
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT CAUSEWAY ROAD,
NORTH KYME,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(NKCD 12)**

**Work Undertaken For
Western Power Distribution PLC**

November 2012

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons)

National Grid Reference: TF 1485 5320
The Collection Accession No: LCNCC: 2012.165
OASIS Record No: archaeo11-137089

APS Report No. **89/12**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Plates

1.	SUMMARY	1
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	1
2.1	PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	1
2.2	TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	1
2.3	ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING	1
3.	AIMS	2
4.	METHODS	2
5.	RESULTS	2
6.	DISCUSSION	3
7.	CONCLUSION	3
8.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	3
9.	PERSONNEL	3
10.	BIBLIOGRAPHY	3
11.	ABBREVIATIONS.....	4

Appendices

1. Context descriptions
2. Glossary
3. The Archive

List of Figures

- Figure 1 General location plan
- Figure 2 Site location plan
- Figure 3 Plan showing the route of the cable trench and section location
- Figure 4 Section 1

List of Plates

- Plate 1 View showing the works in progress
- Plate 2 Section 1, eastern part
- Plate 3 Section 1, western part

1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks at Causeway Road, North Kyme, Lincolnshire. The investigations monitored the excavation of a new electric cable trench on its approach to the Car Dyke.

The site lies close to the medieval (AD 1066-1540) core of the village, best represented by a standing cross of 14th century date. A Bronze Age (AD 2200-800 BC) barrow lies south of the village and finds of the period are known from the vicinity. Romano-British (AD 43-410) remains in the vicinity include the Car Dyke, a watercourse that once connected Lincoln to Peterborough, and the site of a possible temporary fort.

The investigations revealed a sequence of natural, undated and recent deposits. Cut into the natural alluvium was a large ditch which may represent the Romano-British Car Dyke with a possible remnant of its western bank. The dyke had subsequently been recut by a narrower drainage ditch, possibly during the post-medieval period or later. No other archaeological deposits were encountered and no finds made.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Western Power Distribution PLC to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with a new electric cable trench at Sandpit Farm, Main Street, North Kyme, Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out on the 6th November 2012 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by Senior Historic Environment Officer, North Kesteven

District Council.

2.2 Topography and Geology

North Kyme is located 10km northeast of Sleaford and 18km northwest of Boston in the administrative district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located 667m northwest of the centre of North Kyme as defined by the parish church of St Luke at National Grid Reference TF 1485 5320 (Fig. 2). The site lies to the north of Causeway House and west of Causeway Road at a height of c. 3.5m OD on the western edge of a gravel island.

Local soils are of the Wallasea 2 Association, typically pelo-alluvial gley soils, with Beccles 2 Association, typically fine loamy topsoil over slowly permeable clay subsoils, occurring to the south (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338, 119). These soils overlie a drift geology marine or estuarine alluvium with river and glaciofluvial sands and gravels to the south. These overlie glacial till, which in turn seals a solid geology of Jurassic Amphill Clay (BGS 1995).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

North Kyme is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Bronze Age and later. To the south of the village was a Bronze Age round barrow which produced two bronze rapiers when excavated in 1820 (Trollope 1872, 78), and a socketed axe was found close to St Luke's church.

The cable trench approaches the line of the Car Dyke, a former Romano-British watercourse that once connected the Witham near Lincoln to the River Nene at Peterborough. This was originally thought to be a canal, but recent opinion is that it served as a catchwater drain to divert water away from the low lying fens (Simmons and Cope-Faulkner 2004, 164).

Aerial photographs depict a rectangular enclosure some 1.5km to the south of the village. Associated with the enclosure is a series of roads heading south and west towards Sleaford and a road north aligned on Main Street, North Kyme. The enclosure survived as earthworks until recently, and it has been suggested that this was a Roman fort (Trollope 1872, 77).

North Kyme is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Nortchime*, the name is derived from the Old English *cymbe*, meaning a depression or hollow, perhaps referring to the lower lying land to the east and west (Cameron 1998, 76).

The Domesday Survey records that the village was held by Robert de Toden and Colsuain and contained 76 acres of meadow, 35 acres of woodland and a single fishery (Foster and Longley 1976).

The only extant remains of the medieval period is the former Market Cross of 14th century date, located southeast of the development site. Although described as a Market Cross, there are no records of a medieval market being established in Kyme.

A medieval church was once located in the village but was destroyed during the Reformation in the 16th century. St Luke's church was built in 1877 (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 584).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

The cable trench was excavated by machine to depths required, up to 1m below the current ground level. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

Following excavation the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered at the base of the trench was a layer of reddish brown and greyish green clay (004). This measured in excess of 0.3m thick. This was sealed beneath a further natural deposit of reddish brown silt (003) that was up to 0.58m thick.

Cutting this was a north-south aligned ditch (006) that was over 1.3m wide and deeper than 0.47m (Fig. 4, Section 1). This contained two fills, an upper of greyish brown silt with moderate gravel (007) and a lower of greyish green clay (005).

This had in turn been cut or re-cut by ditch (008). This was wider than 0.27m and also

deeper than 0.47m. A single fill of greyish brown silty clay (009) was recorded.

Overlying natural (003) to the west was an intermittent deposit of mixed bluish green and yellowish green clay (002). Identified as redeposited natural, this measured up to 0.13m thick.

All deposits were sealed by the current topsoil, comprising a 0.2m thick layer of brownish grey silty clay (001).

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits comprise silts and clays and are likely to relate to the underlying drift geology of marine or estuarine alluvium.

The earlier of the two ditches is likely to represent the western edge of the Car Dyke. Although not fully exposed, it resembles other excavated sections across the Car Dyke. However, it may also represent medieval remodelling of the dyke as part of the Billingham Skirth. It is possible that the layer of redeposited natural to the west may be the remnants of the upcast bank.

The later ditch is likely to be a post-medieval or later drainage ditch following the course of the dyke.

No other archaeological features were revealed and no artefacts were retrieved during the excavation.

7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Causeway Road, North Kyme, as the works were likely to impact on the Romano-British watercourse, the Car Dyke.

The western edge of a large ditch was exposed which corresponds in location and

shape to the Car Dyke, though may also be a later remodelling as part of the Billingham Skirth scheme. A later, post-medieval or modern, recut of this feature was also revealed. No other archaeological features were observed and no finds were recovered.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr AG Matthews of Western Power Distribution PLC for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Dave Start kindly allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Steve Malone
 Site Supervisor: Alex Beeby
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS, 1995 *Boston: Solid and Drift Edition*, 1:50,000 map sheet **128**

Cameron, K, 1998 *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*, English Place-Name Society Popular Series No. **1**

Foster, CW and Longley, T (eds), 1976 *The Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*, The Lincoln Record Society **19**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

Pevsner, N and Harris, J, 1989
Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England
(2nd edition, revised Antram, N)

Simmons, BB and Cope-Faulkner, P, 2004
*The Car Dyke. Past Work, Current State
and Future Possibilities*, Lincolnshire
Archaeology and Heritage Reports Series
No. 8

Trollope, E., 1872, *Sleaford and the
Wapentakes of Flaxwell and Aswardhun in
the County of Lincoln* (reprinted 1999)

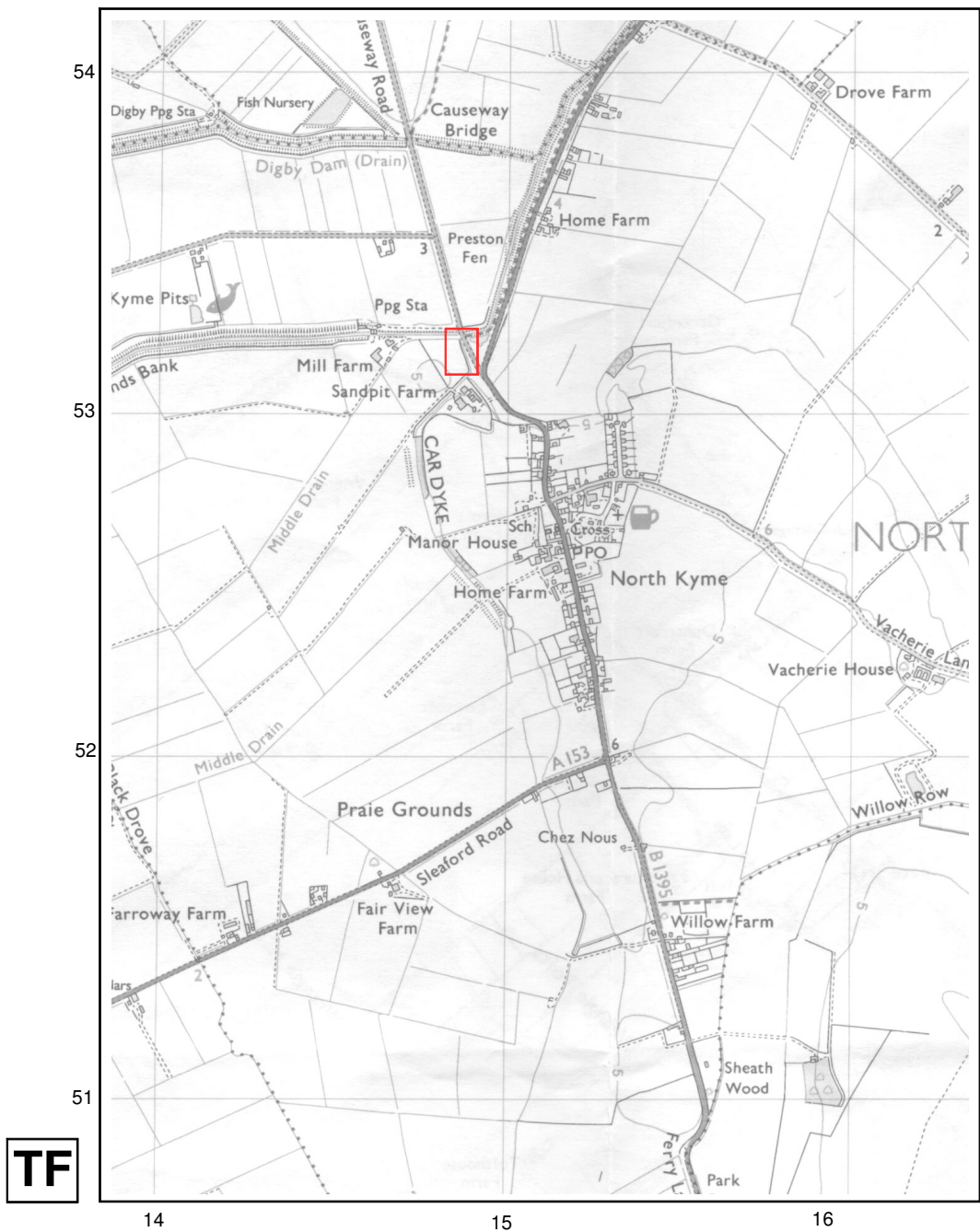
11. ABBREVIATIONS


APS Archaeological Project Services

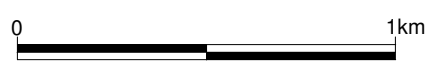
BGS British Geological Survey



Figure 1 - General location plan



 Area detailed in Figure 3



Crown Copyright © 1999. All rights reserved
Licence number AL5041A0001


	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Causeway Road, North Kyme		
Scale 1:20000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 89/12

Figure 2 - Site location plan

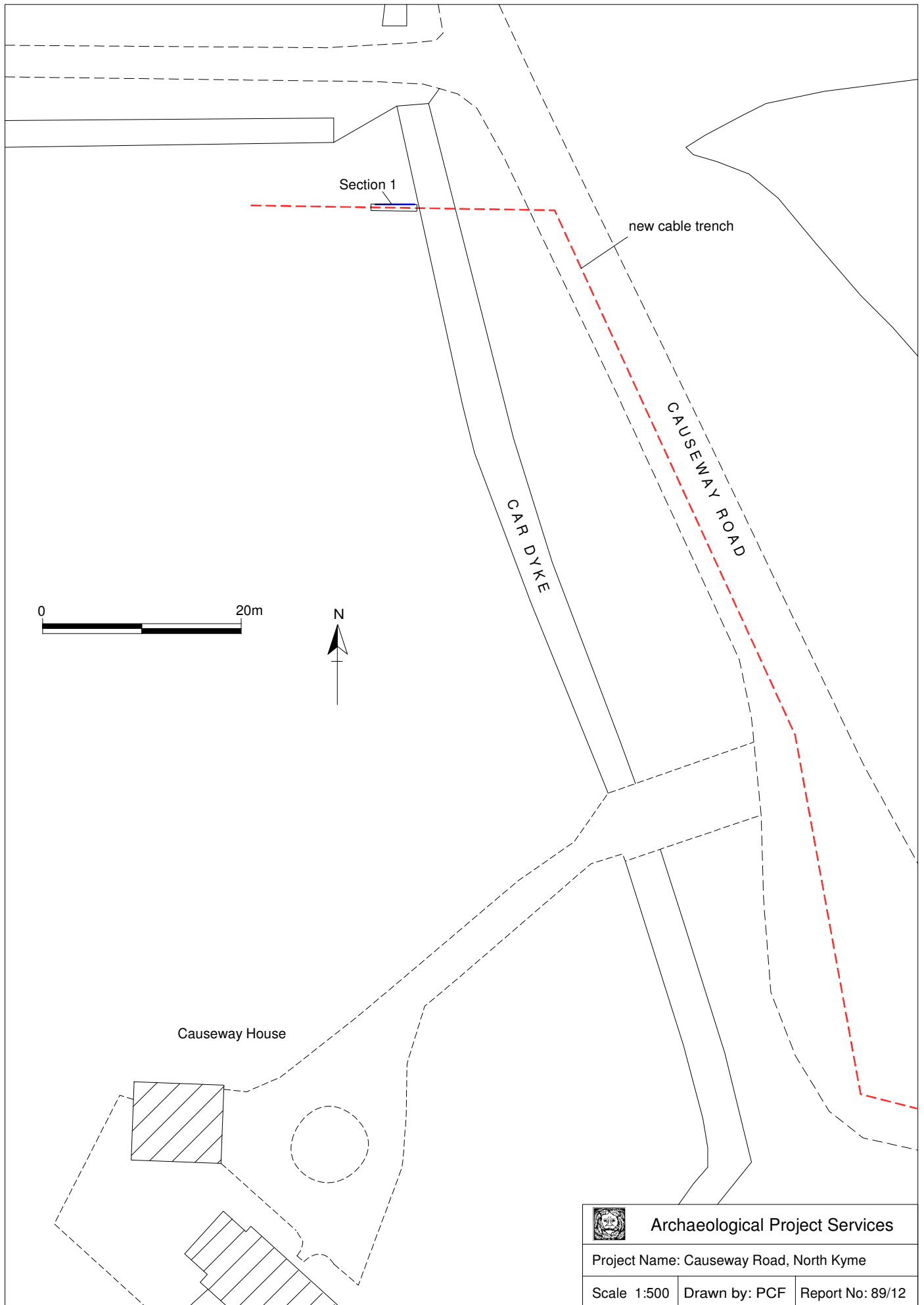

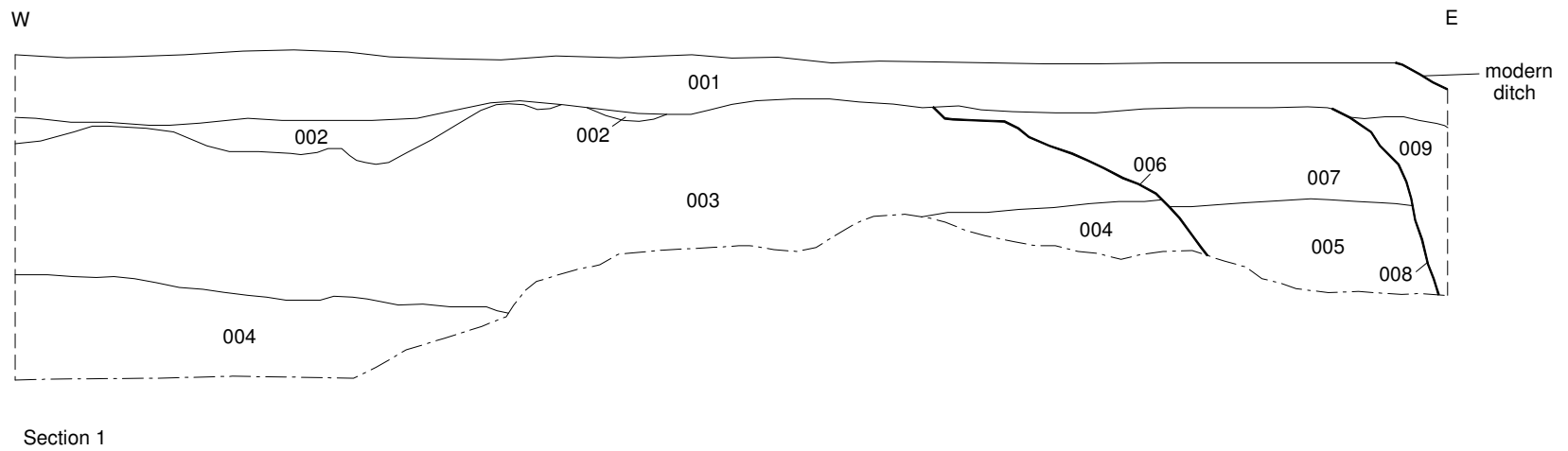


Figure 3 - Plan showing the route of the cable trench and section location

 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Causeway Road, North Kyme		
Scale 1:500	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 89/12




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Causeway Road, North Kyme		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 89/12

Figure 4 - Section 1



Plate 1- View showing the works in progress, looking east



Plate 2 – Section 1, eastern part, looking north



Plate 3 – Section 1, western part, looking north

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Soft dark brownish grey silty clay, 0.2m thick	Topsoil
002	Plastic mixed mid bluish green and mid yellowish green clay, 0.13m thick	Natural deposit
003	Friable dark reddish brown silt, 0.58m thick	Natural deposit
004	Plastic mid reddish brown and greyish green clay, >0.3m thick	Natural deposit
005	Plastic mid greyish green clay	Fill of (006)
006	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >0.45m deep, irregular sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
007	Soft mid greyish brown silt with moderate gravel	Fill of (006)
008	Linear feature, aligned north-south, >0.5m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Ditch
009	Soft dark greyish brown silty clay	Fill of (008)

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within lakes.
Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

9	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Sheet of scale drawings
1	Daily record sheet

All primary records are currently kept at:

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

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: LCNCC: 2012.165

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: NKCD 12

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

Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.