

*BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY
FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT*

**LONG CAUSEWAY,
PETERBOROUGH**
An Archaeological Watching
Brief 1998

B.U.F.A.U.



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LONG CAUSEWAY, PETERBOROUGH
An Archaeological Watching Brief 1998

by
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1.0: SUMMARY

This report describes the result of a watching brief undertaken during the excavation of a pipe-trench by Anglian Water Limited along Long Causeway, Peterborough. The watching brief involved the cleaning of the exposed trench sections in an attempt to define any features or deposits of archaeological interest.

No such features or deposits were identified during the watching brief, which revealed that the 1998 pipe-trench had been cut through the backfills of earlier pipe-trenches.

2.0: INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1)

This report describes the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out during the excavation of a pipe-trench towards the northern end of Long Causeway, Peterborough (centred on TL 193987). Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit were commissioned to undertake the work by Anglian Water Limited.

The purpose of the watching brief was to examine the potential of the area trenched to contain evidence of medieval or earlier activity. Details of the archaeological background may be found in Jones (1996), and will not be repeated here.

The watching brief involved the selective hand-cleaning of the sides and base of the machined trench. Some parts of the trench had been fully or partially backfilled before the archaeological watching brief was undertaken, and consequently a single, uninterrupted profile of deposits could not be obtained throughout the length of the trench. Visibility of the trench base was impaired by the water pipe which had been installed before archaeological monitoring took place.

The deposits identified were recorded on pro-forma record cards, and photographically.

3.0: RESULTS (Fig. 2)

A total of four separate lengths of the pipe-trench was monitored. The results of recording within each section of the pipe-trench are described in turn, from south to north.

Section 1 (length 80m)

The base of the trench was at 1.02m below the modern surface. The lowest deposit was the mixed gravel and soil (1000) backfill of a pipe-trench, which measured 0.5m in depth. Above was a layer of ash and clinker make-up (1001). This was sealed by further levelling deposits (1002) of similar composition, forming the foundation of the existing pavement.

Section 2 (length 33m)

This section of the pipe-trench had been partially backfilled before the watching brief could take place. The base of the trench lay at 0.5m below the modern surface. The only deposit identified was a mixed soil and gravel (1003) backfill of a pipe-trench.

Section 3 (length 12m)

This section of the pipe-trench had been partially backfilled before the watching brief could take place. The base of the trench lay at a depth of 0.7m below the modern surface. The only deposit identified was the soft yellow gravel (1004) backfill of a pipe-trench.

Section 4 (length 14m)

This section of the pipe-trench had been partially backfilled before the watching brief could take place. The base of the trench lay at a depth of 0.5m below the modern surface. The lower deposit identified was a mixed layer of gravel and soil (1005), measuring 0.25m in depth, which was sealed by a make-up deposit (1006) for the modern pavement above.

No finds were collected from Sections 1-4 during the watching brief.

4.0: DISCUSSION

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were identified, nor was the natural subsoil located. The watching brief identified that the pipe-trench was cut through the fills of earlier pipe-trenches. In places these backfills had slumped, revealing pipes and wires along the sides of the archaeologically monitored pipe-trench. No archaeological monitoring of the remainder of this pipe-trench was therefore recommended.

5.0: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The watching brief was sponsored by Anglian Water Limited, and was undertaken by Alex Jones. I thank Simon Kaner of the County Archaeology Office, Cambridgeshire County Council for his assistance. The figures were prepared by Nigel Dodds, and the report was edited by Iain Ferris.

6.0: REFERENCE

Jones, A. E. 1996. Long Causeway, Peterborough. Archaeological Investigations 1994-5.

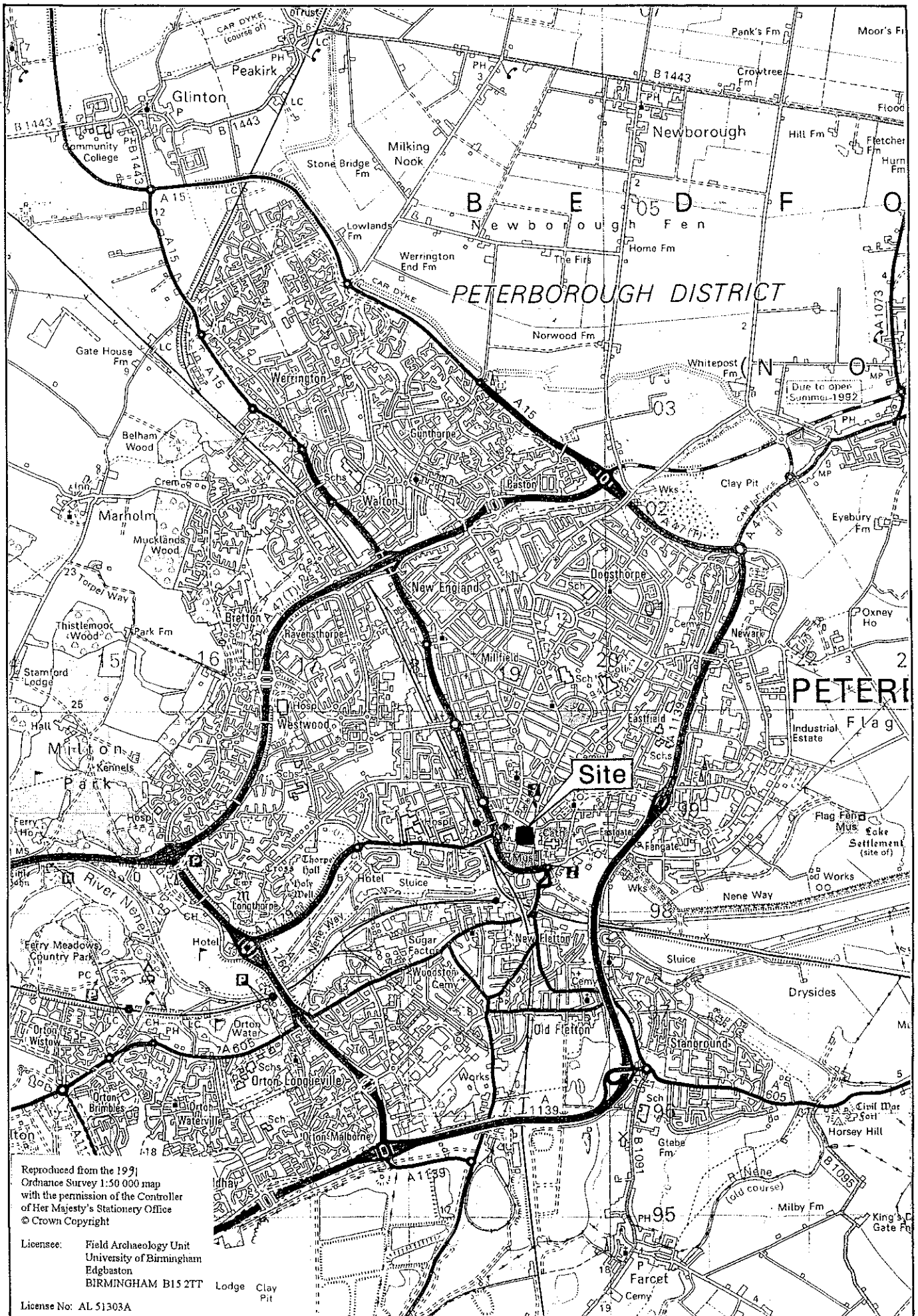


Fig.1

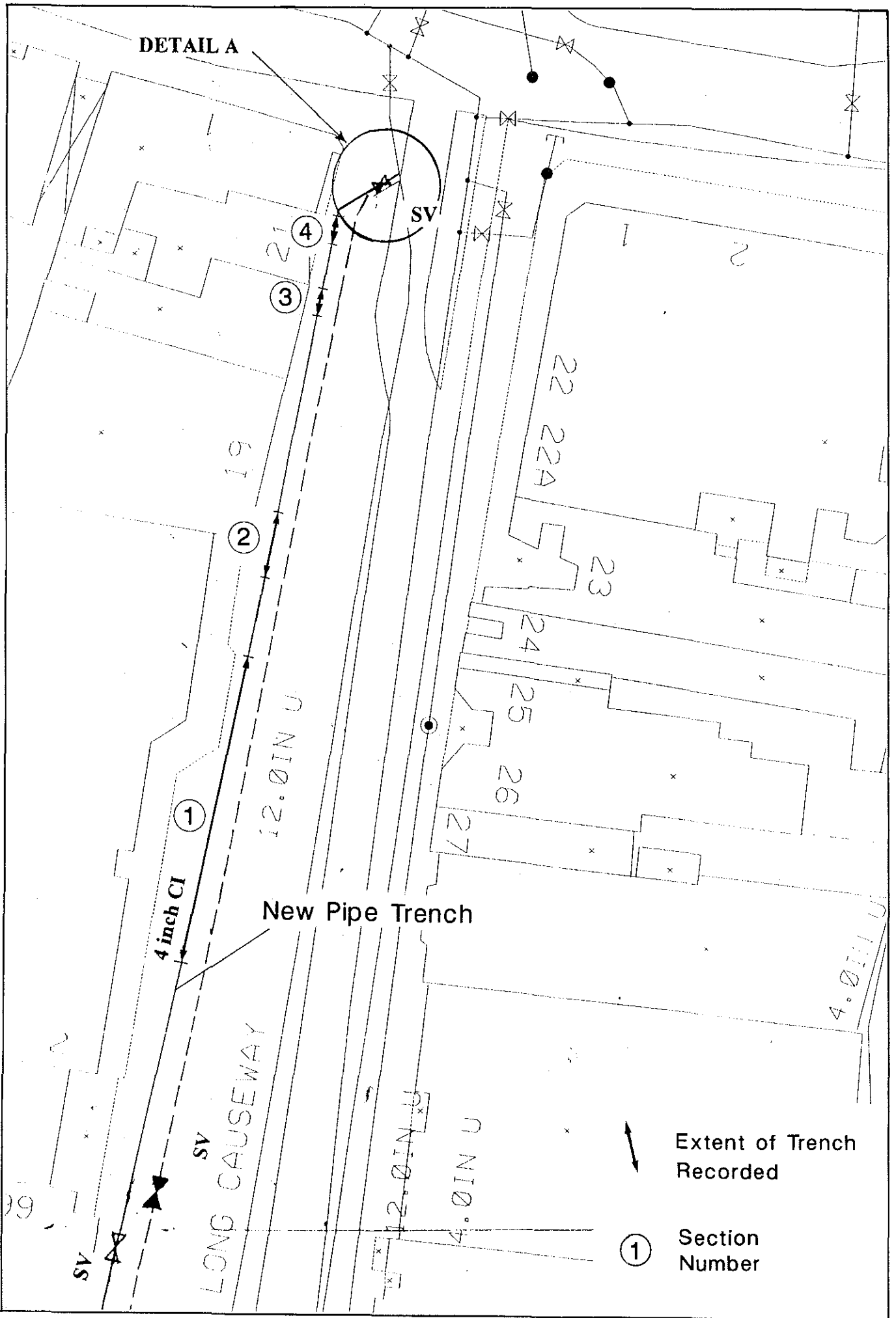


Fig.2