ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

WATERLOO FARM BOOSTER STATION

EAST WITTON

NORTH YORKSHIRE

N.G.R. 41447 48600

COUNTY / PARISH NO. 1089

FOR

NORTHERN UTILITY SERVICES LTD.

NORTHERN ELECTRIC

MARCH 1999

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SEPTEMBER- OCTOBER 1997

INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground disturbance associated with the installation of a new underground electricity cable in the village of East Witton. These improvements were undertaken by Northern Utility Services Ltd. a Northern Electric Company.

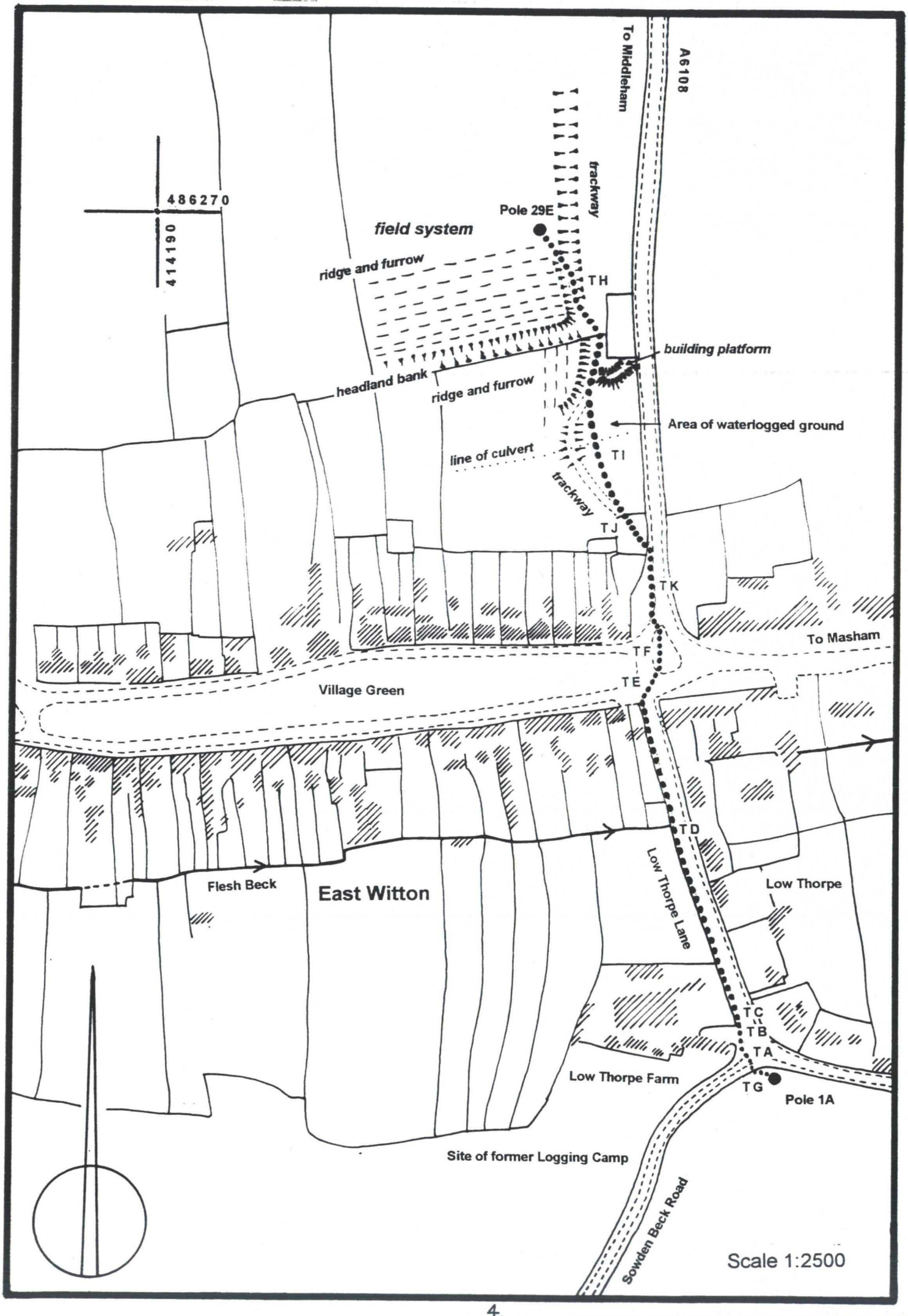
As the machine cut trench was excavated through a landscape that is rich in archaeology, remains that are largely associated with the medieval settlement and surrounding field systems, it was recommended by the Archaeological Conservation Assistant at the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained throughout the works so as to recover and record any archaeological remains and where at all possible minimise the impact these works may have on the archaeology.

LOCATION AND STATUS

The village of East Witton is situated on the lower slopes of Witton Fell in lower Wensleydale. The village occupies an area of gently undulating ground with a slightly elevated aspect, at 133 metres AOD, overlooking the flood plain of the River Ure. East Witton is the principal settlement within the, rural, parish of East Witton Town.

The existing settlement consists of a string of detached and semi detached properties that are situated on the north and south sides of a linear village green. These dwellings occupy the street frontage of property parcels that extend to the rear of each building, these gardens and yard areas are of a similar size and generally rectangular in planform. Access to these properties is via a loop road that encircles the green and leads onto Braithwaite Lane to the west and the A6108 to the east. There are two additional areas of settlement, situated to the east and south of the village green, the former consists of a small number of detached properties that extend as far east as St.John's Church, the latter being a string of detached properties that extend to the area known as Low Thorpe.

FIGURE 1 **GENERAL SITE LOCATION PLAN**



The 500 m linear tract that is the study area is situated on a northern alignment within the eastern extent of the village, running from Low Thorpe Farm at N.G.R. 41453 48577 to East Witton Pumps at N.G.R. 41440 48622. The machine cut trench was excavated within the carriageway, verge, village green and towards it's northern extent through three fields of unimproved pasture.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Historical records note that during the 11th century the settlement is referred to as *Witun*, by the 12th century it had assumed the name Estwyton.

Little is known of the Anglo Scandinavian settlement at East Witton, it is understood that prior to 1066 Glunier held a manor at East Witton, by the Domesday Book of 1086 the holding was held as a demense of Count Alan. During the mid 11th century the holding had been passed to Earl Conan who gave the manor at East Witton in fee to one of his knights Reginald Boterel. Thereafter the manor passed into a number of hands until the early 13th century when King John gave the manor at first to his bailiff Robert Tateshall, Lord of West Witton and later to his bowman Brito. In 1227 Henry III granted the lands at East Witton to Nicholas de Nayreford. In December of that same year Peter Boterel (brother of Brito) made peace with Henry III and gained the licence to recover his brothers lands. In order to raise the necessary capital to achieve this Peter Boterel initially leased and later sold the manor to Jervaulx Abbey.

The Cistercian religious house at Jervaulx was transplanted from Fors, Wensleydale via Byland to it's present situation at N.G.R. 41715 48575 where it was established in 1156. Earl Conan gave a large tract of his demense to the Cistercian monks upon which they constructed the abbey.

The secular influences dictating the growth and development of the village throughout the 13th century would appear to have been overshadowed by the influence of Jervaulx Abbey. The Abbot of Jervaulx held the entire manor of East Witton from 1287 to the Dissolution in 1537.

During the late 13th century and early 14th century the community at East Witton continued to prosper, by 1307 the village had acquired a market charter.

In 1377 the Tax Lists indicate that there were 220 tax payers within the township.

In 1537 two courts were being held annually for the lordship, and it is recorded that there were 48 tenants and 19 cottages.

Cartographic Evidence

Seventeenth Century:

The earliest, surviving, map depicting the township dates to 1627, this coloured map was surveyed by W.Senior 'Professor of Arithmetique, Geometrie, Astronmomie, Navigation and Dialling'. The layout and form of the village is similar to the existing village topography, with an almost unbroken chain of development on three sides of the village green. A string of detached properties are depicted on the east side of unnamed lane, with intermittent development to the west of same in the vicinity of Low Thorpe Farm. The village green supports up to five detached properties, two of which are situated within small rectangular enclosures. No church is depicted on the site of St.John's Church.

The transport network consists of a principal eastern axis passing through the village on the line of the existing thoroughfares. To the south the line of the unnamed lane (Low Thorpe Lane) is unchanged. To the north of the village the road advances north for a short distance before, diverging from the line of the existing highway, on a north west alignment converging with two other minor tracks that service the in-field system.

The field system surrounding the village consists of an intense pattern of strip fields, these narrow linear units are fronted by the properties round the village green and are aligned north. The strip fields are contained within the curtilage of two large D shaped enclosures that are situated to the north and south of the developed area. To the north the boundary of these enclosures mirrors the line of the thoroughfare. To the south this field configuration is bisected by the course of Flesh Beck. Strip fields extend to the east of those properties fronting the unnamed lane to the south.

Eighteenth Century:

In 1790's the settlement was mapped three times, these sources would indicate that the developed area was largely unaltered from the early 17th century, with the exception that settled area along the unnamed lane to the south of the village has contracted to intermittent development. No church is depicted on the site of St.John's Church.

The transport network is unchanged. The enhanced definition on these maps indicates that the thoroughfare leading to the north of the village forks on the boundary of the in-field system with a fork leading north to Cover Bridge and a fork leading north west to Middleham via an unnamed crossing of the River Cover.

The field system surrounding the developed area is largely unchanged from the 17th century, however, to the north west of the settlement a number of the narrow strip fields have been amalgamated into three larger units. Similarly those strip fields to the east of the unnamed lane to the south of the village have been amalgamated into a single large field.

Nineteenth & Twentieth Century:

In 1809 the village of East Witton was rebuilt by The Earl of Aylesbury, this major programme of re-development largely respected the layout of the former settlement. The pattern of this development has been fossilised to the present day, this is largely due to the fact that modern development within the village has been limited. The Church of St.John was constructed during this early 19th century programme of re-development.

The transport network during this period remains largely unchanged with the exception that the road exiting the village to the north has been re-routed on a more direct route to Cover Bridge, the former road network to the west falling redundant.

The configuration of fields surrounding the village were modified. These changes are most clearly recognisable in the shortening of the narrow strip fields to the rear of those properties fronting the village green to form small rear gardens and yards. Beyond the gardens many of the strips were amalgamated to form larger rectangular units.

Oral Evidence

Following recent discussions with the present occupiers of Low Thorpe Farm, it is understood that that in the field to the immediate south west of the farm, centred on N.G.R. 41440 48588 a Logging Camp was constructed in the 1920/30's. The camp consisted of a complex of Nissan Huts and brick built buildings that was serviced by a network of roads and had piped water and electricity. The pasture to the immediate north of the farm, centred on N.G.R. 41444 48587 was the site of the main logging works and supported massive sawdust tips. During the 1930's large incinerators were constructed on the site to dispose of the sawdust. By the late 1930's the on site logging works had ceased.

During the 1940's the camp was first occupied by Danish Seamen which had, by the mid war years, been displaced by German prisoners of war. By the mid 1940's Ukrainian refugee family's were temporarily housed at the camp.

It is understood from the present occupier (Mr.& Mrs.Robson) of Holly Tree House, N.G.R.41443 48607 that the dwelling is one of the oldest properties within East Witton and formerly functioned as a Coaching Inn. Fabric within the property may well date back to the 12th century. The building is cellared with a sub floor level of 1.80m below the existing external ground levels. It was also reported that during the installation of recent services to the immediate south of Holly Tree House a cobble surface was identified in situ at approximately 0.60m below the existing ground level.

A number of the residents of the village are of the opinion that the pre 17th century village was situated within the vicinity of Flesh Beck, i.e. to the south of the existing developed area.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

No known previous Archaeological work had been conducted within the study area and therefore no exact details could be provided regarding the state of Archaeological preservation or the depth at which Archaeological remains were likely to be encountered.

An inspection of a recent aerial photograph (R.White, Yorkshire Dales, 1997, p.68) indicates that the boundaries of the former Toft boundaries survive as earthworks to the east of the unnamed lane to the south of the village.

THE NATURE OF THE WORKS

In total 481 metres of service trench were monitored during the watching brief, the trench was machine excavated and measured c. 0.60m wide x 0.85m deep.

The trenching tracked along a northern alignment through the village, commencing at the existing electricity pole no.1A at N.G.R. 41450 48579 which is situated in the vicinity of Low Thorpe Farm and terminates at the new electricity pole no.29E at its northern extent at N.G.R. 41439 48623 in the vicinity of East Witton Pumps. Twelve sections of trench (Trench A - K) were inspected by the archaeologist.

PLATES 1 & 2

Low Thorpe Lane with Trench D excavated, facing south.

Low Thorpe Lane prior to groundworks, facing north.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The village of East Witton consists of linear village green butted to the north and south by a string of detached, stone built, cottages and larger farmsteads, the majority of which have early 19th century characteristics. To the rear of which are small garden areas and closes a number of which contain stone built outbuildings. A string of properties, known as Lowthorpe Cottages extend along the eastern side of Low Thorpe Lane that leads to Waterloo Farm.

Waterloo Farm is one of a small number of farmsteads that are situated on the fringe of the village, along with Low Thorpe Farm and Town End Farm. St.John's Church is situated at the eastern extent of the village.

The A6108 Middleham to Masham highway passes through the eastern end of the village. The main area of settlement is serviced by a loop road that encircles the village green.

Flesh Beck drains to the east, following the 160m contour, passing through the closes and gardens on the southern side of the village, the eastern section of this watercourse is culverted.

The excavation of the service trench was preceded by the excavation of seven trial holes, these were excavated at random intervals along the line of the proposed trench. The results from these excavations have been incorporated into the report on the sections of service trench, see Appendix A.

Trench A:

The trench was excavated across Sowden Beck Road towards Low Thorpe Farm, thereafter running adjacent to the farms perimeter garden wall. From N.G.R. 41850 48579 to N.G.R.41850 48581 for an estimated distance of 18 metres. The existing ground levels rise on a gradual gradient to the south.

Trench B:

The trench was excavated into the western side of Low Thorpe Lane, adjacent to the perimeter garden wall of the farm house in a northern direction for 18 metres. From the north west terminus of Trench A at NGR 41850 48581 to NGR 41849 48581. The ground level falls gently downwards to the north north west.

Trench C:

The trench was excavated into the grass verge on the western side of the

PLATES 3 & 4

Fields to the north of East Witton village, site of Trench's I & J, facing south.

Field at northern extent of study area, site of Trench H, facing north.

Low Thorpe Lane from the north north western terminus of Trench B at N.G.R 41849 48581 to N.G.R. 41848 48585 for an estimated length of 28 metres. The ground level falls gently downwards to the north north west.

Trench D:

The trench was excavated into the grass verge and tarmac footway on the western side of Low Thorpe Lane from the north north western terminus of Trench C at N.G.R.41848 48585 to the junction of the lane with the loop road round the village green at N.G.R.41844 48599, for an estimated length of 142 metres. The ground level falls gently downwards to a low point of 130.5 m AOD at Flesh Beck before rising gradually to the village green.

Trench E:

The trench was excavated across the tarmac surface of the loop road on the southern side of the village green from the northern extent of Trench D at N.G.R.41844 48599 to a small triangular section of green at N.G.R.41845 48601, for an estimated length of 17 metres. The ground level falls gently downwards to the north north west.

Trench F:

The trench was excavated along the western side of a small triangular green that is situated at the eastern extent of the village green, from the northern extent of Trench E at N.G.R.41845 48601 to the western kerb of the highway A6108 at N.G.R.41845 48603, for an estimated length of 9 metres. The ground level falls gently downwards to the north north west.

Trench G:

The trench was excavated at the southern extent of the track from the southern extent of Trench A at N.G.R. 41850 48579 into the field of unimproved pasture to the immediate west of electricity pole 1A at N.G.R. 41451 48580 an estimated distance of 12 metres. The existing ground levels slope downwards to the north north east on a very gentle gradient.

Trench H:

The trench was excavated at the northern extent of the track from the northern extent of Trench I at N.G.R. 41842 48618 into a field of unimproved pasture to the immediate south of electricity pole 29E at N.G.R. 41439 48623 an estimated distance of 62 metres. The existing ground levels are gently undulating.

Trench I:

The trench was excavated through a field of unimproved pasture to the north of the village from the northern extent of Trench J at N.G.R. 41843 48609 to the southern extent of Trench H at N.G.R. 41842 48618 for an estimated distance of 105 metres. The existing ground levels within the field fall down into the central area of the field from the north north west and the south south east.

Trench J:

The trench was excavated through a small close/paddock adjacent to the highway A6108 from the northern extent of Trench K at N.G.R. 41845 48607 to the southern extent of Trench I at N.G.R. 41843 48609 for an estimated distance of 17 metres. The existing ground levels within the field falls on a gentle/moderate gradient down to the north.

Trench K:

The trench was excavated along the western side of the highway A6108 from the northern extent of Trench F at N.G.R.41845 48603 into the grass verge at the southern extent of Trench J at N.G.R. 41845 48607 for an estimated distance of 53 metres. The existing ground level falls on a constant and moderate gradient down to the north.

AIMS OF THE INVESTIGATION

Prior to the commencement of groundworks within the Village it was suspected that there had been only a minimal amount of previous ground disturbance associated with the installation of services. As such it was felt that there was a high probability that archaeology would survive in situ on the line of the proposed track.

It was anticipated that the archaeology may comprise of a stratified sequence of deposits, or the remains of former structures, associated with the Medieval and Post Medieval settlement at East Witton.

The aims of the archaeological investigation were as follows:

a. to record any finds, features or structures of archaeological interest and obtain information on the presence, extent, character, date and depth of these remains;

b. to assess the importance of any remains found and interpret them in terms of their historical context.

It was agreed that the principal archaeologist would be present, on site, during the machine excavation and removal of any turf / overburden, top soil and upper levels of the sub soil.

In the event that archaeology be exposed during the above works it is agreed that adequate time be allowed for the archaeologist to record same.

SUMMARY

The Archaeological Watching Brief concluded on Saturday 27th September 1997.

Natural sub-soil was encountered along the trench excavations. This layer was predominantly a loamy silty sand that contained a high quantity of inclusions dominated by glacial eratics. The surface of this layer was undulating and would appear to mirror that of the existing ground levels across the village. Within the Village Green the sub soil rises to within 0.44m of the surface and dominated the stratigraphy within the trench sections.

The layer had occasionally been previously disturbed during the installation of modern services. No archaeological features had been cut into this layer.

The stratigraphy overlying the sub soil suggested a high level of 19th century and modern disturbance along the entire length of the trench.

Within the northern extent of the trench the line of the track had been previously disturbed during the installation of a modern water service. These earlier excavations had disturbed the cobble surface of the pre 19th century thoroughfare that exited the village to the north en-route for Cover Bridge. The impact, that these recent works had on the earthworks associated with the in-field field system was indirect, a buried ploughsoil was encountered, however the finds recovered from this deposit were 19th century in origin.

To the immediate north of the village the trench was excavated across a field of unimproved pasture, this area of low lying ground was situated within the base of shallow valley. Here the stratigraphy had also been disturbed during the installation of a water service. The trench sections were dominated by an accumulation of alluvial sediment. The stream course was identified and was

revealed to have culverted within a large French Drain, the date of the construction of which was not established.

Trench excavations within the area of the Village Green revealed that here also the ground levels had been heavily disturbed during the installation of earlier services. The layer of disturbed ground overlying the sub soil was 19th/20th century in origin and included the remains of an ash pit. It is interesting to note that no evidence of any earlier ground levels or surfaces were identified beneath either the Village Green or the network of service roads.

The southern section of the trench was excavated within the grass verge running parallel and adjacent to Low Thorpe Lane. Here it was confirmed that the ground levels had been heavily disturbed during the installation of a mains sewer, Telecom service and the excavation of, a now redundant, open land drain. A high quantity of roughly dressed sandstone fragments were identified, intermittently, along the line of the trench. These large fragments were of a form and size characteristic of building material, although no traces of mortar or lime were identified on their surfaces. The stones did not appear to be arranged or evenly bedded, this may suggest that this material was brought onto site as demolition material for use as land fill or alternatively that the previous ground works in the area had disturbed and displaced the lower courses and foundations of a number of buildings. The date of these buildings can not be accurately established, however, the location of these remains places them on the eastern fringe of the medieval settlement and as such it is possible that they date to the 13th century. Unfortunately no finds were recovered to support a medieval date for these buildings.

CONCLUSION

The recent archaeological watching brief conducted by Mr.K.J.Cale on behalf of Northern Utility Services Ltd. within the village of East Witton, has indicated that the buried ground levels had been heavily disturbed during the installation of previous services.

It has been confirmed that the existing relief within the village directly corresponds with the deposition of glacial drift, within the central section of the trench these sands and gravel's were identified just beneath the existing ground levels. The effects of drift together with the high level of previous ground disturbance is largely responsible for the absence anthropogenic deposits within the study area.

It was surprising that that there was a paucity of archaeological evidence in the

vicinity of the village green, as it had been anticipated that, especially under areas of grass, evidence of cobbled surfaces or structural remains associated with the Post Medieval Market town may have survived.

Archaeology was identified within the fields to the north of the village where the line of the trench intersected the remains of a medieval field system and followed for a short distance the line of a Late Medieval / Post Medieval track.

It was confirmed that the line of the curvilinear thoroughfare had been previously disturbed during the installation of a water service, however, it would appear that the track had been surfaced in water worn cobble and pebble, a single course deep with no sub base. Accurate dating of the structure was not possible due to the absence of finds, however the line of the track did correspond with that depicted on the 17th and 18th Century maps and as such can be attributed to the Post Medieval period if not earlier.

Unfortunately these recent works provided few details concerning the nature of the field configuration, other than it was established that ploughsoil was widespread to the north of the village, the finds recovered from this deposit would suggest 19th century cultivation, although the configuration and nature of earthworks such as headland banks and ridge furrow would suggest Medieval and Post Medieval cultivation.

Little evidence was found to indicate the site of Pre 17th century settlement within the study area. Within the verge adjacent to Low Thorpe Lane a concentration of worked sandstone fragments, may suggest the location of the medieval settlement, this is corroborated by local tradition that suggests the medieval settlement straddled the course of Flesh Beck and was abandoned during the Later Medieval period due to it's destruction by fire. However it is accepted that the archaeological evidence to support this theory is tenuous and that the rubble encountered within the trench may have been brought, from elsewhere, onto site and deposited as land fill.

The absence of Pre 19th century finds within the study area was unexpected and can not be accounted for. It is not recommended that the assemblage of modern finds should be the subject of any detailed analysis and are also unsuitable for long term storage and as such will be discarded.

Kevin John Cale **March 1999**

APPENDIX A

Service Trench Excavations

Trench A

Type:	Service:Machine cut
N.G.R:	41850 48579 to 41850 48581
Length:	18 m
Width:	0.60 m
Depth:	0.85 m
Planform:	Linear
Aligned:	North West
Context No's:	8000 - 8006
Trial Hole No's:	-
Plate No:	-
Fig. No:	1

The trench was excavated across Sowden Beck Road from its verge on the southern side to the drystone boundary wall of Low Thorpe Farm to the north west for an estimated distance of 12 metres. The existing ground levels rise on a moderate gradient to the south up to a maximum of 132.90 m. The existing ground conditions were surfaced in tarmacadum. Prior to the commencement of works it had been established that sections of this trench had been previously disturbed during the installation of the water mains supply to Low Thorpe.

The tarmac (context 8000) road surface was bedded on a 0.14m deep sub base of limestone chippings (context 8001). The sub base sealed an overall layer of disturbed ground (context 8002), that measured up to 0.60m. This layer of medium brown (10YR4/2) loamy sand was moist and softly compacted with a low to moderate quantity of inclusions, these were dominated by modern brick and plastic fragments suggesting that this layer was deposited, recently, as land fill. The identification of this type deposit within the southern extent of this trench (context 8003) within the immediate vicinity of a vehicular gateway into an adjacent field could have been anticipated, as this is a technique frequently employed by farmers to stabilise and consolidate frequently trampled areas of soft ground. However this layer extended into the central area of the trench beneath Sowden Beck Road. The layer also contained a dressed sandstone cill from a mullion window, that was 17th century in character, the fragment measured 0.90m x 0.28m x 0.20m deep. Following discussions with the present occupant of Low Thorpe Farm it is understood that this layer of disturbed ground was deposited within the last ten years, the fragments of window cill were included within the spoil following recent improvements to the fenestration of Low Thorpe Farm. This layer of recently deposited spoil had been cut and disturbed during the installation of modern services, including Electric and British Telecom cables.

Within the central area of the trench a second area of disturbed ground was identified (context 8004), this layer of medium orange brown (10YR5/4) loamy sand measured up to 0.68m in depth. The layer was moist, well compacted and contained a moderate quantity of inclusions, namely water worn cobbles/pebbles, lime flecking and iron staining. The layer replaces context 8002 with the stratigraphic sequence of the trench and it is suspected that the two layers are contemporary. The layer sealed context 8005.

This layer of compacted water worn cobble and limestone fragments (context 8005), measuring up to 0.65m in depth contained a 90% quantity of inclusions, that were on average, 0.10 - 0.15m in size. The surface of the layer rises to the north west from 0.80m below the existing ground level in the south to 0.30m in the north west.

This fall of gradient may account for the need to backfill and consolidate the southern extent of the trench with the recently deposited spoil deposits. The layer has been cut and disturbed during the installation of the water mains , this service pipe was identified at 0.90m below the existing ground level. Within the north western extent of the trench the layer overlies the sub soil.

The sub soil (context 8006) was identified towards the base of the excavation at 0.70m below the existing ground level. This layer of medium grey (7.5YR 3/0) sandy clayey silt measured up to 0.27m in depth and was moist and well compacted. The layer contains a high quantity of inclusions dominated by water worn cobble and iron staining. The surface of the sub soil was slightly undulating. The required excavation depth for the trench was achieved within this layer.

Trench B

Type:	Service:machine excavated
N.G.R:	41850 48581 to 41849 48581.
Length:	18 m
Width:	0.60 m
Depth:	0.85 m
Planform:	Linear
Aligned:	North North West
Context No's:	9000 - 9004
Trial Hole No's:	1, 2
Plate No:	-
Fig. No:	1

The trench was excavated on the west side of Low Thorpe Lane immediately adjacent to the dry stone boundary wall of Low Thorpe Farm. The trench incorporated Trial Holes No's. 1 and 2 and was excavated for a length of 18m. The existing ground levels fall very gently down to the north. The existing ground conditions were surfaced in tarmacadum. Prior to the commencement of works it was not anticipated that the buried ground levels had been previously disturbed.

The tarmac (context 9000) road surface was bedded on a 0.20m deep sub base of limestone chippings (context 9001). The sub base sealed an overall layer of disturbed ground (context 9002), that measured up to 0.54m. This layer of medium brown (10YR4/2) loamy sand was moist and well compacted with a moderate quantity of inclusions, these included water worn pebble, lime flecks and worked and unworked sandstone fragments. The inclusions were evenly mixed throughout the layer with the exception of a lens of lime that measured 0.04m deep and was identified within this layer in the east facing section of the trench at 0.35m below the existing ground level. The layer had the appearance of made up ground and contained a small quantity of 19th century pottery.

A primary layer of disturbed ground (context 9003) was sealed by context 9002, this layer of medium orange brown (10YR5/4) clayey sand contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely water worn pebbles. The layer was identified at the interface between the secondary deposit of disturbed ground and the layer of cobbles (context 9004).

The cobble layer was identified within the base of the excavation at 0.85m below the existing ground level. The layer of consisted of a 90% inclusion of water worn cobble measuring on average 0.05m in size, these were bedded relatively level and were tightly grouped with a smooth upper surface. The layer has the overall appearance of a buried yard or road surface. As the layer was identified within the base of the excavation it could not be confirmed if the layer was a surface or the interface onto the sub soil. The 10% matrix between the cobbles was sandy clayey silt that had the appearance of sub soil.

Trench C

Type:	Service: machine excavated
N.G.R:	41849 48581 to 41848 48585
Length:	28 m
Width:	0.45 m
Depth:	0.90 m
Planform:	Linear
Aligned:	North North West
Context No's:	10,000 - 10,003
Trial Hole No's:	2, 3, 4
Plate No:	-
Fig. No:	1

The trench was excavated on the west side of Low Thorpe Lane immediately adjacent to the dry stone boundary wall of Low Thorpe Farmyard. The trench incorporated Trial Holes No's.2, 3 and 4 and was excavated for a length of 28 m. The existing ground levels fall very gently to the north. The existing ground conditions were grassed lawn and verge cut by two service roads that afford access into the farmyard from Low Thorpe Lane. Prior to the commencement of works it was not anticipated that the buried ground levels had been previously disturbed.

The turf (context 10,000) was bedded on a 0.11m deep layer of topsoil (context 10,001), a dark brown (10YR3/3) sandy loam. The topsoil sealed a layer of previously disturbed ground (context 10,002) this yellow orange grey (10YR5/4) silty sand was moist and loosely compacted and contained a moderate quantity of inclusions, namely water worn cobble, boulder and occasional sandstone fragments measuring <0.35m. The layer appears to be similar to context 9002 within Trench B. The layer was overlying the sub soil.

The sub soil (context 10,003), this layer of medium grey (7.5 YR 3/0) sandy clay silt was moist and well compacted. The layer contained a high quantity of inclusions, of water worn pebbles and cobbles. The surface of the sub soil was relatively level and was identified at 0.60 m below the existing ground level. This layer had not been previously disturbed. No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench..

Trench D

Type:	Service: machine cut
N.G.R:	41848 48585 to 41844 48599
Length:	142 m
Width:	0.60 m
Depth:	0.95 m
Planform:	Linear
Aligned:	North North West
Context No's:	11,000 - 11,009
Trial Hole No's:	4, 5, 6, 7
Plate No:	-
Fig. No:	1

The trench was excavated in the verge on the west side of Low Thorpe Lane adjacent to the open ditchline that runs parallel to the hedgeline. The trench incorporated Trial Holes No's 4, 5, 6 and 7 and was excavated for a length of 142 m. The existing ground levels fall very gently to the north to the culverted course of Flesh Beck and therafter rises to the northern terminus of Low Thorpe Lane. The grassed verge is slightly elevated above the surface of Low Thorpe Lane. Prior to the commencement of works it was not anticipated that the buried ground levels had been previously disturbed, with the exception of the immediate area of the culverted course of Flesh Beck.

The turf (context 11,000) was bedded on a 0.14m deep layer of topsoil (context 11,002), a dark brown (10YR3/3) sandy loam. The topsoil sealed a layer of previously disturbed ground (context 11,003) this medium grey brown (7.5YR3/0) silty clayey loam was moist and loosely compacted and contained a low quantity of inclusions, namely water worn pebble, root and occasional sand blotching. The layer contains a small quantity of butchered animal bone (Bovine) together with modern pottery. The context has the appearance of ditch fill, likely to have derived from the adjacent open ditch. No evidence of the ditch cut was identified. The layer had been cut and disturbed during the installation of a British Telecom cable. The cable ran the entire length of Trench D.

Within the southern extent of the trench this ditch fill was sealing a primary fill (context 11,004), this deposit of yellow brown (10YR5/4) silty sand was moist and softly compacted with a low quantity of inclusions dominated by iron staining. The layer has the appearance of an earlier ditch fill. No finds were recovered from this layer.

Within the base of the excavation alluvial sediment (context 11,005) was disturbed, this layer of medium grey (7.5YR3/0) clayey silt was sealed by the primary ditch fill. The layer was aeonorobic, soft with moderate quantity of inclusions, namely water worn cobbles, pebbles and sandstone fragments measuring <0.35m, standing water collected on the surface of this layer. The layer had not been previously disturbed.

In the central area of the trench, at 55m, the topsoil sealed a layer of disturbed ground (context 11,006) that replaced the ditch fills in the stratigraphy of the trench. This layer of medium brown (10YR4/2) silty loam was moist and well compacted. The layer contains a moderate quantity of inclusions dominated by large sandstone fragments, these were concentrated at 0.48 m below the existing ground level. The layer had similar characteristics to the made up ground in trench's A and B (contexts 8002, 8003 and 9003). The layer contained 19th century pottery, suggesting that the layer had been brought onto site relatively recently and deposited as land fill. The layer had been cut and disturbed recently during the excavations associated with the installation of concrete drainage rings to contain Flesh Beck beneath Low Thorpe Lane and during the laying of a British Telecom cable.

This layer of made up ground sealed an alluvial silt (context 11,007) this orange grey (10YR5/4) silty sand was moist and well compacted. The layer contained a low quantity of inclusions, of water worn pebbles and iron staining. The layer was identified towards the base of the excavation measuring up to 0.22m deep. It does not appear that the layer has been previously disturbed, with the exception of the civil excavations associated with installation of the concrete culvert.

Towards the northern section of the trench, at 81m, context 11,006 was replaced by yet another layer of made up ground (context 11,008). This layer of dark brown (10YR3/1) sandy loam was dry and friable and had the characteristics of a buried topsoil. The layer contained a low to moderate quantity of inclusions, these were dominated by large sandstone fragments, measuring <0.50m a number of fragments had been roughly dressed. A noticeable concentration of this sandstone was identified at 84m along the trench, the quantity and nature of this stone had the appearance of demolition rubble, however, no coursed stonework or foundations were identified. The layer measured up to 0.80m deep and was identified within the base of the trench. The layer had been cut and disturbed during the recent excavations for the Telecom service trench.

The surface of a layer of redeposited sub soil (context 11,009) was identified within the base of the northern extent of the trench at 88m. This layer of medium grey brown (7.5YR3/0) sandy clayey silt was moist, well compacted and contained a moderate quantity of inclusions, these were dominated by water worn pebble and cobble. The surface of this layer rises to the north to within 0.44m of the existing ground levels.

The layer had been heavily disturbed during the installation of clayware foul water drains, the invert of which was identified at 2.4m below the existing ground level. The depth of this drain may account for the high level ground disturbance within the northern half of the trench and the displacement of sandstone rubble as landfill. At the northern terminus of the trench at 0.95m below the existing ground level a sandstone culvert was identified within the base of the excavation, aligned east. The culvert was redundant and it is possible that this feature functioned during the 19th century as the village sewer.

Trench E

Type:	Service: machine cut
N.G.R:	41844 48599 to 41845 48601
Length:	17 m
Width:	0.43 m
Depth:	1.00 m
Planform:	Linear
Aligned:	North North West
Context No's:	12,000 - 12,003
Trial Hole No's:	-
Plate No:	-
Fig. No:	1

The trench forms a road crossing from the west side of the Low Thorpe Lane Junction with the village green loop road to the western side of a small triangular shaped green situated at the eastern extent of the village green. The trench was excavated for a length of 28 m. The existing ground levels fall gently to the north east. The existing ground conditions were tarmacadum. It was anticipated that the buried ground levels had been previously disturbed.

The tarmac road surface (context 12,000) was bedded on a 0.09m deep sub base (context 12,001) of limestone chippings. The sub base sealed a layer of previously disturbed ground (context 12,002) this light brown (10YR4/3) silty loamy sand was well compacted and contained a moderate/high quantity of inclusions, namely water worn cobble, pebble, brick fragments and occasional sandstone fragments measuring <0.20m. The inclusions are well mixed throughout the layer which has the overall appearance of made up ground, it is suspected that this may be related to the reinstatement ground following the installation of the foul water drain and water mains.

Towards the north of the trench context 12,002 was replaced in the stratigraphic sequence by the sub soil (context 12,003), the surface of which was identified at 0.15m below the existing ground level. This layer of light brown (10YR 5/4) loamy silty sand was moist and well compacted, the sand matrix was course and gritty. The layer contained a moderate quantity of inclusions, of water worn pebbles and cobbles and occasional limestone fragments measuring <0.20m and iron staining. The inclusions were well mixed throughout the layer. The layer had the appearance of not having been previously disturbed.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified within this trench.

Trench F

Type:	Service: machine cut
N.G.R:	41845 48601 to 41845 48603
Length:	9 m
Width:	0.54 m
Depth:	1.15 m
Planform:	Linear
Aligned:	North
Context No's:	13,000 - 13,006
Trial Hole No's:	-
Plate No:	-
Fig. No:	1

The trench is located in the west side of a small triangular green that is situated at the eastern extent of the village green. The trench was excavated for a length of 9m adjacent to the kerb. The trench was enlarged at its northern extent to form a junction box, the size of which measured 2.35m x 1.50m x 1.20m. The existing ground levels fall gently to the north. The existing ground conditions were lawn. It was anticipated that the buried ground levels had not been previously disturbed.

The grassed lawn (context 13,000) was bedded on a 0.08m deep topsoil (context 13,001) a friable layer of dark brown (10YR3/1) loam. The topsoil sealed a layer of previously disturbed ground (context 13,002) this medium brown (10YR4/2) loamy sand was well compacted and contained a moderate quantity of inclusions, namely water worn cobble, pebble. The inclusions are well mixed throughout the layer which has the overall appearance of made up ground.

The layer was overlying the fill of a 19th century ash pit (context 13,003) this feature occupied the central area of the trench, the surface of the fill was sealed by a superficial layer of hardcore (context 13,006). This layer of hardcore was restricted to the surface area of the ash pit and as such it would appear that it was deposited in order to make up the ground levels caused by the settlement of fill. The single fill of the pit was a moist well compacted deposit of ash with cinder, coal and charcoal fragments. The fill contained 19th and 20th century pottery. The fill was contained to the south and north by a cut (context 13,004). The cut as exposed measured 1.35m x 1.85m x 0.38 and had a broad shallow, rounded profile. The cut had been excavated into the surface of the subsoil (context 13,005).

The surface of the sub soil was identified at 0.55m below the existing ground level, this light brown (10YR 5/4) loamy silty sand was moist and well compacted, the sand matrix was course and gritty. The layer contained a moderate quantity of inclusions, of water worn pebbles and cobbles and occasional limestone fragments measuring <0.20m and iron staining. The inclusions were well mixed throughout the layer.

Trench G

Type:	Service: machine cut
N.G.R:	41850 48579 to 4145148580
Length:	12 m
Width:	0.80 m
Depth:	0.88 m
Planform:	Curvilinear
Aligned:	North West
Context No's:	14,000 - 14,004
Trial Hole No's:	-
Plate No:	-
Fig. No:	1

The trench was located at the southern extent of the track in a field of unimproved pasture. The trench was excavated for a length of 12m between the vehicular entrance into the field to the immediate west of the electricity pole 1A. The trench was enlarged at its northern extent to form a junction box, the size of which measured 2.0m x 2.0m x 0.85m. The existing ground levels fall very gently to the north north east. It was anticipated that the buried ground levels had not been previously disturbed.

The unimproved grassland (context 14,000) was bedded on a 0.05m deep topsoil (context 14,001) a friable layer of dark brown (10YR3/1) loam. The topsoil sealed a layer of made up ground (context 14,002) this layer of demolition rubble of broken brick and mortar with lime was suspended within a grey brown (10YR3/2) sandy loam. The layer appears to have been recently brought and tipped within the western extent of the trench in order to make up ground levels in an area of otherwise waterlogged ground in the vicinity of a vehicular gateway. The layer sealed a ploughsoil that (context 14,003) dominated the stratigraphy within the remainder of the trench.

This layer of medium brown (10YR4/3) silty clayey loam was a moist and well compacted layer that contains a low quantity of inclusions that were dominated by iron staining with occasional sandstone chips measuring < 0.08m. The layer was devoid of finds. The surface was identified at 0.18m below the existing ground level and the slope of which mirrored the existing ground level. The layer had been largely undisturbed the exception being the north western extent of the trench during the installation of a previously unidentified electricity cable. It is suspected that the substantial depth of the layer, exceeding 0.68m can be attributed to hill wash deposits accumulating at the base of a very steep slope. Towards the base of the excavation the layer sealed the sub soil (context 14,004).

The surface of the sub soil was identified at 0.74m below the existing ground level and falls on a moderate gradient to the east. This orange grey brown (10YR 5/4) sandy clayey silt was moist and well compacted. The layer contained a high quantity of inclusions, of water worn pebbles and cobbles and occasional sandstone fragments measuring <0.10m. The inclusions were well mixed throughout the layer.

Trench H

Type:	Service: machine cut
N.G.R:	41842 48618 to 41439 48623
Length:	62 m
Width:	0.35 m
Depth:	0.95 m
Planform:	Curvilinear
Aligned:	North North West
Context No's:	15,000 - 15,004
Trial Hole No's:	-
Plate No:	4
Fig. No:	1

The trench was located at the northern extent of the track in a field of unimproved pasture. The trench was excavated for a length of 62m between the south eastern corner of the field to the immediate south east of the electricity pole 29E. The existing ground levels are gently undulating. It was anticipated that the line of the trench would traverse the line of a former trackway that survives in the field as a shallow linear earthwork, the trench may also clip the more pronounced rectilinear earthwork of a headland bank. It was not expected the buried ground levels will have been recently disturbed.

The unimproved grassland (context 15,000) was bedded on a 0.10m deep topsoil (context 15,001) a friable, dry layer of medium brown (10YR4/2) loam. Towards the south eastern extent of the track the topsoil sealed a recently deposited fill (context 15,002) a water service trench. The line of this service shared the line of the existing track for a 2m length. In an attempt to avoid disturbing this service further, it was decided to re-route the line of the trench, this revision avoided any impact on the adjacent headland bank.

The fill of the existing water service trench was a medium brown (10YR4/1) sandy loam which was loosely compacted with a high quantity of inclusions these were well mixed throughout the layer and consisted of water worn cobble, pebble, brick and sandstone fragments measuring <0.13m in size. The high proportion of water worn cobble within the layer would appear to be the displaced surface of the former trackway (context 15,004).

Beyond the area of recent disturbance a 6m length of the cobble surface of the former trackway was identified in situ. The surface was identified immediately below the topsoil at 0.14m below the existing ground level. The track had been formed from a single layer of randomly arranged water worn cobbles, these were not securely bedded in the undisturbed subsoil (context 15,003) . The average size of the cobbles measured <0.22m in size. The surface gradually rises to the north.

The stratigraphy within the remaining 54m of the trench was dominated by a layer of ploughsoil (context 15,005). This layer of medium brown (10YR4/2) sandy loam was dry and friable and contains a low quantity of inclusions these were dominated by sandstone and limestone chippings with occasional water worn pebbles. The layer contained a small assemblage of animal bone and 19th/20th century pottery. The layer had the characteristics of the fill of the existing service trench within the south eastern extent of the trench, suggesting that the ploughsoil may pre date the construction of the trackway.

Within the northern extent of the trench the ploughsoil was bedded on a medium orange brown (7.5YR4/3) loamy sand, the layer had dry, heavily textured matrix with a moderate quantity of inclusions, namely; water worn cobble, pebbles, sandstone and limestone fragments measuring <0.20m in size. The surface of this deposit was identified at 0.41m below the existing ground level. The layer was identified at the interface between the sub soil and ploughsoil and shared the characteristics of both of these deposits, this would suggest that the two soils have been disturbed and mixed by ploughing.

The ploughsoil interface was bedded on undisturbed sub soil (context 15,003) this layer of light orange brown (7.5YR4/4) silty clayey sand was dry and well compacted. The layer contained a low quantity of inclusions, of occasional limestone fragments measuring <0.07m with Iron staining. The inclusions were well mixed throughout the layer. The subsoil was identified towards the base of the trench, rising to a high point at 0.47m below the existing ground level beneath the cobble surface (context 15,004).

Trench I

Type:	Service: machine cut
N.G.R:	41843 48609 to 41842 48618
Length:	105 m
Width:	0.65 m
Depth:	1.0 m
Planform:	Curvilinear
Aligned:	North North West
Context No's:	16,000 - 16,009
Trial Hole No's:	-
Plate No:	3
Fig. No:	1

The trench was located within a field of unimproved pasture towards the north East Witton Village. The trench was excavated for a length of 105m between the south eastern corner of the field in a curvilinear track to the north eastern corner of the field. The existing ground levels fall gently downwards into a shallow valley within the central area of the field with a north and south facing aspect, the base of the valley is waterlogged. It was anticipated that the line of the trench would traverse the line of a former trackway that survives in the field as a shallow curvilinear linear earthwork. It was not expected the buried ground levels had been recently disturbed.

The unimproved grassland (context 16,000) was bedded on a 0.08m deep topsoil (context 16,001) a friable, dry layer of medium brown (10YR4/2) loam. Towards the north eastern extent of the track the topsoil sealed a recently deposited fill (context 16,002) of a water service trench. The line of this service shared the line of the existing track for a 8m length. The fill of the existing water service trench was a medium orange brown (10YR4/1) sandy loam which was loosely compacted with a high quantity of inclusions these were well mixed throughout the layer and consisted of water worn cobble, brick and sandstone fragments measuring <0.20m in size. The high proportion of water worn cobble within the layer would appear to be the displaced surface of the former trackway (context 16,004). The water service trench had been excavated into the sub soil (context 16,003).

Beyond the area of recent disturbance a 14m length the former trackway was identified in situ. The cobble surface was identified immediately below the topsoil at 0.15m below the existing ground level. The track had been formed from a single layer of randomly arranged water worn cobbles, these were not securely bedded in the undisturbed subsoil. The average size of the cobbles measured <0.22m in size. The surface sloped gently down to the south, on a gradient that is slightly more acute than the existing ground levels. The cobbles were imbedded within the surface of the sub soil interface (context 16,005)

Within the northern half of the trench the interface overlying the sub soil was identified, this layer of medium orange brown (7.5YR4/3) loamy sand had a dry, heavily textured matrix with a moderate quantity of inclusions, namely; water worn cobble, pebbles, sandstone and limestone fragments measuring <0.20m in size. The surface of this deposit was identified at 0.31m below the existing ground level. The layer appears to be directly associated with the rise in natural ground levels.

When considered with the nature and distribution of a similar deposit within Trench H, context 15,006 then it would seem likely that the interface is situated on the lower and mid slopes of a moraine overlying the sub soil.

Within the central section of the trench a layer of ploughsoil (context 16,006) was identified. This layer of medium brown (10YR4/2) sandy loam was dry and friable and contains a low quantity of inclusions these were dominated by sandstone fragments that measured <0.15m in size together with limestone chippings with occasional water worn pebbles. The layer contained a small assemblage of animal bone and 19th/20th century pottery. The layer sealed an alluvial deposit (context 16,007).

This deposit of medium brown (10YR3/3) sandy silty loam, was moist and well compacted with a very low quantity of inclusions, namely; occasional water worn pebble and root. The location of this deposit correlates with the low lying ground within the shallow valley. The layer had been cut and disturbed during the installation of French drain (context 16,008/9).

The drain was located within the bottom of the shallow valley and is aligned and drains to the east north east. The broad V shaped cut that contains the drain measured 2.80m wide and exceeds 0.80m in depth. The cut contained a rubble fill that consisted of water worn cobbles, sandstone/limestone fragments measuring <0.28m in size together with clay fired pan tile fragments. The fill was loosely tipped within the cut with many voids between solids, running fresh water was identified within the base of the feature. It would appear that the drain culverts the line of a natural watercourse, unfortunately the date of the structure is uncertain, the pan tile content within the fill may suggest an 18th / 19th century date.

The sub soil (context 16,003) was identified towards the base of the trench at 0.65m below the existing ground level to the north east on the high ground, the layer passed beneath the base of excavation within the central area of the trench. This layer of light orange brown (7.5YR4/4) silty clayey sand was dry and well compacted. The layer contained a low quantity of inclusions, of occasional limestone fragments measuring <0.07m with Iron staining. The inclusions were well mixed throughout the layer.

Trench J

Type:	Service: machine cut
N.G.R:	41845 48607 to 41843 48609
Length:	17 m
Width:	0.65 m
Depth:	1.0 m
Planform:	Linear
Aligned:	North West
Context No's:	17,000 - 17,002
Trial Hole No's:	-
Plate No:	-
Fig. No:	1

The trench was excavated through a small close/paddock adjacent to the highway A6108. The trench was excavated for a length of 17m between the south eastern corner of the field in a linear track to the north eastern corner of the field. The existing ground levels fall gently downwards to the north. It was anticipated that the line of the trench would traverse the line of a modern foul water drain.

The unimproved grassland (context 17,000) was bedded on a 0.10m deep topsoil (context 17,001) a friable, dry layer of medium brown (10YR4/2) loam. For the entire length of the trench the topsoil sealed a layer of medium brown (10YR3/3) loamy sand, this layer has a dry, heavily textured matrix with a high quantity of inclusions, namely; water worn cobble, pebbles, sandstone and limestone fragments measuring <0.30m in size.

The layer dominated the stratigraphy within the trench, measuring up to 0.76m in depth and was also identified within the base of the excavation. The layer appears to be the sub soil interface and as with that same deposit noted within Trench I is directly associated with the rise in natural ground levels overlying glacial drift deposits.

The layer has been cut and disturbed during the installation of two 9" ceramic foul water drains that connect the village with a concrete sceptic tank situated to the immediate south of the small paddock. This area of disturbance was concentrated within the central area of the trench. This disturbance has led to the contamination of the layer with ash and cinder, lime and brick fragments, these inclusions are suggestive of demolition works, although no evidence of any structural remains were identified.

Trench K

Type:	Service: machine cut
N.G.R:	41845 48603 to 41845 48607
Length:	53m
Width:	0.75 m
Depth:	1.15 m
Planform:	Linear
Aligned:	North
Context No's:	18,000 - 18,007
Trial Hole No's:	-
Plate No:	-
Fig. No:	1

The northern extent of the trench was excavated into the verge on the west side of the highway, the central section of the trench was excavated across the open area of lawn situated between the A6108 and Holly Tree Guest House, the southern extent of the trench was excavated across a tarmac (context 18,003/4) surfaced access road. The existing ground levels slope on a gentle constant slope to the north.

It is understood from the present occupier, Mr.& Mrs.Robson that Holly Tree House is one of the oldest properties within East Witton and formerly functioned as a Coaching Inn, fabric within the property may well date back to the 12th century, the building is cellared with a sub floor level of 1.80m below the existing external ground levels. It was also reported that during the installation of recent services to the immediate south of Holly Tree House that a cobble surface was identified in situ at approximately 0.60m below the existing ground level.

Whilst local opinion would suggest that the line of the trench may intersect archaeological features / deposits, it was anticipated that the ground levels along the entire trench line may have been previously disturbed associated with the installation of foul water drains and a Telecom cable.

The turf (context 18,000) was bedded on a 0.10m deep layer of topsoil (context 18,001), a dark brown (10YR3/3) loam. The topsoil sealed a layer of disturbed ground, the fill of a previously excavated service trench (context 18,002) this medium brown (7.5YR3/1) sandy loam was dry, well compacted and contained a moderate quantity of inclusions, namely limestone and sandstone fragments measuring <0.20m in size. Towards the base of the fill three 9" clayware sewer pipes were identified, these ran the length of the trench. The base of the cut associated with this former service trench was identified towards the base of the excavation at 0.80m, and was revealed to cut into the subsoil (18,007).

Within the central section of the trench a buried road surface (context 18,005) was identified within the west facing section of the trench at 0.23m below the existing ground level. The surface consisted of a single layer of sandstone and limestone sets bedded level on edge and adjacent to one another.

The sets each measured 0.14m x 0.09m in size. The close proximity of this buried surface to the existing highway and a comparison of the levels of the respective surfaces would suggests that the sets are the remains of a 19th Century / early 20th Century road surface. The sets were bedded into a layer of disturbed ground (context 18,006).

This layer of light brown (10YR5/3) clayey loamy sand was moist and well compacted with a high quantity of inclusions; namely water worn cobbles, sandstone fragments measuring < 0.16m in size, these were evenly mixed throughout the matrix. The layer measured up to 0.20m in depth and was bedded on the subsoil.

The subsoil consisted of layer of loosely compacted, light brown (10YR5/4) sands and gravels. The surface of the layer was identified at 0.50m below the existing ground level. Within the central section of the trench the subsoil was replaced in the stratigraphic sequence by limestone bedrock.