

Quality Control
South Bank,
Keadby
KDAH

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT SOUTH BANK
KEADBY,
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE
(KDAH)**

**Work Undertaken For
The Environment Agency**

April 2007

Report Compiled by
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National Grid Reference: SE 8330 1151
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-26606

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES



APS Report No. **57/07**

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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at the pumping station at South Bank, Keadby, North Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of a trench for a new fuel supply.

The site lies close to where a hoard of Bronze Age (2250-800 BC) axes were found in the River Trent and from where a female bog burial of possible Iron Age (800 BC-AD 42) or Romano-British (AD 42-410) date has previously been recorded. Although mentioned in medieval (AD 1066-1540) documents, no remains of the period are known from the vicinity of Keadby.

The watching brief identified alluvium upon which was a dumped layer and made ground which appear to be associated with the nearby Three Rivers. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts retrieved.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as “*a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.*” (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by the Environment Agency to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the provision of a new fuel pipe to a pumping station off South Bank,

Keadby, North Lincolnshire. The watching brief was carried out on the 7th and 9th March 2007.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Keadby is located 6km west of Scunthorpe in North Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Keadby pumping station is located on the south side of Keadby at National Grid Reference SE 8330 1151 (Fig. 2). The pipe trench is situated between South Bank and the pumping station adjacent to the junction of the Three Rivers with the River Trent. The site lies at a height of c. 4.5m OD.

Local soils are of the Romney Association, typically gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984). These soils are developed on warp or artificially induced alluvium which in turn overlies older alluvial layers and seals a solid geology of Triassic Mercia Mudstone (GSGB 1969).

2.4 Archaeological Setting

Keadby is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present day. During construction of the Keadby rail and road bridge in 1912-16 a hoard of up to 30 Bronze Age socketed axes were found in the Trent. Although undated, a female bog body is recorded to the west of the site which may be Iron Age or Romano-British in date.

Keadby is first mentioned in c. 1184. Referred to as *Ketebi* the name derives from the Old Danish and means ‘the farmstead or village (*by*) belonging to *Kæti* or *Keti*’ (Cameron 1998, 71). No mention is made of Keadby in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086 and the returns for the surrounding villages appear to low to suggest they include the village.

Despite the place-name suggesting a medieval village, no remains of the period

have yet so far been found in the vicinity.

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

Trenches for the new fuel pipe were excavated by machine to depths required by the development. 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 foundation trench was a natural layer of mottled yellow and grey silt (003). This measured in excess of 0.6m thick.

Overlying the natural silt adjacent to the river was a dumped deposit of brownish grey clay (004) that was 0.13m thick (Fig. 4, Section 2). This was sealed by a deposit of made ground comprising mottled brown, blue and grey silty clay (002) in which fragments of concrete and brick were recorded.

Sealing all deposits was the current topsoil that was a greyish brown clayey silt (001) measuring 0.25m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

Alluvial silt was the earliest deposit recorded and may have derived from warping at the site. If so, it is likely that archaeological deposits would lie at some depth.

Above this was a dumped layer of clay which may represent upcast from the canalisation of the Three Rivers watercourse. The made ground probably relates to the construction of the pumping station.

No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts retrieved.

7. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at South Bank, Keadby, as the site lay in an area where prehistoric finds and medieval settlement have been recorded.

However, only alluvium and deposits associated with the canalisation of the Three Rivers and the construction of the pumping house were identified during the investigation. No artefacts were retrieved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Ms A Hampson of the Environment Agency for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Additional help was received from Balfour Beatty who also provided access to the site. Mark Williams coordinated the work and 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: Mark Williams
 Site Supervisor: Mark Peachey
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

GSGB, 1969 *Doncaster: Solid and Drift Geology*, 1:63360 map sheet **88**

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**

IFA, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General Location Plan

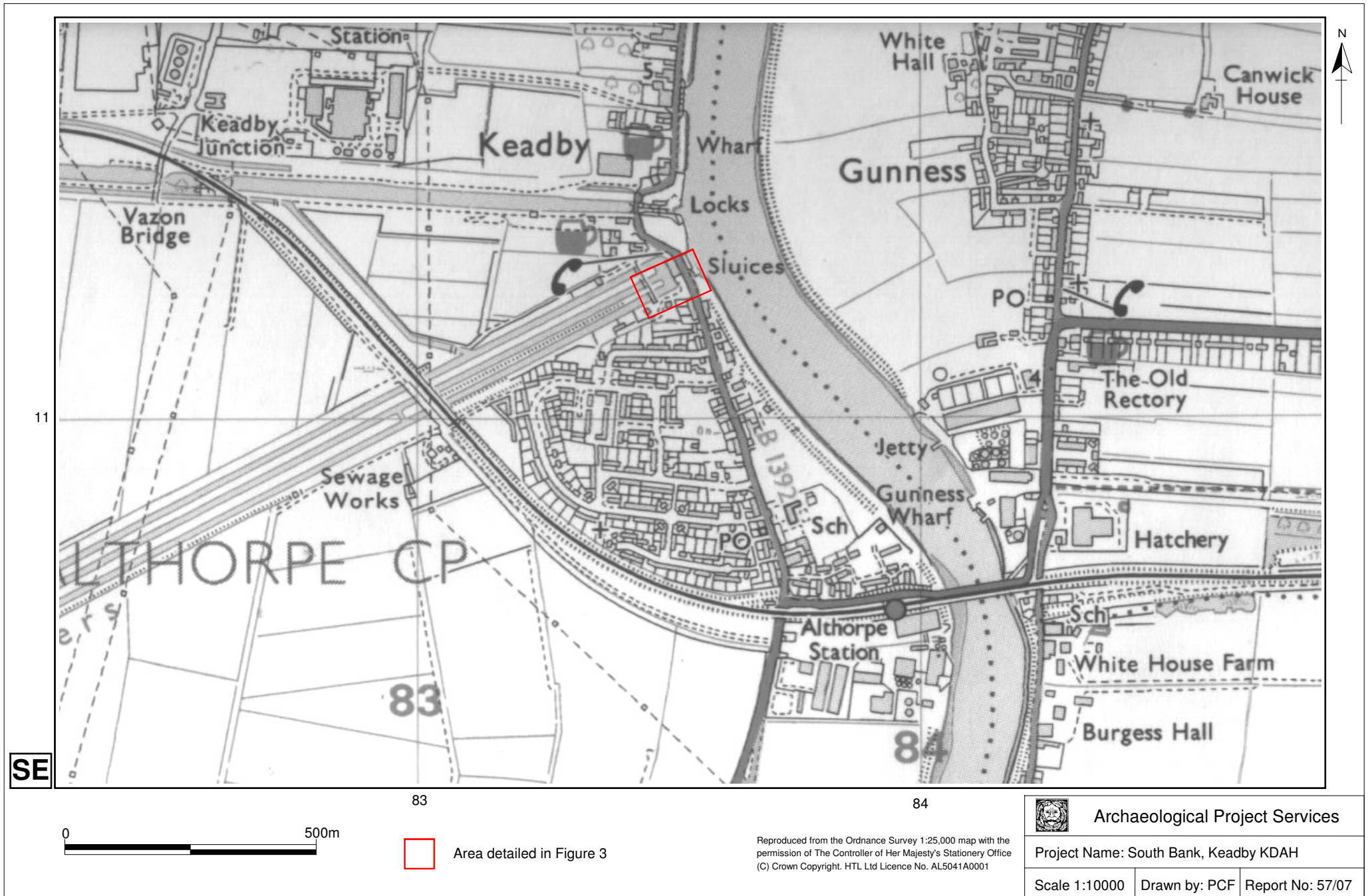


Figure 2 - Site location plan

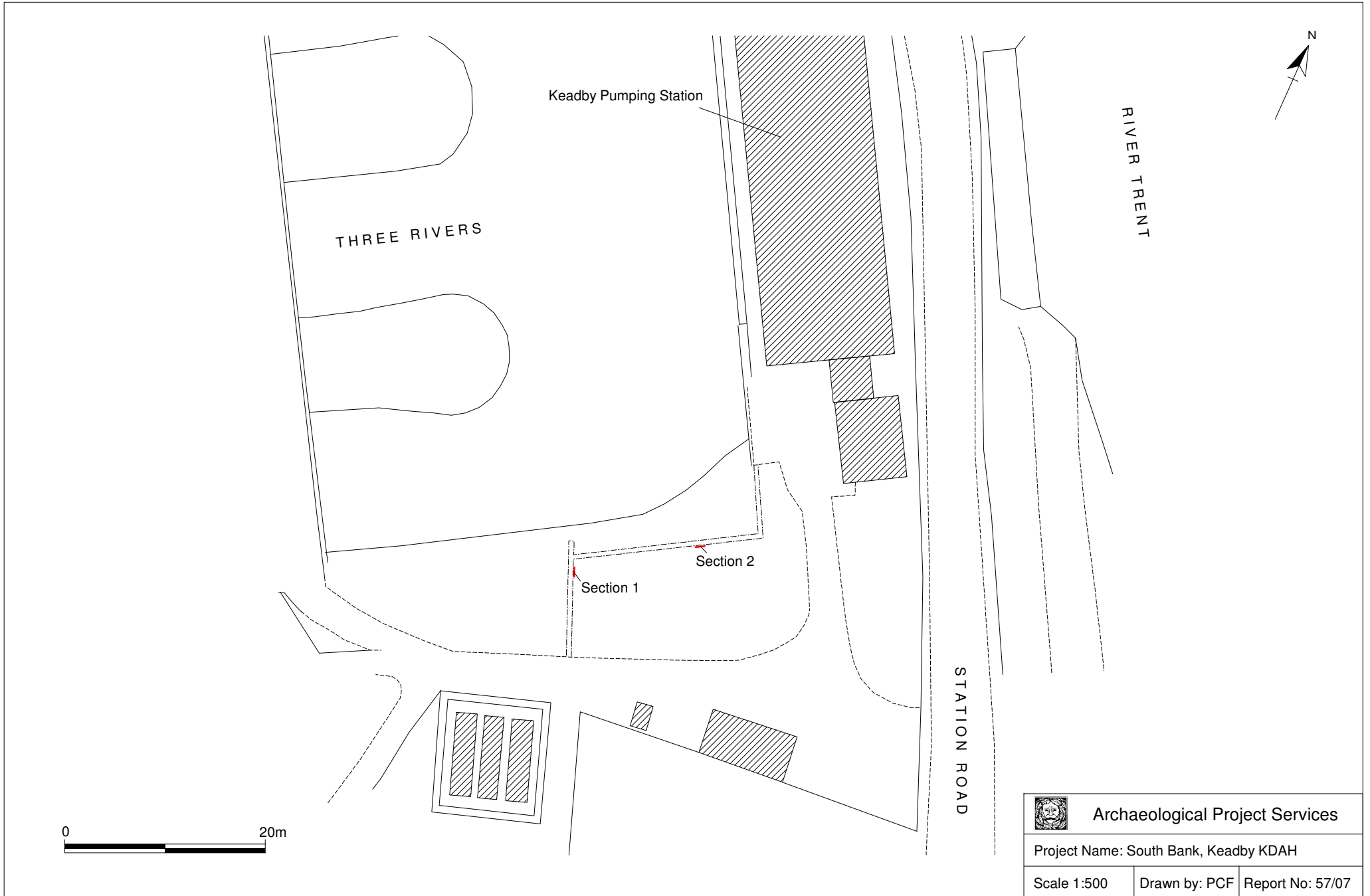
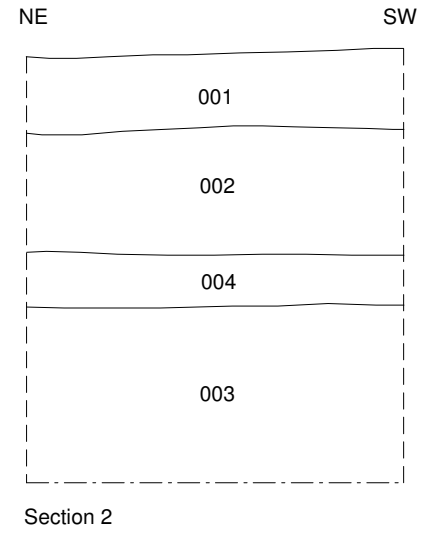
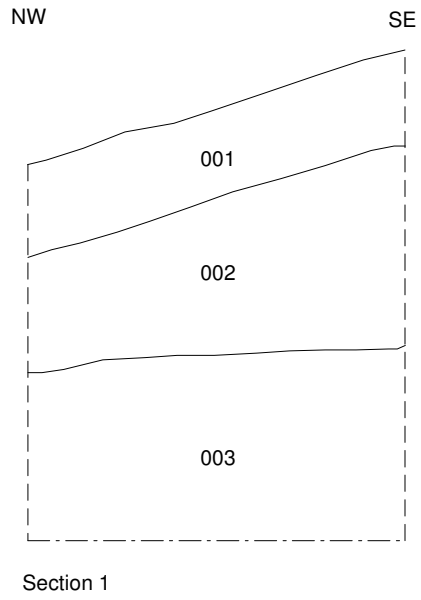


Figure 3 - Plan showing the route of the pipe trench and section locations




		
Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: South Bank, Keadby KDAH		
Scale 1:20	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 57/07

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - General view across the development area, looking north



Plate 2 - Section 1 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking northeast



Plate 3 - Section 2 showing the general sequence of deposits, looking southeast

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt, 0.25m thick	Topsoil
002	Friable mottled mid brown, blue and grey silty clay, 0.55m thick	Made ground
003	Friable mottled light yellow and grey silt, >0.6m thick	Natural deposit
004	Soft dark brownish grey clay, 0.13m thick	Dumped deposit

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).
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
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.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

4	Context records
1	Context record sheet
2	Sheets containing scale drawings
1	Photographic 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:

North Lincolnshire Museum
Oswald Road
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BB

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

North Lincolnshire Museum Accession Number: KDAH

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: KEPS 07

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.

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