing to run parallel to the latter. Its eastern side was in alignment with the eastern edge of the lay-by/feeder lane adjacent to the public house, the 'Musicians Arms'. In the absence of any positive dating evidence to the contrary, this feature would appear to be associated with the construction of the modern road junction.

The fill of the above feature lay immediately beneath the limestone bedding ([219]), and the tarmac surface, [218], of the present road.

### **3.4 Area D - Fen Road, Dorrington (see Figs.5 & 7)**

Area D was centred on Fen House Farm, approximately 2km to the east of Dorrington village, and was the second area to begin. The Area itself measured approximately 560m, running from Tower Farm eastwards to Dorrington Dike. The whole of the pipelaying along this section was carried out by 'guided moling', with the result that direct observation of the buried strata was only possible in the isolated 'insertion holes' located at either end of a section of pipe.

Only a single 'insertion hole' was located within the area of potential archaeological interest, situated adjacent to the eastern boundary of Tower Farm (i.e., at the extreme western end of Area D). This trench lay in the grass verge to the north of the road, and measured 2m (E-W) x 1m (N-S), and was excavated to a depth of 1m. Other than observation of this small trench, no further recording was possible along the remainder of Area D.

The stratigraphic sequence at this location comprised a total of three different deposits, as follows:

The earliest deposit recorded comprised a moderate-well compacted, mid-brown slightly sandy clay [209]. This was at least 600mm-700mm thick to L.O.E., and contained only very occasional small pieces of flint and gravel.

[209] was overlain by [208], a 100mm thick moderately compacted mid-brown sandy, slightly clayey, silt containing no obvious inclusions.

The final deposit recorded was the topsoil layer present throughout the whole of Area D. This layer, [207], comprised a moderately compacted mid-dark brown sandy silt, containing only very occasional small pieces of flint/stone and a coarse turf at its upper boundary.



#### **4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Although the trenching carried out for this scheme covered a wide area, and notwithstanding the potential of the four Areas selected for investigation, the results of this project have proved to be largely negative. The layers revealed during the watching brief can either be associated with the geological deposits for the area, or with the modern road network.

No evidence was revealed in any of the Areas for any continuation of the archaeological occupation recorded by the Lincolnshire SMR. In fact, no evidence was forthcoming for any obvious signs of surviving archaeological deposits, finds or features, at any point during the trenching.

The position of the majority of the trenching within the existing carriageway of the modern roads may have been a contributing factor to this dearth of evidence. It may be the case that any surviving archaeological remains (which would probably not be deeply stratified), have in fact been progressively truncated by successive road-building and resurfacing, to the point where nothing now remains.

#### **5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Anglian Water Services Limited, Networks, Saltersford WTW, Spitalgate level, Saltersford, Lincs., NG31 7UL, for their funding and support during this project; Mr D.Waterfield, (A.W.S.L. Project Engineer); Messrs P.Holdich & P.Renshaw (A.W.S.L. Project Supervisors); and all on-site staff of ALH Co. Total Pipe Technology (main trenching contractors).

#### **6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, *Dorrington Watermain Replacement: SMR Appraisal*, 11<sup>th</sup> September 1997

Pevsner, N, Harris, J & Antram, N (eds) 1989 *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England*, Penguin Books, London

Whitwell, J B 1992 *Roman Lincolnshire - Revised Edition*, History of Lincolnshire 2, Lincolnshire Local Hist Soc, Lincoln

#### **7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS**

##### **7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS**

CLAU CODE: DWR97

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: n/a

FIELD OFFICER: K.Wragg

NGR: TF 7700/5300

CIVIL PARISH: Dorrington

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 19/11/97 -  
20/04/98

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Anglian Water Services Limited, Networks, Saltersford WTW, Spitalgate level, Saltersford, Lincs., NG31 7UL.

##### **7.2 ARCHIVE DETAILS**

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL.

FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln.

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 262.97

ACCESSION DATE:



## **APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION**

The archive consists of:

No.	Description
1	Site diary
1	Report
23	Context records
9	Scale drawings
1 set	Photographic records - Colour slides
1	Stratigraphic matrix

The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by :

*The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit,  
Charlotte House,  
The Lawn,  
Union Road,  
Lincoln,  
Lincolnshire,  
LN1 3BL.*

It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 262.97, will be undertaken following completion of this project.





KEY



Location of Site

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: DWR97 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

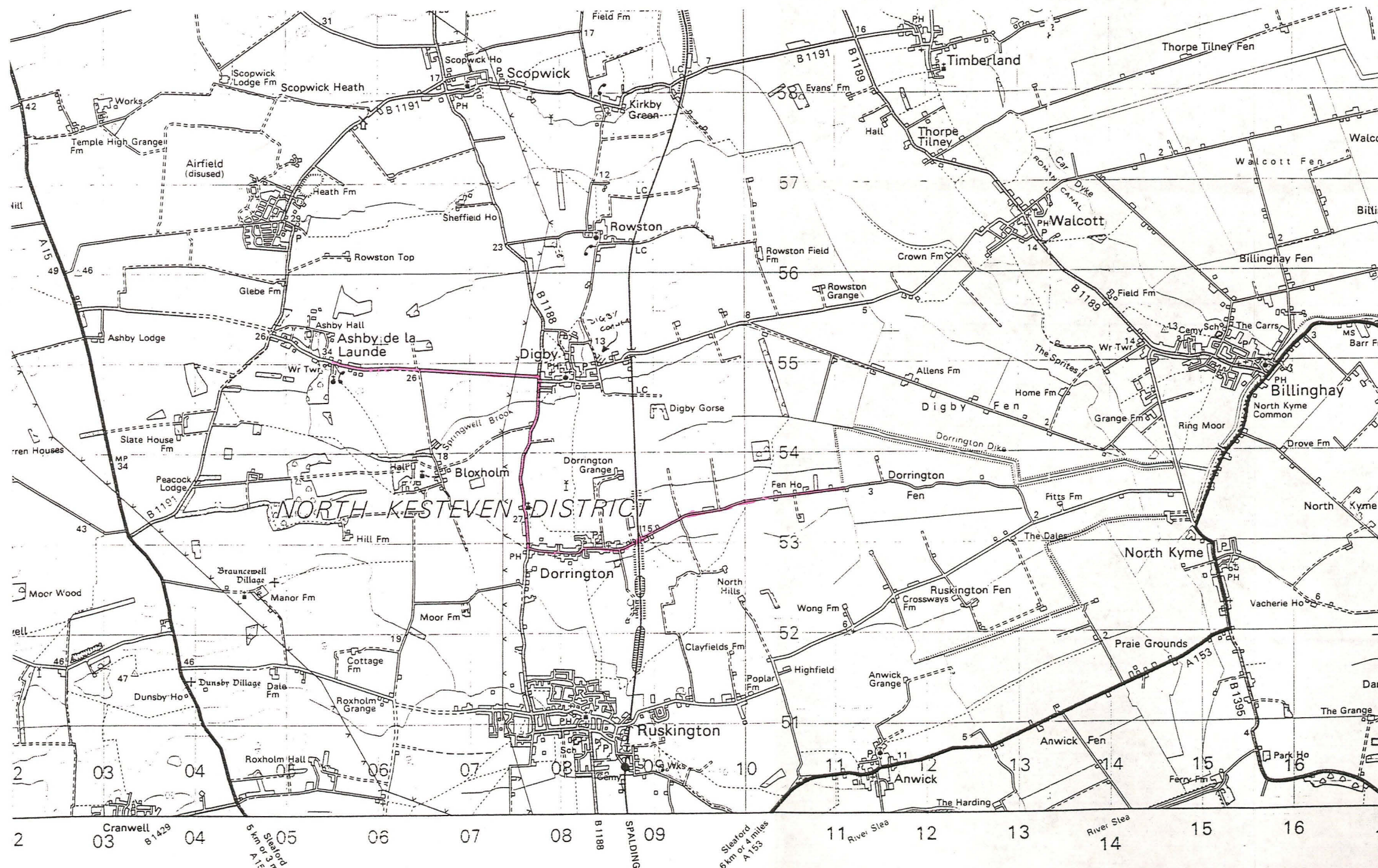
CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.

DESCRIPTION:  
Site Location Plan

SCALE: 1:50 000 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: CHECKED: DATE:

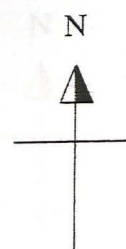
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Fig.1





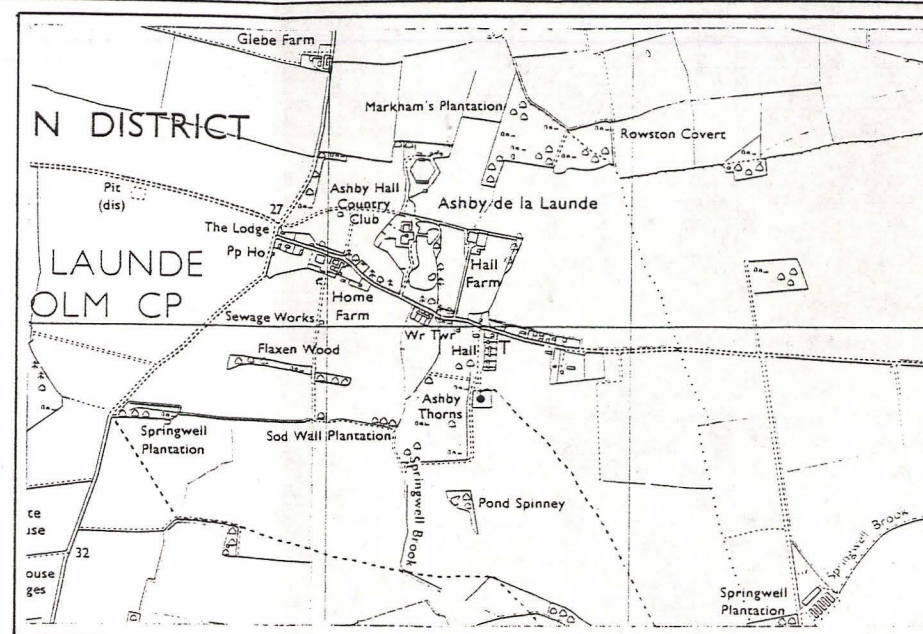
KEY



Route of Pipeline



Area of Specific Archaeological Interest



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

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CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.

DESCRIPTION: Plan of Pipeline Route - Area A

SCALE: 1:2500

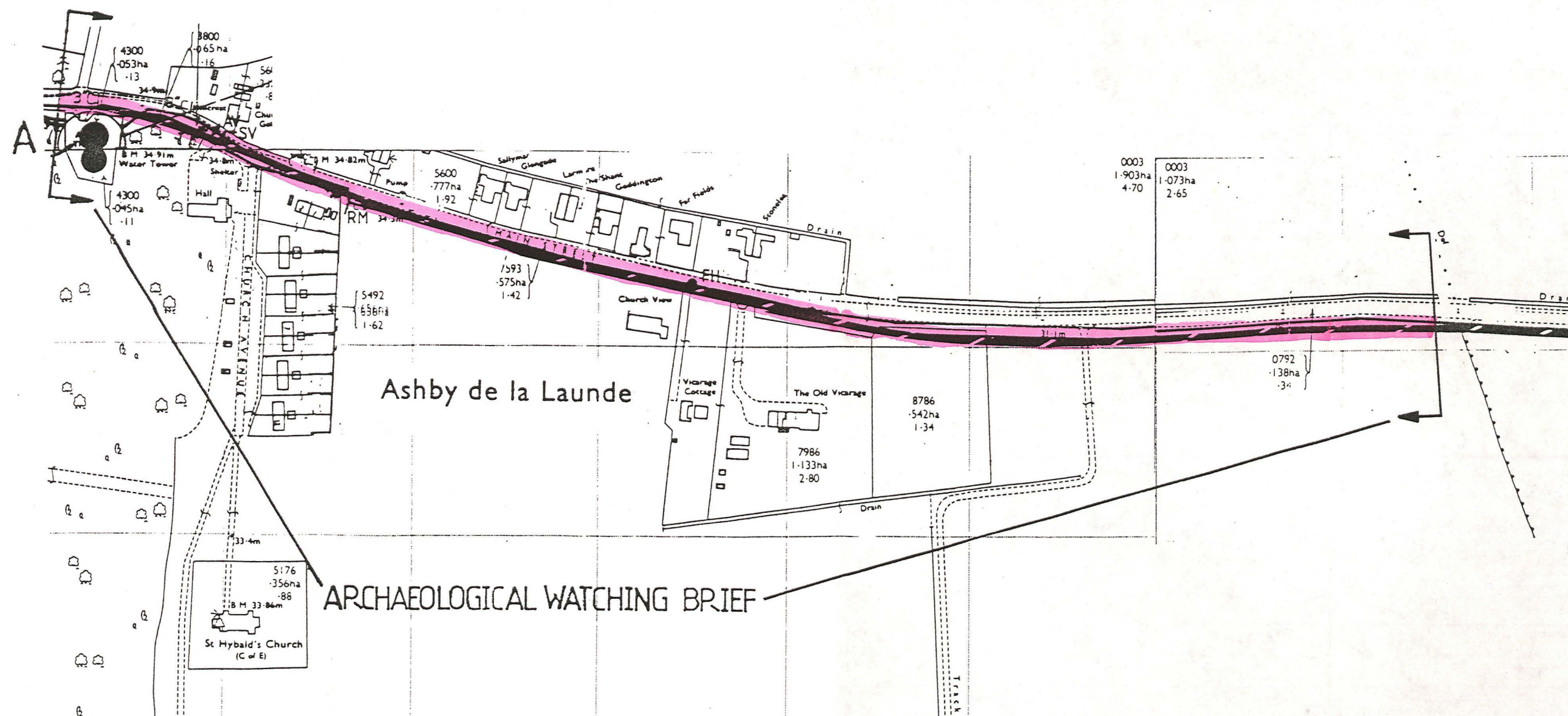
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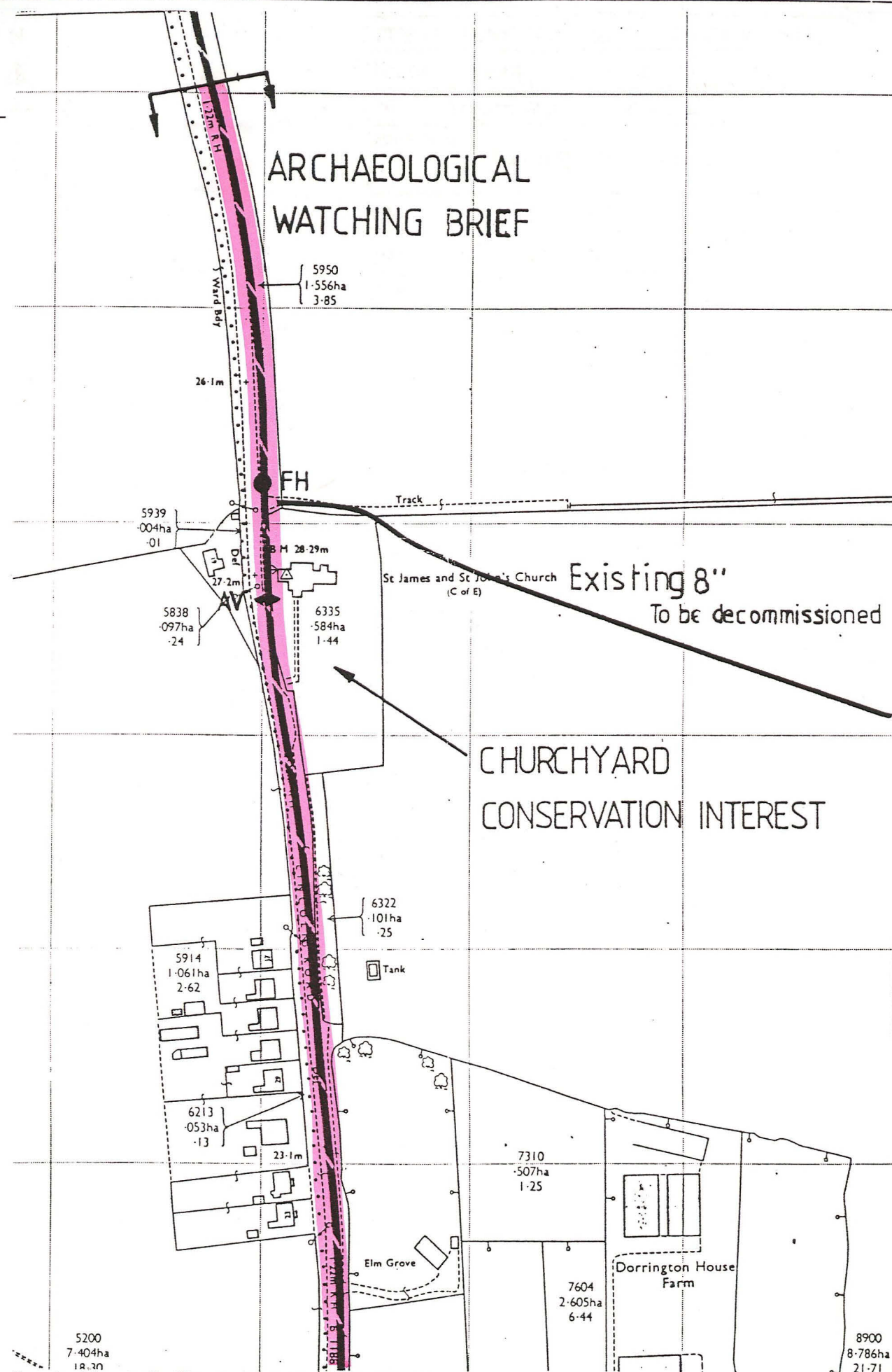
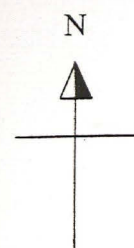
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DATE:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 262.97







# KEY

- Route of Pipeline
- Area of Specific Archaeological Interest

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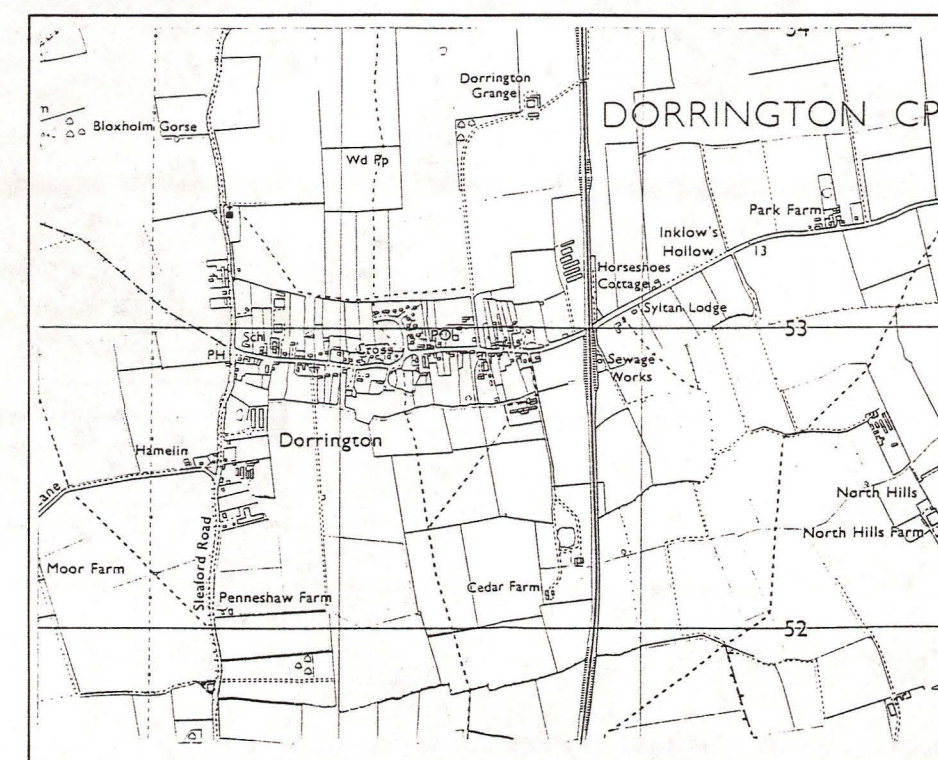
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DESCRIPTION: Plan of Pipeline Route - Area B

SCALE: 1:2500 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: CHECKED: DATE:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 262.97





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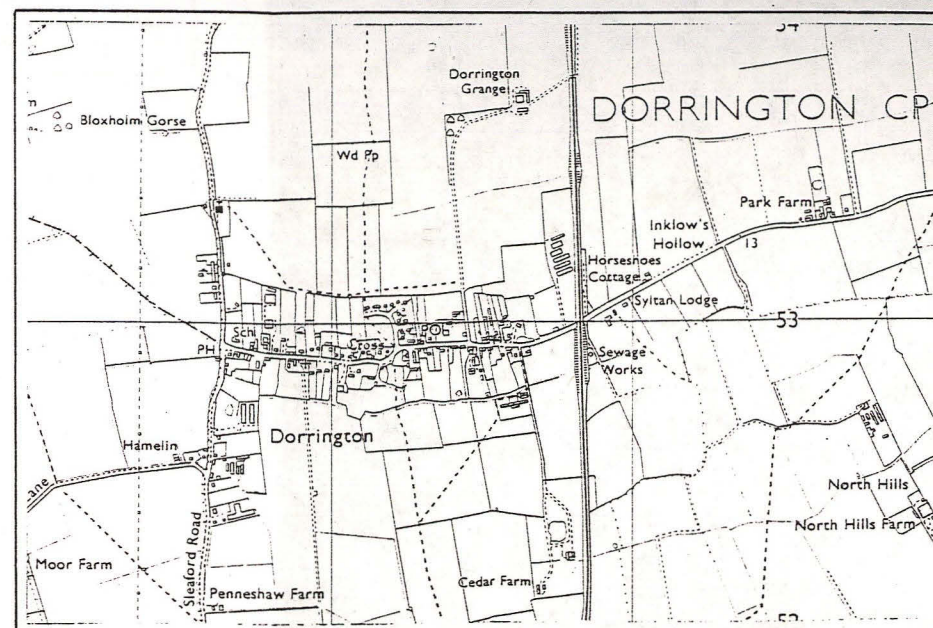
Fig.3





KEY

-  Route of Pipeline
-  Area of Specific Archaeological Interest



CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: DWR97 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

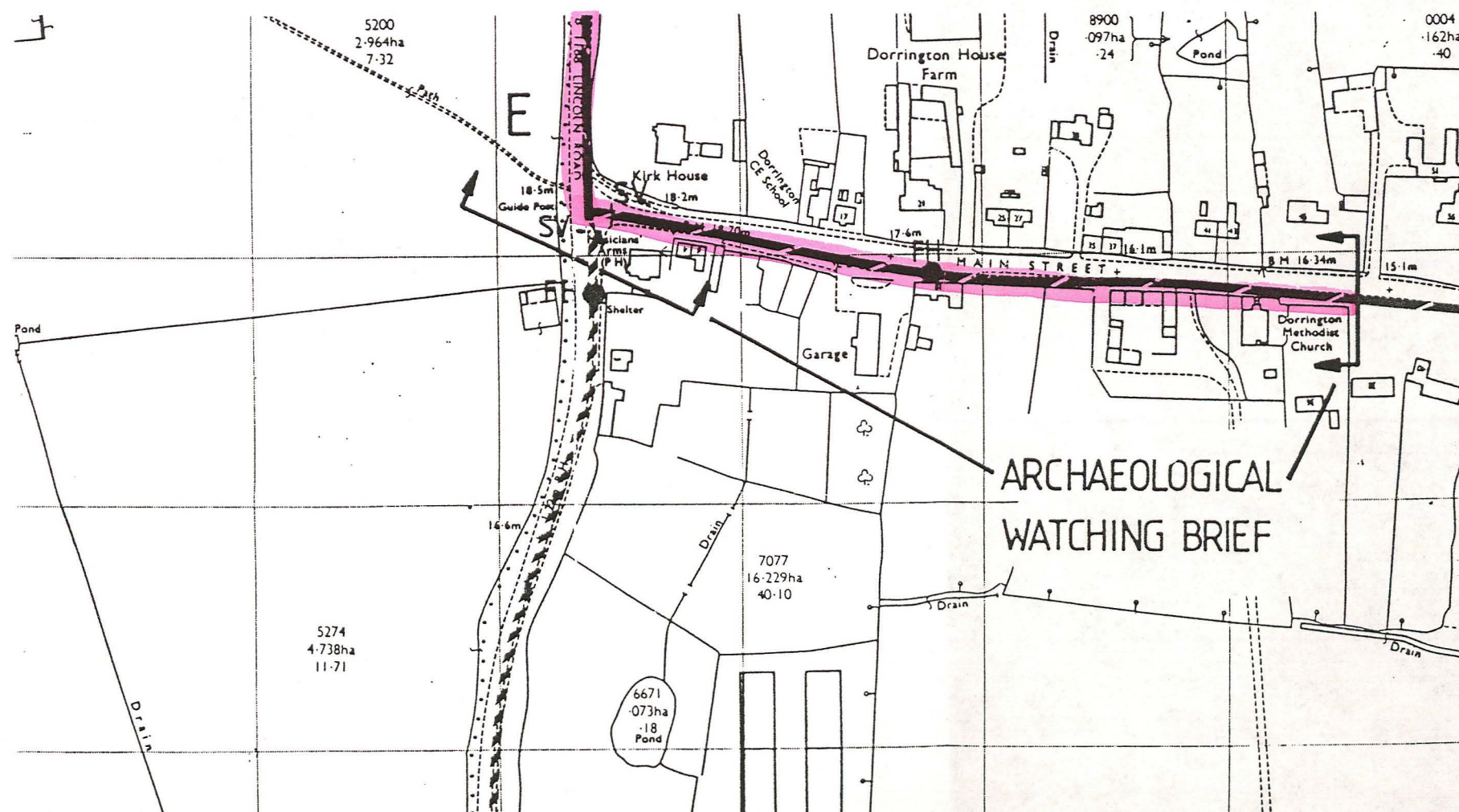
CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.

DESCRIPTION: Plan of Pipeline Route - Area C

SCALE: 1:2500 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: CHECKED: DATE:

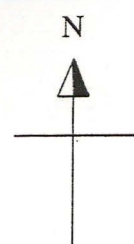
MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 262.97



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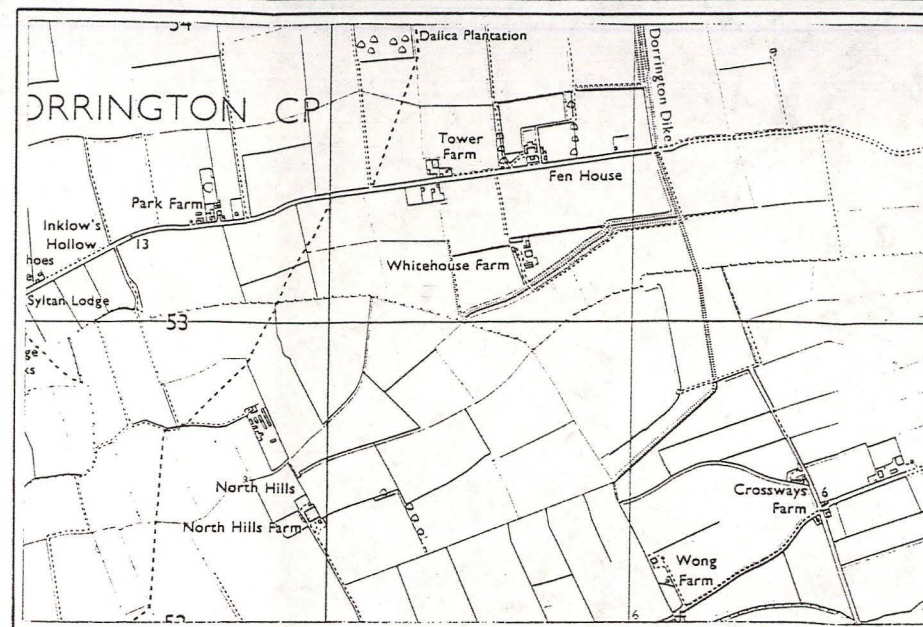
Fig.4





# KEY

- Route of Pipeline
- Area of Specific Archaeological Interest



## CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

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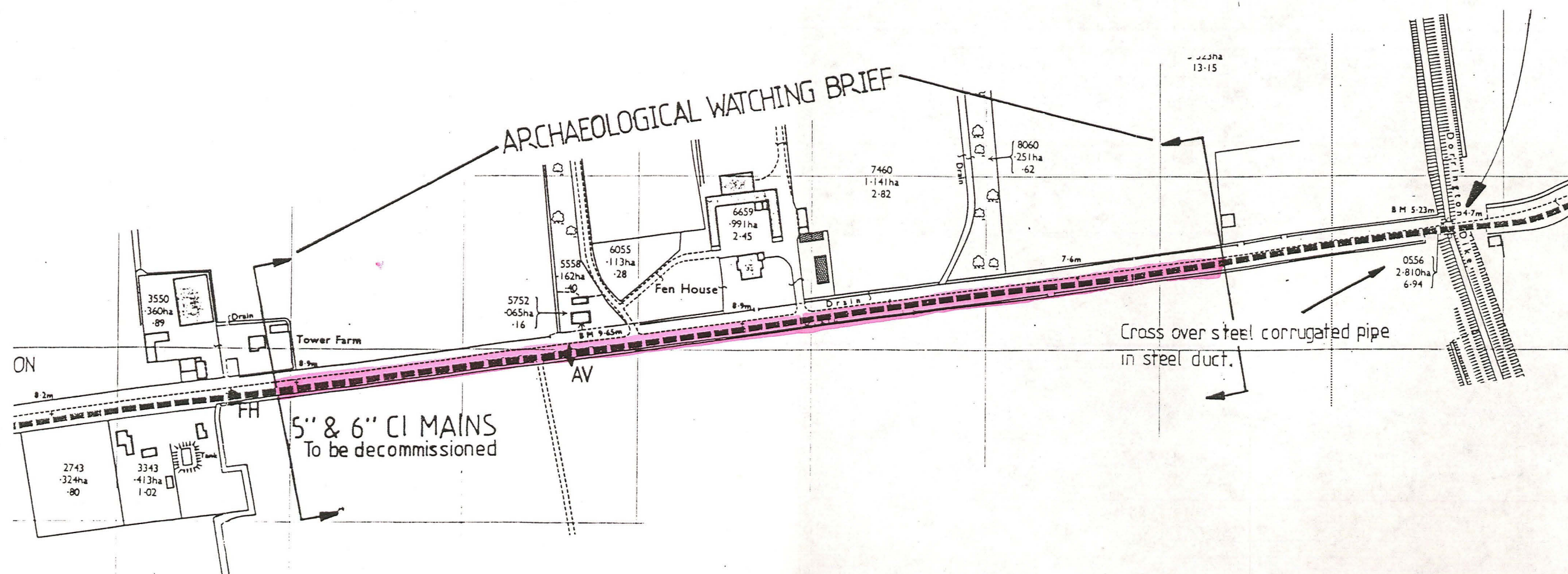
CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.

DESCRIPTION: Plan of Pipeline Route - Area D

SCALE: 1:2500 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: CHECKED: DATE:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 262.97





# KEY



Sand



Clay



Limestone



Mortar

## CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: DWR97 PLANE/LEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.

DESCRIPTION: South-Facing Section (1) - Area A

SCALE: 1:10

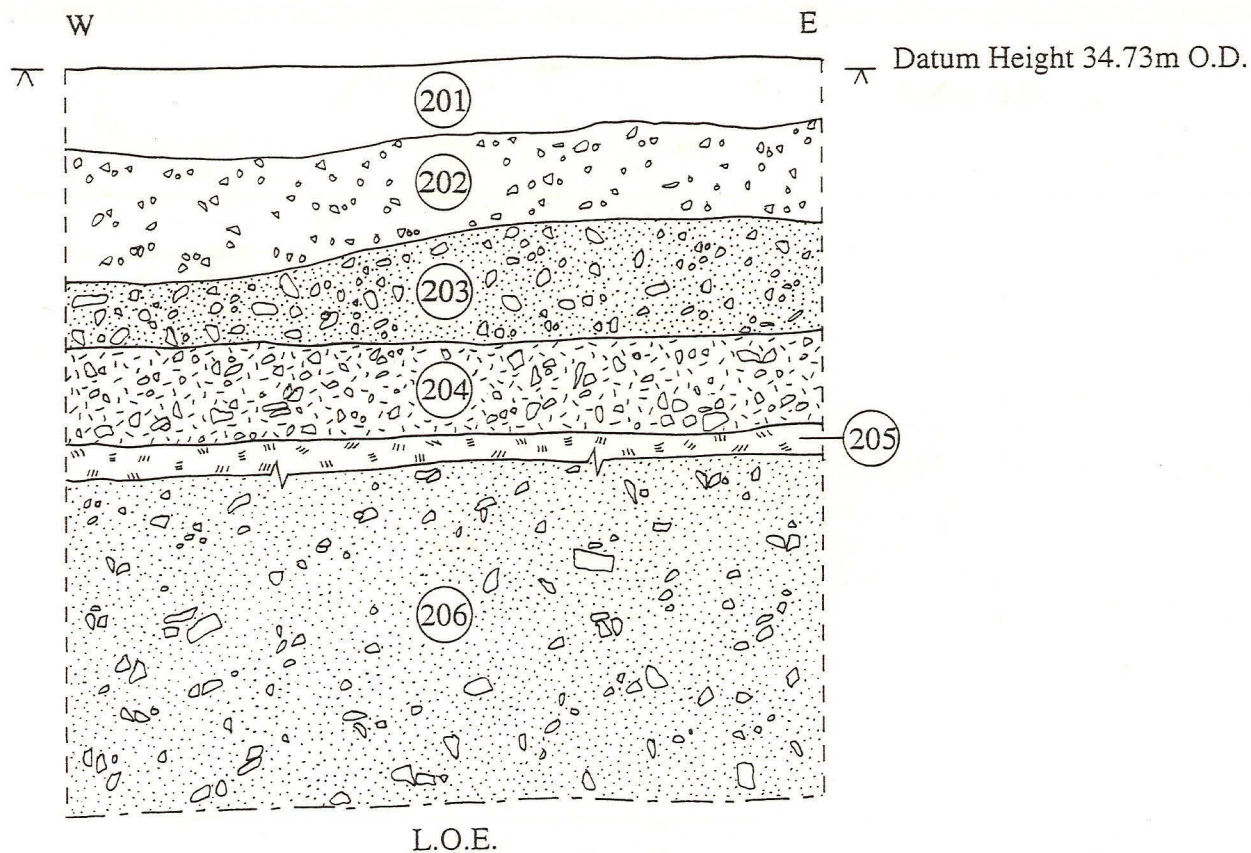
ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: K.W.

CHECKED:

DATE: 13/01/98

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 262.97



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0.5m


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
Fig.6



# KEY

 Sand

 Clay

 Limestone

## CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: DWR97 PLANELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.

DESCRIPTION: South-Facing Section ② - Area D

SCALE: 1:10

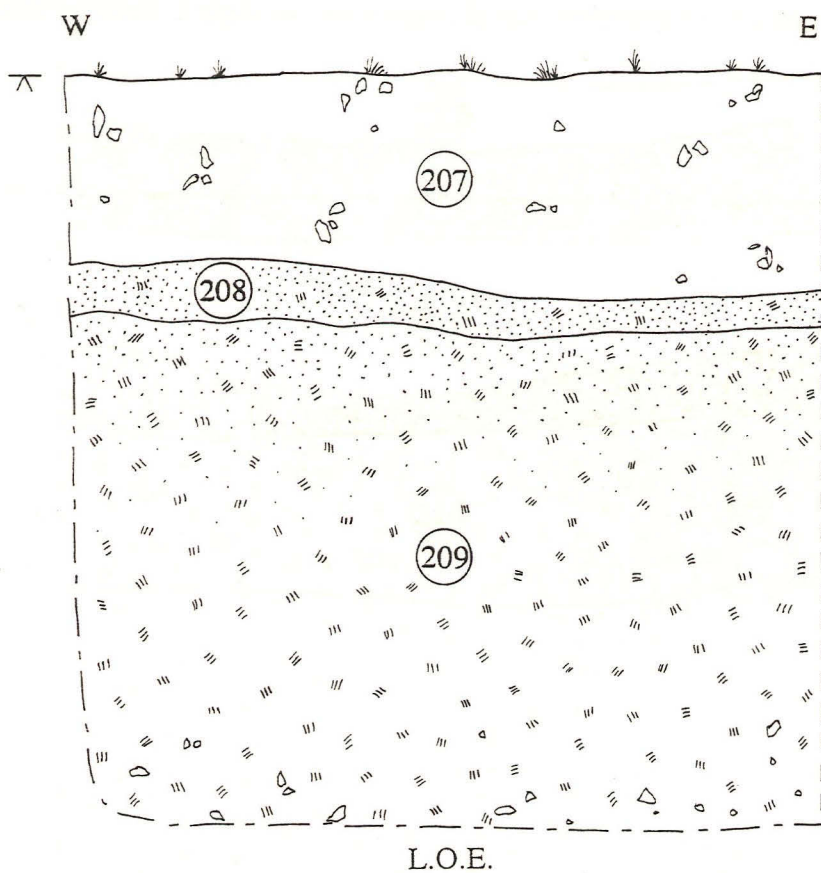
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CHECKED:

DATE: 26/01/98

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 262.97



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
0.5m


1m


Fig.7



# KEY

 Sand

 Clay

 Limestone

## CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: DWR97 PLANELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.

DESCRIPTION: East-Facing Section ③ - Area B

SCALE: 1:10

ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: K.W.

CHECKED:

DATE: 06/03/98

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 262.97

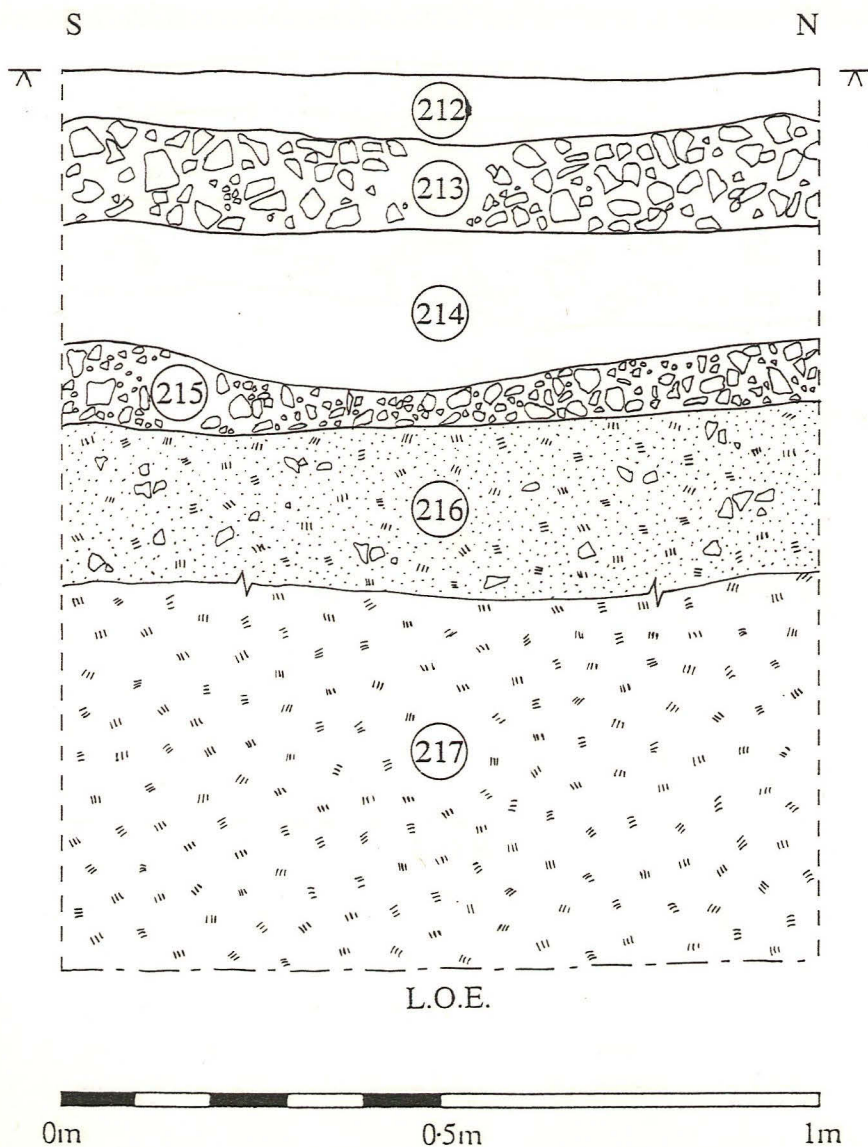



Fig.8



KEY

 Limestone

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: DWR97 PLANELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd.

DESCRIPTION: North-Facing Section (4) - Area C

SCALE: 1:10

ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: K.W.

CHECKED:

DATE: 16/03/98

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 262.97

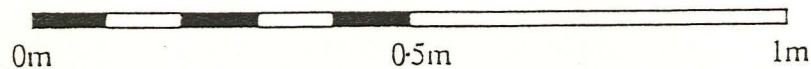
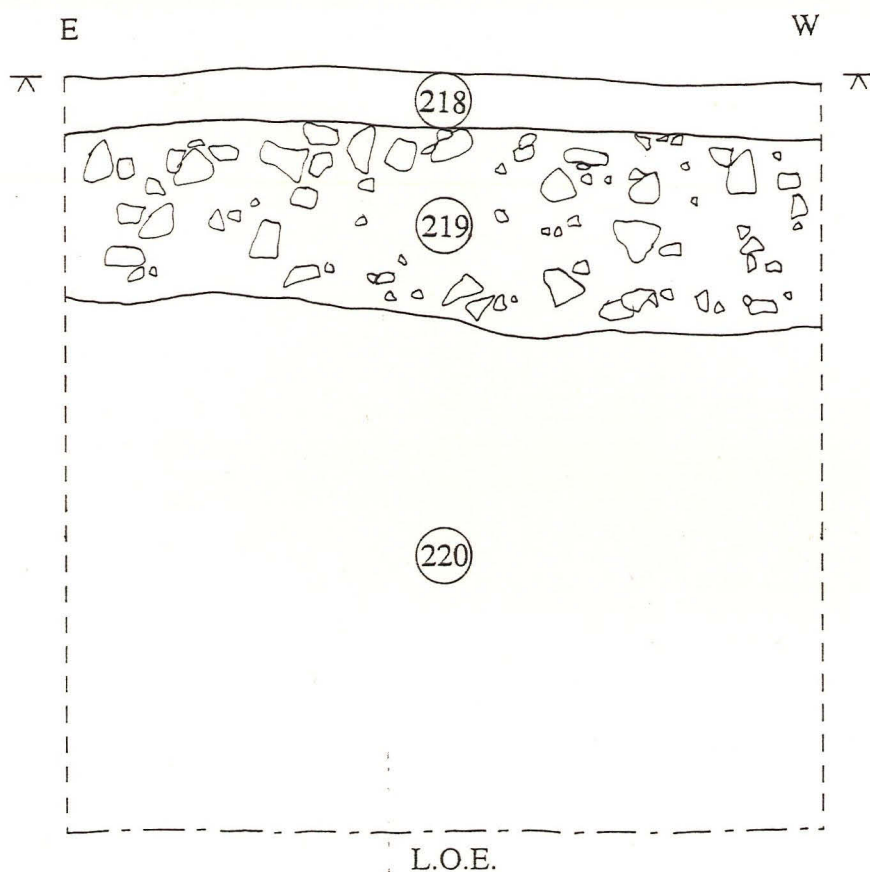


Fig.9