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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS  
ON THE ROUTE OF THE WISBECH ST MARY S101A  
ANGLIAN WATER PIPE ROUTES FROM  
WISBECH-WISBECH ST MARY,  
GUYHIRN-WISBECH ST MARY AND  
MURROW-WISBECH ST MARY,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
(WISM08, GWSM08 & MWSM08)**

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Work Undertaken For  
Anglian Water Services Limited

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Report Compiled by  
Vicky Mellor BSc (Hons)

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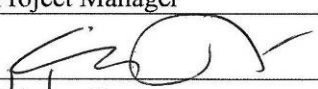
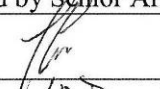
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES**



**Quality Control**  
**Wisbech St Mary S101A Anglian Water pipe routes from**  
**Wisbech-Wisbech St Mary,**  
**Guyhirn-Wisbech St Mary and**  
**Murrow-Wisbech St Mary,**  
**Cambridgeshire**  
**(WISM08, GWSM08 & MWSM08)**

Project Coordinator	Gary Taylor
Excavation team	Bob Garland, Ross Kendall, Vicky Mellor, Chris Moulis, Mark Peachey, Jim Robertson, Karon Rosser, Jim Snee, Jon Smith and Fiona Walker
Borehole survey	The Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Finds Processing	Denise Buckley
Illustration	Paul Cope-Faulkner, Vicky Mellor, Jim Snee and Sue Unsworth
Photographic Reproduction	Vicky Mellor
Post-excavation Analyst	Vicky Mellor

Checked by Project Manager	Approved by Senior Archaeologist
Gary Taylor 	 Tom Lane
Date: 30/11/09	Date: 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2009

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## 1. SUMMARY

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on the route of the S101A Anglian Water pipe routes, between Murrow, Wisbech St Mary, Wisbech and Guyhirn, Cambridgeshire. The investigations were required as the route crossed archaeologically sensitive areas.

Based on the results of the desk-based assessment, evaluation by trial trenching was requested by Cambridgeshire Archaeology along seven portions of the route. A borehole survey was also required to the north of Guyhirn. In the event, difficulties on site meant that some areas were the subject of archaeological monitoring and recording rather than evaluation, and one small area was omitted. Trial trench evaluation was carried out to the north of Murrow, supplemented by further monitoring and recording. Evaluation trenches and boreholes were recorded to the north of Guyhirn, although an amendment made by Cambridgeshire Archaeology to the project brief removed the requirement for further trenching and auger sampling further to the north of Guyhirn.

Desk-based assessment had previously indicated a high potential that Iron Age peat deposits would be encountered along the pipeline route. However, this peat implies widespread flooding during the Iron Age and thus there was considered to be a low probability that prehistoric artefacts or man-made features would be encountered. Peat layers which are probably the same as the Iron Age peat recorded elsewhere in the area were identified in several trenches, to the north of Murrow, north of Wisbech St Mary and between Wisbech St Mary and Wisbech. Further naturally-formed deposits were recorded during the investigations which were likely to include marine clays and roddon silts.

Extensive Roman remains, along with

undated cropmark sites primarily of probable Roman date, were previously recorded in the area, particularly between Wisbech St Mary and Guyhirn, and around Murrow. Remains of Roman field systems and settlements had been recorded in these areas, usually located on roddons (extinct creeks), whilst saltmaking sites have been identified at the edge of the roddons. There was considered to be a strong likelihood that at least some Roman deposits in the area would be affected by works to install the pipeline. Roman pottery and vessel glass were amongst artefacts retrieved from two adjacent trenches to the north of Murrow. Four linear features including two dated as Roman and a spread of heat-affected daub of Roman or later date were identified in this area. Medieval pottery was also identified here, within a subsoil layer along with Roman pottery and the daub. Certainly activity of both Roman and medieval date was represented here, and small quantities of hammerscale indicate at least some industrial processes in the vicinity. It is possible that the finds-rich subsoil layer here represents the scant remains of a Roman feature ploughed-out in the Medieval period. Analysis of environmental remains here revealed low levels of probable domestic material, along with indicators of semi-permanently waterlogged grassland in the area.

Probable early Roman briquetage was retrieved from an apparently water-lain deposit in a trench to the north of Guyhirn, along with small quantities of probable domestic material, including bone and charcoal. This material appeared to have been dumped in this location, in wet conditions at the edge of the higher ground of a roddon. A Roman field system had been previously recorded in this area, on the higher ground of the roddon, and briquetage and Roman pottery had been retrieved nearby during earlier investigations. In the present investigation briquetage and other materials were found in association with a small sherd of medieval pottery, although this sherd may

*be intrusive.*

*Ditches were recorded which reflected the layout of the medieval and later strip fields in the area. These confirm the agricultural use of the land in the medieval period and later. Some of these ditches corresponded to boundaries depicted on late 19<sup>th</sup> century maps of the area.*

*Remains associated with the former Peterborough to Sutton Bridge branch of the former Midland and Great Northern Joint railway were encountered in several trenches. These including a culverted drain an increased quantities of gravel in topsoil deposits.*

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Definition of an Evaluation**

An archaeological evaluation is defined as, ‘a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site. If such archaeological remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’ (IfA 1999).

### **2.2 Planning Background**

The route of the Wisbech St Mary S101A water pipe was to traverse an area containing a number of known archaeological sites. A desk-based assessment represented a first stage of archaeological study of the routes (Mellor 2008).

Based on the results of the desk-based assessment, Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice produced a project brief requiring that

evaluation by trial trenching be carried out along seven portions of the route. Window sampling was also required to the north of Guyhirn.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned to undertake this work by Anglian Water Services Ltd, and the work was conducted in accordance with IfA standards and guidelines.

In the event, difficulties on site meant those areas between Wisbech St Mary and Wisbech were subject of archaeological monitoring and recording rather than evaluation, and a small area to the east of Murrow was omitted. Trial trench evaluation was carried out on areas to the north of Murrow, and was supplemented by further monitoring and recording. Two evaluation trenches and four boreholes were recorded to the north of Guyhirn. An amendment made by Cambridgeshire Archaeology to the project brief during the fieldwork removed the requirement for further trenching and augering to the north of Guyhirn.

The fieldwork was carried out between 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2009 in accordance with a specification designed by APS and approved by the local planning authority.

### **2.3 Topography, Geology and Palaeoenvironment**

The routes are over flat to gently undulating land, ranging between approximately 1.0 and 3.0m OD.

Soils in the portion of the route around Murrow to the western edge of Wisbech St Mary village and extending south close to Guyhirn are of the Dowels Association. Wisbech St Mary lies on soils of the Wallasea 2 Association, which extend almost to the eastern extent of the route near Wisbech. The most easterly portion (c.0.5km) of this part of the route, closest to Wisbech, crosses soils of the Wisbech

Association, which also occur at Guyhirn, over the southernmost c.0.5km of the route (SSEW 1983a).

Each of these associations is developed on marine alluvium. Wisbech Association soils are deep stoneless calcareous coarse silts. Dowels Association soils are stoneless and clayey and in places calcareous and often over peat with some calcareous coarse and fine silty soils locally. Wallasea 2 Association are deep stoneless clayey soils, calcareous in places, with some deep calcareous silty soils (SSEW 1983b).

A freshwater phase in the area caused the deposition of peat which is found underlying much of Wisbech, and probably extends across much of the area. This peat has been dated to the Iron Age at both Wisbech and Murrow. Peat has also been identified around Wisbech St Mary and is likely to be the same deposit. In these areas the peat is recorded at depths of between 1.2m and 1.5m below the present ground surface, and lies at a height of c.0.5m OD at Murrow (Hall 1996, 165, Figure 11).

A network of roddons has been identified across the area, visible as crop and soil marks. These mark the courses of prehistoric waterchannels and creeks which became infilled as the fen dried out. After these channels became infilled they formed the highest points in the landscape.

The distribution of Roman settlement and saltern sites in the area closely parallels the distribution of these roddons, these higher areas having been favoured (Figure 11).

By the medieval period the majority of the study area comprised fields, with settlements at Wisbech, Wisbech St Mary and Murrow by this time. These fields and settlements were protected by sea banks, areas to the south and west of the area being fen.

These areas of remaining fen were drained and reclaimed in the post-medieval period.

## **2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background** **(Summarised findings of desk-based assessment WIMG08 – Mellor 2008)**

### *Prehistoric*

The remains of prehistoric boats were discovered in Wisbech in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, during the deepening and widening of the Wisbech River. Iron Age coins, a gold stater of the Brigantes and a silver Icenian coin have been recorded in the area around Wisbech along with a further Iron Age Icenian gold coin found near Wisbech St Mary.

A layer of peat in the area has been dated to the Iron Age (370-40 cal. BC) at both Wisbech and Murrow. Evaluation adjacent to The Willows at Wisbech St Mary identified a peat layer which is likely to be the same deposit at 1.5m depth. The layer is recorded at depths of between 1.2m and 1.5m below the present ground surface, and occurring at 0.5m OD at Murrow. (Hall 1996, 165).

### *Roman*

Findspots of Roman pottery and tile are recorded close to the pipeline route at Wisbech, in addition to a group of nine mid to late 4<sup>th</sup> century coins.

Roman pottery retrieved west of Wisbech was associated with a probable settlement. A further findspot of Roman and medieval pottery to the northeast of Wisbech St Mary was associated with a possible dark area and slight mound. A 3<sup>rd</sup> century Bronze coin of Antoninus Pius was retrieved from Wisbech St Mary during ditch cleaning in the village centre, whilst Roman pottery has been found to the south of the village.

A probable Romano-British settlement is recorded at Inlay's Farm, between Guyhirn and Wisbech St Mary. The remains of this settlement are recorded as the earthworks of a group of hut enclosures, although these have subsequently been flattened.

Roman pottery and briquetage have been found to the north of Guyhirn, corresponding with a slightly dark area and cropmark. Nearby cropmarks have been plotted of an extensive Romano-British field system, trackways and settlement. This field system was seen to extend into a site to the south which was subject to archaeological investigations.

Cropmarks of a Romano-British field system are recorded to the north of Murrow, and briquetage has been retrieved nearby. Further Roman pottery to the south of Murrow is also associated with a cropmark site.

In general, known sites of Romano-British date in the area are closely associated with the location of roddons, which would have formed areas of higher ground at that time. Various settlements and field systems are recorded within the area of the pipeline routes, particularly around Murrow and in the area between Wisbech St Mary and Guyhirn. The remains of these and perhaps further such settlements and fields systems of this date may be encountered wherever the pipeline routes cross roddons.

Briquetage is recorded from two sites close to the pipeline, at Guyhirn and Murrow. These may indicate the location of Roman salterns, and various further saltern sites are recorded in the wider area, located on the edge of roddons. Further salt production sites may be preserved in similar topographic locations in the vicinity.

#### *Cropmark sites*

Cropmark sites along the route were examined in an Aerial Photographic

Assessment which formed part of the desk-based assessment of the pipeline (Palmer 2008).

#### *Anglo-Saxon*

Wisbech is recorded in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle, in 656AD as *Wisbece*, with variations of the spelling being recorded in Domesday and 12<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century documents. The meaning is 'The valley of the River Wissey', whilst '*bæce*' is of Old English derivation, meaning 'stream' or 'valley of a stream' (Ekwall 1989, 526, 22).

A single site of this date is recorded within the vicinity of the pipeline routes, Anglo-Saxon pottery having been retrieved during trial trenching at Guyhirn.

#### *Medieval*

A 1275 document refers to Guyhirn as *la Gyerne*, the Old English '*hyrne*' meaning corner or angle and dialect '*gye*', of probable French derivation, referring to a saltwater ditch (*ibid.*, 208).

In 1376 Murrow is referred to as *Morrowe*, derived from the Old English '*mōr*', meaning marsh, and '*rāw*', a row [of houses] (*ibid.*, 334).

The following account is largely drawn from the Victoria County History of Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely, Volume 4 (Pugh 1953).

Wisbech is referred to in c.1000AD, when Oswy and Leoflede gave the vill to the monastery of Ely. In 1086AD it was held by the abbot and its fisheries were important. At the formation of the see of Ely in 1109 the vill was divided with the manor later known as Wisbech Barton going to the bishopric, and that later known as Wisbech Murrow being retained by the prior and convent.

During the later Middle Ages various subordinate manors emerged in the

Wisbech area, of which Hiptofts, Jacketts, Tuddenham Hall and Bevis Hall were all within the boundaries of St Mary's parish. The site of Hiptofts Manor may have been on or near the site of Hiptoft Farm to the east of Murrow, whilst the manor of Jacketts was perhaps located in Sayers Field, north of Wisbech St Mary. Tuddenham Hall was also located within Wisbech St Mary. Bevis Hall was likely to have been located on the North Brink at the south east corner of the parish.

The parish of Wisbech St Mary is the least nucleated of the Isle parishes. The largest settlement is around the church but there are also considerable villages at Murrow and Guyhirn and smaller ones at Tholomas Drove and Thorney Toll. In 1536, seventy-one households are recorded within the parish of Wisbech St Mary.

A possible moated site, perhaps the site of Barton Manor, is recorded in the Cambridgeshire HER near Wisbech.

A slight mound to the northeast of Wisbech St Mary was associated with Roman and Medieval pottery. The Church of St Mary at Wisbech St Mary is a Listed Building, of 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century date.

Medieval pottery was retrieved during trial trenching at Guyhirn.

Ridge and furrow was noted between Wisbech St Mary and Murrow during fieldwalking in 1976.

A number of medieval sites are recorded at Murrow. Evaluation at Hollycroft Farm revealed at least two phases of medieval to early post-medieval boundary and drainage ditches and a possible medieval pond, 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery being retrieved from the site (Fletcher 2004). Pottery of 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century date has been retrieved from a saltworks near Sea Dyke and also from a roddon. Archaeological investigations at Ivy Lodge Farm revealed 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century land use

with trackways and medieval domestic debris. Over 200 sherds of Medieval pottery, primarily of 15<sup>th</sup> century date, were retrieved during the investigations at Ivy Lodge Farm (Britchfield 2000). Medieval artefacts were also retrieved during groundworks monitoring at Front Row, Murrow.

Settlements of the period are known at Murrow, Wisbech St Mary, Parson Drove and Tholomas Drove. These were connected by droveways, the surrounding land being divided into fields. Banks to the west of Murrow and at Guyhirn separated these areas from the remaining fen. While the majority of the area would have contained settlement and fields in the period, a small section to the west of Murrow would have been fen. The majority of the pipeline routes are likely to cross areas of medieval fields with ridge and furrow rather than settlement. The pipeline routes cross medieval droveways at several locations, the medieval routes generally still being in use as modern roads and tracks. Similarly, many modern field boundaries follow medieval alignments. The pipeline routes cross the location of medieval banks at Wisbech St Mary and Murrow.

### *Post-medieval and later*

The Manor House on Station Road, Wisbech is a Listed Building dated 1791. Inham Hall at High Road, Wisbech St Mary is also Listed, a 1723 building with 19<sup>th</sup> century facade. Trial trenching adjacent to The Willows at Wisbech St Mary identified a post-medieval ditch and pit.

The Chapel of Ease at Guyhirn is a Listed Building dated 1660. The 1835 Inclosure Map depicts a windmill close to Guyhirn.

Three Listed Buildings are recorded within the vicinity of the pipeline at Murrow. Both Hollycroft Farmhouse and the Church of Corpus Christi are situated on

Front Road and are of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. A World War I memorial is located on Murrow Bank. Trial trenching at Hollycroft Farm and groundworks observation at Front Road both identified post-medieval features. Park House provides potential place-name evidence for a possible park at Murrow.

None of the post-medieval remains or listed buildings recorded on the Cambridgeshire HER were directly affected by the pipeline routes.

### *Cartographic evidence*

Various maps and plans of the area held at the Cambridgeshire Archive Office in Cambridge were examined during research for the earlier desk-based assessment (Mellor 2008).

First Edition Ordnance Survey maps of the area were examined. The arrangement of fields, roads and settlements depicted in these maps is very similar to the present day landscape. The majority of field boundaries depicted on the earlier map are still extant. Some fields are subdivided in the earlier map, around four of which are evident between Wisbech and Wisbech St Mary and around five to the north of Guyhirn. Rather more boundaries formerly existed to the north of Murrow, with around fifteen boundaries depicted on the 1885/6 map no longer being shown on the recent map. Occasionally the location of the formerly subdivided fields correspond to changes in crop or landuse noted during the walkover survey, indicating that in some cases a form of boundary remains, if not as a surface feature.

The most striking difference between the 1885/6 and modern maps is the depiction of a railway on the earlier map. The Peterborough, Wisbech and Sutton Bridge Branch is shown running approximately east-west from Wisbech, skirting the north of Wisbech St Mary and on to the south of Murrow. The pipeline route follows the

route of the railway for much of its course from Wisbech to the west of Wisbech St Mary. The pipeline again crosses the railway route close to its western end at Murrow.

No buildings are shown along the pipeline route itself, although several are depicted close to it. A corn mill 'Murrow Mill' is shown to the west of the Murrow, along with the Methodist chapel. To the north of Wisbech St Mary, the route passes close to a public house, the 'Railway Bell'. A mortuary chapel is depicted close to the southern end of the pipeline route at Guyhirn, and just to the north of this, a sheepfold is noted at the corner of a field. The location of this sheepfold broadly corresponds to the location of a slight hollow noted during the walkover survey of the route.

A plan dating to 1864 shows part of the proposed Peterborough, Wisbech and Sutton Railway in the parish of Wisbech St Peter. This shows fields and roads crossed by the railway route, on the same course as the proposed pipeline to the west of Wisbech. The railway opened in 1866 and had stations at Murrow and Wisbech St Mary.

Enclosure Award maps of the 1830s and 1840s show the pipeline route crossing fields and roads, with no significant differences in field layout or names to that evident on later maps of the area. One minor place-name of note on the enclosure map of Wisbech St Mary is 'Kiln House Lane', which suggests a nearby brick or tile kiln.

Tithe Apportionment maps of the area dated 1838 to 1871 again show the pipeline route crossing a similar pattern of fields and roads to that on the other maps consulted.

Reclamation of land continued in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The final inclosure of the commons, droves and



wastes in Wisbech St Mary took place in 1833. At the Tithe Apportionment in Wisbech St Mary in 1840 of a total of 9,599 acres, 5,615 acres were recorded as arable, 3,748 as meadow and pasture and 55 as marsh and common.

A large section of the parish falls within the Wisbech market-gardening area and near Hiptoft Farm east of Murrow village is one of the largest areas of orchard, covering more than a square mile.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site.

The objectives of the evaluation were to establish the type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site, determine its likely extent, the date and function of archaeological features, their state of preservation and spatial arrangement and to establish the way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

### 4. METHODS

#### **Trial Trenching and Archaeological Monitoring**

The methodology employed in laying the new pipe was to excavate 'launch pits' at intervals of approximately 100m along each route. Directional drilling would then be employed between each of these pits, minimising ground-level disturbance between them. Therefore, the trial trenches were to be located at the site of each proposed launch pit, within the seven areas specified by Cambridgeshire Archaeology, and the dimensions of each trench was to

reflect that required by the works.

Six trial trenches were excavated north of Murrow, and a further three launch pits in this area were subsequently monitored (MWSM08, Figures 2 & 3). In a small area to the east of Murrow where trial trenching had been proposed, works were carried out before either trenching or monitoring could be undertaken (Figure 2).

Trial trenching was not possible on the portion of the route between Wisbech and Wisbech St Mary. Launch pits in the area to the north of Wisbech St Mary specified by Cambridgeshire Archaeology were however subject to archaeological monitoring and recording (WISM08, Figures 2 & 5). Two investigation areas were specified between Wisbech St Mary and Wisbech, but again on-site difficulties prevented trial trenching. Instead, all launch pits spanning the route between these two settlements were monitored (WISM08, Figures 2 & 9).

Two areas between Guyhirn and Wisbech St Mary were to be the subject of trial trenching and window auger sampling. Two trial trenches and four boreholes were investigated immediately north of Guyhirn, but a subsequent alteration to the project brief by Cambridgeshire Archaeology removed the requirement for further work in this area (GWSM08, Figures 2 & 7). The methodology for the borehole survey is detailed in section 5.2.

In total, thirty-five launch pits were monitored and a further eight were the subject of trial trenching.

The trial trenches were opened under archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator. Trenches were initially machined to the upper surface of any archaeological horizons. The sides and bases of trenches were then cleaned and features and deposits excavated. Following recording of archaeological features and

deposits each trench was then further machined to depths equal to those required to lay each pipe.

Where launch pits were subject to archaeological monitoring the mechanical excavation of each was observed. These launch pits were too deep and narrow to safely enter or clean. Records of features and deposits were made using measurements and observations taken from the trench edge and analysis of spoil. These records were generally compiled in safer conditions following the insertion of a metal box into the launch pit, used to prevent trench collapse, which was open on two sides, and so allowed recording of deposits. Occasionally these trenches were open and a metal box inserted prior to arrival on site.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation and monitoring was allocated a unique reference number (context number), each with an individual written description. A list and description of all contexts along with their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and plans at 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

The three stretches of the pipelines from Wisbech St Mary to Murrow, to Guyhirn, and to Wisbech were allocated three separate site codes, MWSM08, GWSM08 & WISM08 respectively. For each of these three 'sites' unique sequences of numbers (trench numbers, context numbers etc) were employed. The use of these three separate site codes resulted in some duplication of numbers, although these are readily distinguished by the associated site code (eg MWSM08; Trench 1, GWSM08; Trench 1 and WISM08; Trench 1).

## 5. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 5.1 Evaluation and monitoring

Following fieldwork, all records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them, supplemented by artefact dating.

The results of the investigations are often summarised and grouped in the following text, and a full description of all features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1.

#### 5.1.1 Murrow to Wisbech St Mary (MWSM08) – Trenches 1-8, north of Wisbech St Mary

Trenches 1-8 lay to the north of Wisbech St Mary, spanning the area of investigation specified by Cambridgeshire Archaeology (Figures 2 & 5). Although trial trenching was not possible, all of these launch pits were monitored during their excavation (Plates 5 & 6).

#### *Alluvium, roddon and peat deposits*

Naturally-formed silt and clay layers were recorded in each of Trenches 1-8, and are detailed in Appendix 1 and Figure 6. The monitoring conditions including smeared sections hampered interpretation of the exact formation processes of the various naturally-deposited layers.

A roddon is known to extend across the area, in the vicinity of Trenches 2 & 3 (Figures 2 & 11). Naturally-formed deposits within Trenches 1-3 comprised silts and clayey silts, some of which may be roddon sediments (Plate 7). The ground level at these three trenches ranged from 1.07m to 1.58m OD, compared to a range of 0.94m to 0.11m OD for Trenches 3-8. The higher ground around Trenches 1-3 is

a further indicator of the presence of the roddon.

In Trenches 4-8, naturally-deposited layers largely comprised clays, and this may in part be due to the distance from the roddon, away from the silts which might be expected within it (Appendix 1, Figures 5, 6 & 11, Plates 8 & 9).

Peat layers were recorded in Trenches 2, 3 & 5, at depths of 1.00m, 1.35m and 1.30m below ground level respectively (Appendix 1, Figure 6, Plate 7). Peat encountered at similar depths elsewhere in the area has been shown to represent a freshwater phase in the Iron Age, and the peat deposits identified here may well be contemporary (Figure 11).

A layer of dark reddish-brown to black silt (402) was recorded in Trench 4 (Figure 6, Plate 8). This was very similar in appearance and composition to peat layers identified in adjacent trenches to the east and west, and could be a continuation of this deposit. However, occasional post-medieval tile fragments were recorded within it, and this was interpreted as an indication that it was associated with the former railway. The possibility remains however that the tile fragments might have derived from later deposits in the trench, and the watching brief conditions preclude firmly assigning those fragments to layer (402). In Trench 8 layer (801), a mixed deposit of dark blackish silt and gravel was also interpreted as being associated with the railway. However, again it may be the remnants of peat which was exposed during the construction of the railway and subsequently mixed with gravel associated with the railway and derived from the topsoil above it (Figure 6).

#### *Post-medieval to recent boundary ditches*

The present day fields to the north of Wisbech St Mary have boundaries laid out in northwest-southeast strips. These reflect a partial survival of medieval strip fields in

this area (Hall 1996), which once further divided this area into smaller northwest-southeast strips. Two ditches following this alignment were identified during the monitoring, one in Trench 1 [100], and a second in Trench 6 [601]. No dateable evidence was noted within or retrieved from the mid grey silty clay fill (101) of ditch [100] (Figure 6). Ditch [601] was aligned exactly with an extant open ditch a short distance to the northwest (Figure 5, Plate 10). This was probably an infilled continuation of the open ditch, and post-medieval tile and the remains of a rusty bucket were noted within its mixed fill (602). Boundaries are depicted in the position of both ditches [100] and [601] on an Ordnance Survey map of 1885/6, and so it is probable that these ditches were infilled after that time.

#### *Deposits associated with 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century railway*

The pipeline route between Trenches 1 and 8 generally followed the course of the Peterborough, Wisbech and Sutton Bridge Branch railway which was opened in 1866 and has now been dismantled. Traces of the former railway were apparent in Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 (Figure 6). These traces largely took the form of increased gravel inclusions in topsoil deposits, reflecting the gravel used along the course of the railway track. In Trench 4, a probable drain is likely to have been parallel to and associated with the railway (Plate 8). An unstratified partial ceramic electrical insulator was retrieved from Trench 4, and this may also have been associated with the railway.

#### **5.1.2 Murrow to Wisbech St Mary (MWSM08) – Trenches 9-14, north of Murrow**

Trenches 9-14 lay to the north of Murrow, spanning the area of investigation specified by Cambridgeshire Archaeology (Figures 2 & 3). Trenches 9a, 10a, 11a, 12, 13 and 14 were evaluation trial trenches.

Subsequently additional monitoring was undertaken where the actual route of the pipeline deviated slightly from the position of these trial trenches, and in this way Trenches 9b, 9c, 10b and 11b were also investigated (Figure 3).

#### *Alluvium, roddon and peat deposits*

A roddon has been mapped in the area of Trenches 9, 10 and 11 (Figures 3 & 11). The ground level steadily dropped down from the east to the west from a height of 2.56m OD at Trenches 9a and 9b to 0.83m OD at Trench 14. This reflects the position of the highest central point of the roddon in the vicinity of Trenches 9a & 9b and 10a & 10b. Trench 9c was at c.2.16m OD, 0.40m lower than the ground level at Trenches 9a and 9b, and this also reflects the increased distance from the centre of the roddon. The naturally-formed deposits encountered in Trenches 9a, 9b, 9c, 10a, 10b, 11a and 11b were generally silts and some may have been roddon silts. In some cases these silt layers had clear laminations (906), this sometimes being a characteristic of roddon deposits (Plates 13, 16 & 17). No attempt has been made to firmly differentiate the various fenland deposits as marine, roddon or otherwise, but general trends and some possible interpretations are noted here. Detailed descriptions of all naturally-formed deposits in this area are included in Appendix 1 and Figure 4.

Trench 12 was located a short distance to the west of the mapped roddon (Figures 3 & 11). Naturally-formed deposits in this trench comprised a light brownish-yellow clayey silt (1206) overlying a mid grey silty clay (1207). The silt component of deposit (1206) may possibly indicate that the edges of the roddon deposits extend into this area, and silty clay (1206) below this may perhaps represent marine alluvium underlying the possible roddon deposits.

Trenches 13 and 14 were located still

further away from the mapped extent of the roddon. A greater silt component was noted within the uppermost naturally-formed layers encountered in each of these trenches (1302) & (1402), and again this might reflect the influence of the roddon. In each trench these deposits sealed layers of brownish-grey silty clay (1303) and (1403) respectively. Below these layers were various clay deposits (eg 1304 & 1404) which may represent the deposition of marine alluvium. Peat layers (1306) and (1406) were encountered underlying these clays in Trenches 13 and 14 (Plate 20), in both cases at a depth of 1.20m below ground level, or at c.0.03m and -0.35m OD respectively. Peat recorded c.500m to the north of these trenches at a height of 0.50m OD has been dated to the Iron Age (Figure 11). Although there is some difference in the height OD of these peat deposits (up to 0.85m difference between the dated peat and that in Trench 14) the peats in Trenches 13 and 14 may be a continuation of this Iron Age peat and probably represent a phase of freshwater inundation across the area at this time. In each of these two trenches further clay layers were recorded below the peats and may also represent marine alluvium, predating the freshwater phase.

#### *Undated, Roman and later features and deposits*

##### *Trench 9a*

Trench 9a was an evaluation trench, and three near-parallel eastsoutheast-westnorthwest aligned linear features were identified within it (Plates 11 & 12). In this trench, roddon silts (906) were overlain by a buried soil layer (915) which was cut by the three linear features. The southernmost of these three features [907] (Figure 4, Trench 9 Section 2, Plate 11) contained a series of grey, black and brown silts. No dating evidence was retrieved from any of these fills, but a small quantity of probable plate hammerscale was retrieved from one fill

(910).

Although the relationship was rather unclear, the northern edge of feature [907] was apparently truncated by feature [912] (Figure 4, Section 2, Plate 11). Ditch or gully [912] was 0.30m wide and 0.35m deep with steep sides and a concave to 'V'-shaped base. The single fill (913) of this feature was a brownish-grey silt and sampling of this deposit retrieved a single liver fluke snail shell and small quantity of fish bones (Appendices 3 & 4). No dateable evidence was retrieved from fill (913).

The third linear feature in this trench [905] was over 0.80m wide and 0.50m deep with steep sides and a concave base, and extended beyond the northern trench edge (Figure 4, Section 1, Plate 12). A single sherd of Roman pottery was retrieved from (904), the lower of two fills of this ditch (Appendix 2). Deposit (904) also produced small quantities of probable hammerscale and faunal remains in the form of sheep or goat bone, amphibian bones and liver fluke and ramshorn snail shells (Appendix 2).

Environmental samples were taken from one fill of each of the three linear features in Trench 9a. Small quantities of material retrieved in this way comprised charcoal, barley, wheat and various snail shells, attesting to conditions in the area being at least semi-permanently waterlogged grassland (Appendix 3).

Subsoil and topsoil layers sealed all other deposits in Trench 9a. Unstratified finds retrieved during machine excavation of this trench (914) comprised two sherds of 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery and three daub fragments with lath impressions (Appendix 2). Although unstratified, these probably derive from either topsoil (901) or subsoil (902) deposits.

## Trench 9b

Trench 9b was monitored, and was located

c.1m to the north of Trench 9a (Figure 4). Here, a c.6m by 6.5m working area was stripped of topsoil, and a 3m by 1m launch pit excavated within this (Figure 4). Subsoil layer (925) was exposed across the stripped area in Trench 9b, and context number (924) was allocated to a concentration of finds within subsoil (925), at the southern edge of the trench. Finds from (925) included twenty-six pottery sherds which were largely of 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD Roman date, along with a single possibly 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century sherd and a single 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century sherd (Appendix 2). Three fragments of Roman glass were also retrieved, all of which were probably part of a 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD drinking vessel. Fifty-eight fragments of daub were also retrieved from (924), and these featured lath impressions and exhibited signs of exposure to heat, probably due to deliberate heating to increase the strength of whatever structure they formed in use. A cattle mandible and an undiagnostic fragment of ceramic building material were also retrieved.

It could be that deposit (924) represents the remains of a Roman feature, ploughed-out in the Medieval period. This might explain the mixed date of finds retrieved from this deposit.

Underlying subsoil (925), within the launch pit in Trench 9b, was a single east-west aligned ditch [929], which was cut into probable roddon silts (928) (Figure 4, Plate 13). This ditch was over 0.80m wide and 0.60m deep with gently sloping sides, and contained two silt fills, the earliest of which (927) apparently contained ash. An oyster shell and twelve sherds of pottery of 3<sup>rd</sup> century Roman date were retrieved from fill (927) (Appendix 2).

Trenches 9a and 9b, dating and function of features and deposits

Two of the three linear features in Trench 9a were undated, and the third [905] produced pottery of Roman date. A single

linear feature in Trench 9b was of 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD Roman date. Although two of these features are undated, it seems likely that they are near-contemporary and of Roman date.

Subsoil sealed the fills of all of these four features, and this layer contained moderately large quantities of daub, apparently representing the remains of a structure. As this subsoil deposit also contained Roman pottery and a small number of medieval sherds, the age of the daub remains unclear. The presence of pottery of Roman date in linear [905] indicates a roman or later date for the subsoil and daub.

The function of the various linear features in Trenches 9a and 9b is unclear. The type of structure which would have been formed by the daub is also unknown, but could be part of a windbreak, shelter or building associated with domestic or perhaps industrial activities. Very small quantities of hammerscale could indicate metalworking in the near vicinity, and the burning of the daub could potentially be due to heating processes associated with this activity. However, other artefacts retrieved from the area include Roman vessel glass, apparently a domestic item. In the absence of clear dating evidence or further structural remains, such as post holes or stake holes, the nature and range of activities carried out in the vicinity remains unknown.

#### Trench 9c

Trench 9c was the most easterly trench in this area (Figure 3), and this launch pit was the subject of monitoring. Cut into probable roddon silts (922) in this trench was a single north-south aligned linear feature [923] (Figure 4, Plate 14). This was interpreted as a probable ditch rather than a natural channel. The fills of this ditch comprised silts and silty clays, and organic matter and charcoal were recorded in some of these. However, no dating evidence was

retrieved from any of the fills of [923]. The orientation of this ditch is similar to that of the medieval and later field pattern in the area, and might well relate to this phase. No boundary is shown in this location on an Ordnance Survey map of 1885/6, and so it seems probable that this ditch predates this. The retrieval of Roman and medieval material from the area of Trenches 9a and 9b, a short distance to the west however highlights the possibility that ditch [923] might be significantly earlier, and potentially of Roman or later date. Subsoil and topsoil layers were recorded sealing the uppermost fill of ditch [923].

#### Trenches 10a and 10b

No archaeological features were identified in evaluation Trench 10a, but an unusually thick overburden of subsoil (1002) was recorded (Figure 4, Plate 15). This subsoil layer was 0.61m thick and ten fragments of 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century and 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery were retrieved from it, along with a fragment of brick of possible 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century date (Appendix 2). Given the small size of the trial trench, at only 2m by 2m, it is possible that rather than being subsoil, deposit (1002) might be the fill of a large feature. However, the deposit also extended throughout Trench 10b to the north, and as such would seem rather extensive for this interpretation, although it could represent a wide, infilled boundary feature.

Trench 10b was stripped of topsoil, and a small launch pit excavated within the stripped area (Figure 4). Within this, a single northnorthwest-southsoutheast ditch [1006] was recorded, this being 1.15m wide and 0.20m deep, and having gently sloping sides and a flattish base (Plate 16). This contained a single fill of soft mid brownish-grey silt (1005). No dating evidence was retrieved from this feature, although its alignment is similar to that of the medieval and later field layout. However, this orientation is also

approximately perpendicular to the Roman and undated linear features recorded in Trench 9, and this may indicate that the medieval field layout incorporated or reflected earlier alignments, and a pre-medieval date for ditch [1006] cannot be discounted.

A 0.25m thick topsoil of dark blackish-brown silt extended across Trenches 10a and 10b, and a single sherd of 15<sup>th</sup> century pottery was retrieved from this layer (Appendix 2).

#### Trenches 11a and 11b

In Trial Trench 11a, a single pit [1102] was identified and excavated (Plate 18). This amorphous feature was over 2m by over 1.25m across and 0.40m deep, and a modern seed potato label with the date '21/2/1984' was retrieved from its fill (1103).

Four sherds of 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD Roman pottery, a cattle molar and a single fragment of iron smithing slag were retrieved from topsoil (1101).

Trench 11b was monitored, but as no archaeological features were evident, and the sequence of natural deposits and overburden was identical to that of Trench 11a, no further record was made.

#### Trench 12

A single northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned ditch [1205] was recorded in Trench 12 (Figure 4, Plate 19). Part of a 17<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe and a fragment of 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century or later brick were retrieved from its fill (1204). This boundary is not depicted on the 1885/6 Ordnance Survey map but does match the orientation of the medieval to modern boundaries. It is likely to have been infilled between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The fill of this ditch was sealed by subsoil and topsoil layers, which were in turn overlain by the hardcore of a modern

trackway (1201).

#### Trenches 13 & 14

No archaeological features or deposits were noted in Trenches 13 or 14, and no artefacts were retrieved from either trench.

### 5.1.3 Wisbech to Wisbech St Mary (WISM08)

Cambridgeshire Archaeology specified a requirement for evaluation of launch pits in two areas between Wisbech and Wisbech St Mary (Figure 2). On-site difficulties prevented any trial trenching in these areas, and instead twenty-four trenches spanning the entire route between the two settlements were monitored (Figure 9). The methodology was generally the same as that employed in the monitored pits at MWSM08, using a mechanical excavator and steel box. In some cases these trenches were already open on arrival on site, and a section visible at one end of the box was recorded (Plate 21).

#### *Alluvium, roddon and peat deposits*

Naturally-deposited layers were recorded in each of Trenches 1-24 (Figure 10). These comprised a variety of silts and clays (Plates 23 & 25), in addition to peat which was recorded in each of Trenches 4, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23 & 24 (Plates 23 & 24). This is likely to be the same Iron Age peat known to extend across the area (Figure 11) and also noted during this investigation to the north of Murrow. Deposits (8003), (9003) and (10003), in Trenches 8, 9 and 10 respectively, were not clearly visible during monitoring, but may represent a further continuation of this peat. Due to the occasionally poor recording conditions, it is possible that peat may have been obscured in further trenches in this area. Additionally, the depth and height OD of both the trenches and the peat layers varied from trench to trench, and in some cases trenches may



have been of insufficient depth to expose any peat. Further possibilities are that the peat never extended into some areas, or that it was truncated and removed in places, perhaps by later inundations, ploughing or the construction of the railway. A similar range of factors may explain the absence of peat in several trenches at Murrow (MWSM08).

Although roddons cross parts of the pipeline route between Wisbech and Wisbech St Mary, these are not clearly mapped in this area of higher ground (Hall 1996, 169). This, along with the poor recording conditions and the lack of clear trends in the distribution of the various silts and clays identified during the monitoring, means it has not been possible here to firmly differentiate the various fenland deposits as marine, roddon or otherwise, beyond the identification of the possible Iron Age peat deposits already described. Detailed descriptions of all naturally-formed deposits in this area are included in Appendix 1 and Figure 10.

#### *Probable late post medieval to early modern features and deposits*

A northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature [028] was identified in Trench 15 (Figure 10, Plate 26). This had gently sloping sides and a concave base and was over 4.00m wide and 1.20m deep. The earliest fill was (027), a firm 0.40m thick dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal, above which was (031), a 0.97m thick mid to dark grey silty clay. This feature was interpreted on site as a probable natural channel. However, several fragments of ceramic building material were retrieved from the earliest fill (027) of this feature (Appendix 2), and these are most likely of 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century date. This dating would suggest that this feature was more likely a ditch than a channel.

#### *Deposits associated with 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century railway*

This stretch of the pipeline route largely followed the course of a former railway, and traces of this were recorded in Trenches 12, 14, 15, 16, 17 & 19. A brick culvert (018) recorded in Trench 14 had apparently been constructed to carry an open drain under the railway line (Figure 10, Plate 27). A brick from this culvert was examined and was confirmed to date from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (Appendix 2).

A northeast-southwest aligned linear feature [23002] was recorded in Trench 23, and was over 1.75m wide and 0.48m deep (Figure 10, Plate 28). Its fill (23001) comprised a loose greyish-brown silty sand and stone. Although no dating evidence was retrieved, the character and location of this feature indicates it to be most likely to be directly associated with the former railway

Further remains attesting to the former presence of the railway were recorded in Trenches 12, 15, 16, 17 & 19, but were restricted to gravel within topsoil or layers of make-up material (Figure 10).

#### *Recent surfaces and associated deposits*

Trenches 1 & 2 were dug directly into the modern road surface (Plate 22) and Trenches 3 & 4 into a car park (Plate 23). The uppermost deposits in Trenches 5, 7, 8, 9 & 10 related to farm tracks in these areas.

#### **5.1.4 Guyhirn to Wisbech St Mary (GWSM08)**

Two evaluation trenches were recorded to the north of Guyhirn (Figures 2 & 7). Each of these trenches was adjacent to a previously recorded borehole, and the results of the borehole survey provide a more thorough account of the naturally-formed deposits in the vicinity of Trenches

1 & 2 than was possible for the other investigated areas (See 5.2 and Appendix 4). Descriptions of features and deposits recorded in Trenches 1 & 2 can be found in Appendix 1 and Figure 8.

### Trench 1

Deposits in Trench 1 were limited to naturally-formed laminated slightly sandy silt layers, sealed by topsoil.

### Trench 2

The earliest deposit in Trench 2 was also naturally-formed laminated silt (207). Sealing this was a further layer (206), which was a soft light to mid grey silt. Fired clay, briquetage, charcoal, burnt flint and faunal remains including cattle bones were retrieved from this deposit, along with four very small sherds of pottery (Appendix 2). Three of these pottery sherds were unidentifiable and a fourth was identified as possibly being of 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date, or perhaps early 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century date. On site it seemed that these small quantities of material reflect salt-making and domestic activity of probable early Roman date in the vicinity. These remains may perhaps have been incorporated into the otherwise naturally-formed silts, through dumping of waste materials in a wet, marginal area at the eastern edge of the roddon which is known to extend across the northern part of the field (Figure 11). The cropmarks of a Romano-British field system, settlement and trackway are known in the immediate vicinity. Briquetage and Roman pottery are known from a site roughly 30m to the north of Trench 2, again on the eastern edge of the roddon (Figure 11).

However, dating of the small fragments of pottery from this deposit as medieval makes this interpretation less clear. The pottery may be intrusive, perhaps as the result of animal burrowing. Given the location on the edge of the higher ground of the roddon it seems that the pottery

cannot logically provide a date for layer (206), which appears to have been formed in the wetter conditions which would have no longer prevailed in the medieval period. It is possible however that the small size of the excavated trench prevented accurate identification of the nature of this deposit.

Environmental sampling of deposit (206) revealed a very small assemblage of charred wood fragments, burnt bone and a single wheat grain (Appendix 2). This assemblage was interpreted as being consistent with a small deposit of domestic refuse but more likely an accidental accumulation of wind-blown detritus. However, the pottery, briquetage, animal bone and other finds also retrieved from this deposit are not wind-blown, so the interpretation of the assemblage being a small dump of domestic waste seems the more accurate.

Further silt and silty clay (206 & 208) sealed layer (206) (Figure 8). These layers were again apparently naturally-formed, but inclusions of occasional fired clay and charcoal flecks may indicate some low level of dumping during their deposition.

An east-west aligned linear feature [203] was recorded cutting through these layers, and was over 2.00m wide and 0.80m deep (Figure 8). Although this might potentially have been a man-made feature, its form and fills appeared to be more characteristic of a naturally-formed channel. Three fills were recorded within channel [203] and generally comprised slightly clayey silts which had clear laminations.

## 5.2 Borehole Survey (GWSM08)

After four boreholes were investigated close to Guyhirn, conditions on site proved too poor to continue the survey. A report on the findings of these four boreholes was prepared by the Environmental Archaeology Consultancy, in advance of resuming the survey at a later date. Subsequently, the requirement for further

sampling was removed by Cambridgeshire Archaeology. The following is the initial report prepared outlining the results of the survey of the four completed boreholes.

*Borehole Survey: James Rackham  
The Environmental Archaeology  
Consultancy*

## Introduction

A borehole survey along a stretch of the Guyhirn to Wisbech St Mary water pipeline was commissioned that involved the sinking of fourteen boreholes at specified locations to a depth of three metres, the recording of the deposits, the photographing where appropriate and the removal of intact cores from locations where the sediments had some palaeo-environmental potential.

The survey was undertaken on Tuesday December 2nd 2008. Four boreholes were undertaken at locations BH1, BH2, BH3 and BH5, since access to BH4 was not immediately available. The equipment used was a small Dando Terrier 2000 percussion rig on tracks (Plate 2). Each borehole was undertaken using a 100mm diameter window sampler reducing down to 64mm window sampler for the 2-3m core. The sediments were recorded immediately on site, photographed if appropriate and discarded.

In the event all the fields being cored were recently sown cereal fields with a fine soft tilth and as the frost left the ground the rig became bogged in the soft and wet soils of the fields. After getting stuck and requiring a JCB to extract the rig, drilling was terminated for the day and further work postponed until the soil conditions improve sufficiently for the boring to be carried out without the prospect of the rig becoming stuck.

The following results were those obtained on this first days drilling. The location of the boreholes is recorded on Figure 7.

Borehole 1 (BH1) is the most western hole of the series, with subsequent boreholes numbered eastwards. The borehole field logs are included in this report as Appendix 4.

## Results

The sequences in all the boreholes broadly reflect the marine origins for the bulk of the deposits cored. Boreholes 1-3 appear to lie on a low 'roddon' feature. The surface soils are sandy silt loams and overlie laminated sands. In Borehole 2 a horizon of fired earth and charcoal indicates the presence of archaeology either sealed by the deposits that make up the ploughsoil or lying within a cut feature. The fired sediment is suggestive of briquetage and might indicate association with a salt making site (Plate 3).

In BH3 a grey silty clay deposit with traces of degraded organics and charred probable reed fragments at a depth of 0.95m suggests the base of a possible ditch or channel feature. These deposits directly overlie the laminated sands characteristic of the lower part of these sequences.

Access to the location of BH4 was prevented by a locked gate at the Guyhirn sports ground so this location was not bored.

In BH5 the sequence differs from the earlier three boreholes. A lack of sand in the upper sediments suggests that this borehole lies off or on the edge of the 'roddon' and it may have been a slightly lower level and the less sandy character to the soils that was responsible for the rig getting bogged down in this field. A dark grey and grey slightly silty fine sand beneath the silt loams of the top 0.5m was noted as a possible palaeosol. This overlies a sequence of laminated sands similar to the basal sequences of BH1-3.

## Comments

At this incomplete stage of the survey interpretation of the sequences so far studied is limited. Most of the sediments described are of marine origin. BH1-3 appear to lie on a roddon. BH-2 clearly recorded an archaeological deposit, BH3 may have located a ditch feature and a palaeosol is suggested for a horizon in BH5. None of the deposits produced any peats or organic rich sediments, and although the 'briquetage' debris and the possible palaeosol could reflect a Roman period ground surface this could only be substantiated by trench excavation and possible radiocarbon dating.

Continuation of the survey using the Dando rig can only be considered when either the ground conditions are much drier, or frozen, or when the crop has grown sufficiently to give the ploughsoil more surface strength. It would be possible to continue the survey using a hand auger and bring the rig back if any borehole locations warrant specific sampling. The hand auger would produce a log similar to those recorded so far, but a photographic record would be more problematic as might be sampling for radiocarbon dating. The machine cores vary in width from 100-64mm, while the hand auger core is only 25mm in diameter.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken on the route of the S101A Anglian Water pipe routes, between Murrow, Wisbech St Mary, Wisbech and Guyhirn, Cambridgeshire as the route crossed archaeologically sensitive areas.

A mixed programme of archaeological trial trenching, archaeological monitoring and borehole survey was undertaken in various specified areas along the pipeline route.

A desk-based assessment had previously indicated a high potential that Iron Age peat deposits would be encountered along the pipeline route, representing a freshwater phase at this time. Peat layers which are probably the same as that recorded elsewhere in the area were identified in several trenches, to the north of Murrow, north of Wisbech St Mary and between Wisbech St Mary and Wisbech. Further naturally-formed deposits were recorded which are likely to include marine clays and roddon silts.

Extensive Roman remains, along with undated cropmark sites primarily of probable Roman date, had been previously recorded in the area, particularly between Wisbech St Mary and Guyhirn, and around Murrow. Remains of Roman field systems and settlements were recorded in these areas, usually located on roddons (extinct creeks), whilst saltmaking sites have been identified at the edge of the roddons. There was considered to be a strong likelihood that at least some Roman deposits in the area would be affected by works to install the pipeline.

Roman pottery and vessel glass were amongst artefacts retrieved from two adjacent trenches to the north of Murrow. Two Roman and two undated but probably near-contemporary features and a spread of Roman or later heat-affected daub were recorded in this area, and medieval pottery was also retrieved here. Certainly activity of Roman and medieval date is represented here, and small quantities of hammerscale indicate at least some industrial processes in the vicinity. Analysis of environmental remains here revealed low levels of probable domestic material, along with indicators of semi-permanently waterlogged grassland in the area.

It seems likely that the mixed assemblage of Roman and medieval material results from Roman features and deposits, which persisted, perhaps as earthworks, for some time before being re-worked by ploughing,

in the medieval period, and consequently mixed with medieval material.

Probable early Roman briquetage was retrieved from an apparently water-lain deposit in a trench to the north of Guyhirn, along with small quantities of probable domestic material, including bone and charcoal. Similar deposits had previously been identified in a borehole adjacent to this trench. This material appeared to have been dumped in this location, in wet conditions at the edge of the higher ground of a roddon. A Roman field system is recorded in this area, on the higher ground of the roddon, and briquetage and Roman pottery had been retrieved nearby during earlier investigations. In the present investigation the briquetage and other materials were found in association with a small sherd of medieval pottery, although this may be intrusive.

The majority of the pipeline routes were to cross land which would have been in agricultural use in the medieval period. Consequently, there was considered to be a rather low potential that more concentrated medieval settlement evidence would be encountered, as this seems to have been restricted to the village centres. With the possible exception of the remains including medieval material to the north of Murrow, which have already been outlined, this assessment was borne out by the findings of the investigations.

The medieval Jacketts Manor is thought to have been located to the north of Wisbech St Mary, in Sayers Field. As the pipeline route crossed this field, it was possible that remains associated with the manor might be encountered, and that any such remains might be of some significance. No remains associated with the manor were encountered.

Various ditches were recorded which reflect the layout of the medieval and later field system in the area, some of which were evident on late 19<sup>th</sup> century maps of

the area.

Remains associated with the former Peterborough to Sutton Bridge branch of the former Midland and Great Northern Joint railway were encountered in several trenches. These including a culverted drain an increased quantities of gravel in topsoil deposits.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Trevor Burton of Anglian Water Services Ltd who commissioned this investigation, and Barhale for assistance during the fieldwork. The work was co-ordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. James Rackham of The Environmental Archaeology Consultancy conducted the borehole survey.

## 9. PERSONNEL

**Project Coordinator:** Gary Taylor

**Fieldwork:** Bob Garland, Ross Kendall, Vicky Mellor, Chris Moulis, Mark Peachey, Jim Robertson, Karon Rosser, Jim Snee, Jon Smith & Fiona Walker

**Borehole survey:** The Environmental Archaeology Consultancy

**Photographic reproduction:** Vicky Mellor

**CAD Illustration:** Paul Cope-Faulkner, Vicky Mellor, Jim Snee & Sue Unsworth

**Post-excavation analysis:** Vicky Mellor

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**11. ABBREVIATIONS**

APS	Archaeological Project Services
CAPCA	Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice
IfA	Institute of Field Archaeologists (since renamed Institute for Archaeologists)
OD	Ordnance Datum (height above sea level)
OS	Ordnance Survey



Figure 1 General location map



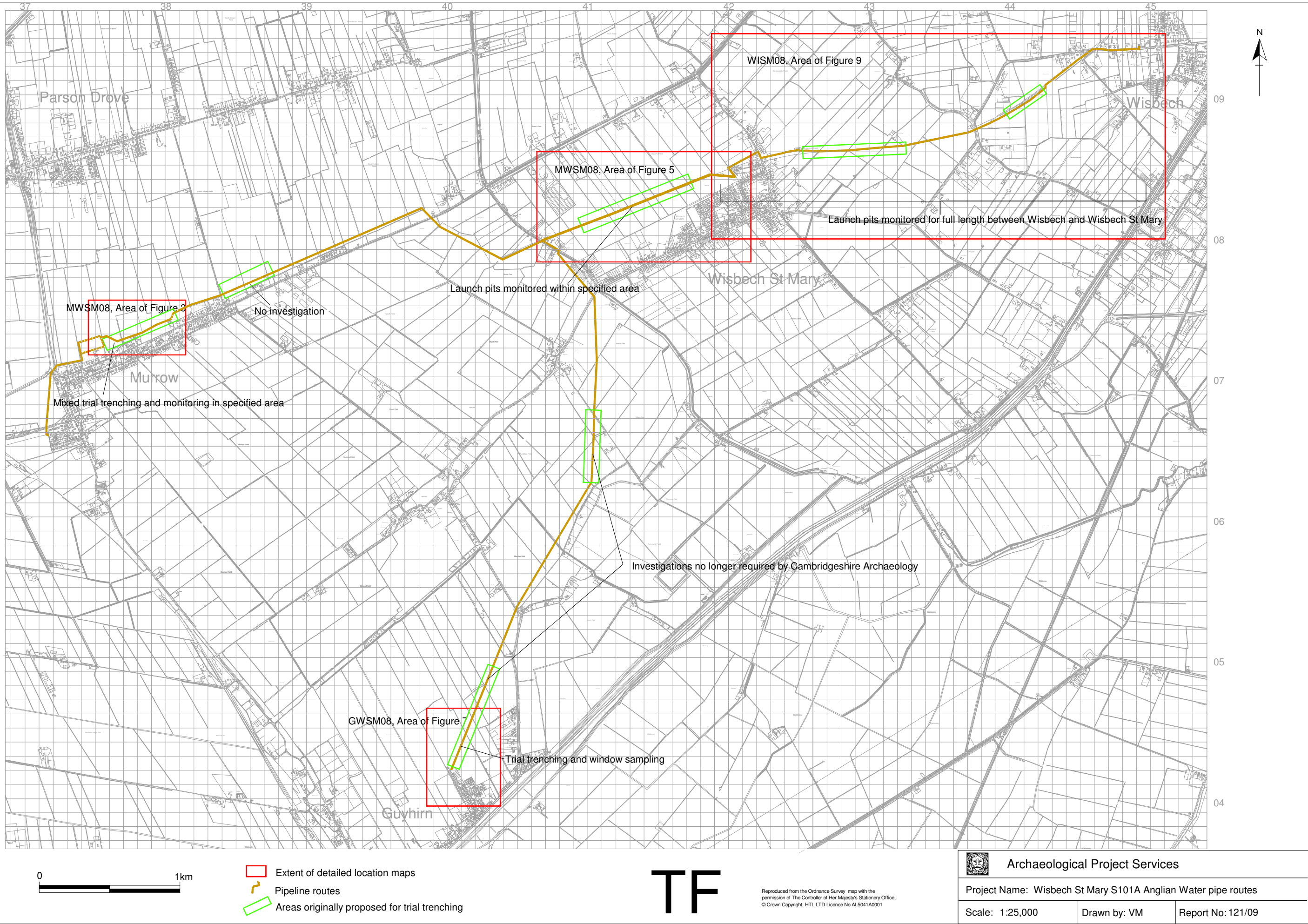


Figure 2 Map of Wisbech St Mary S101A Anglian Water pipelines showing location of areas of investigation

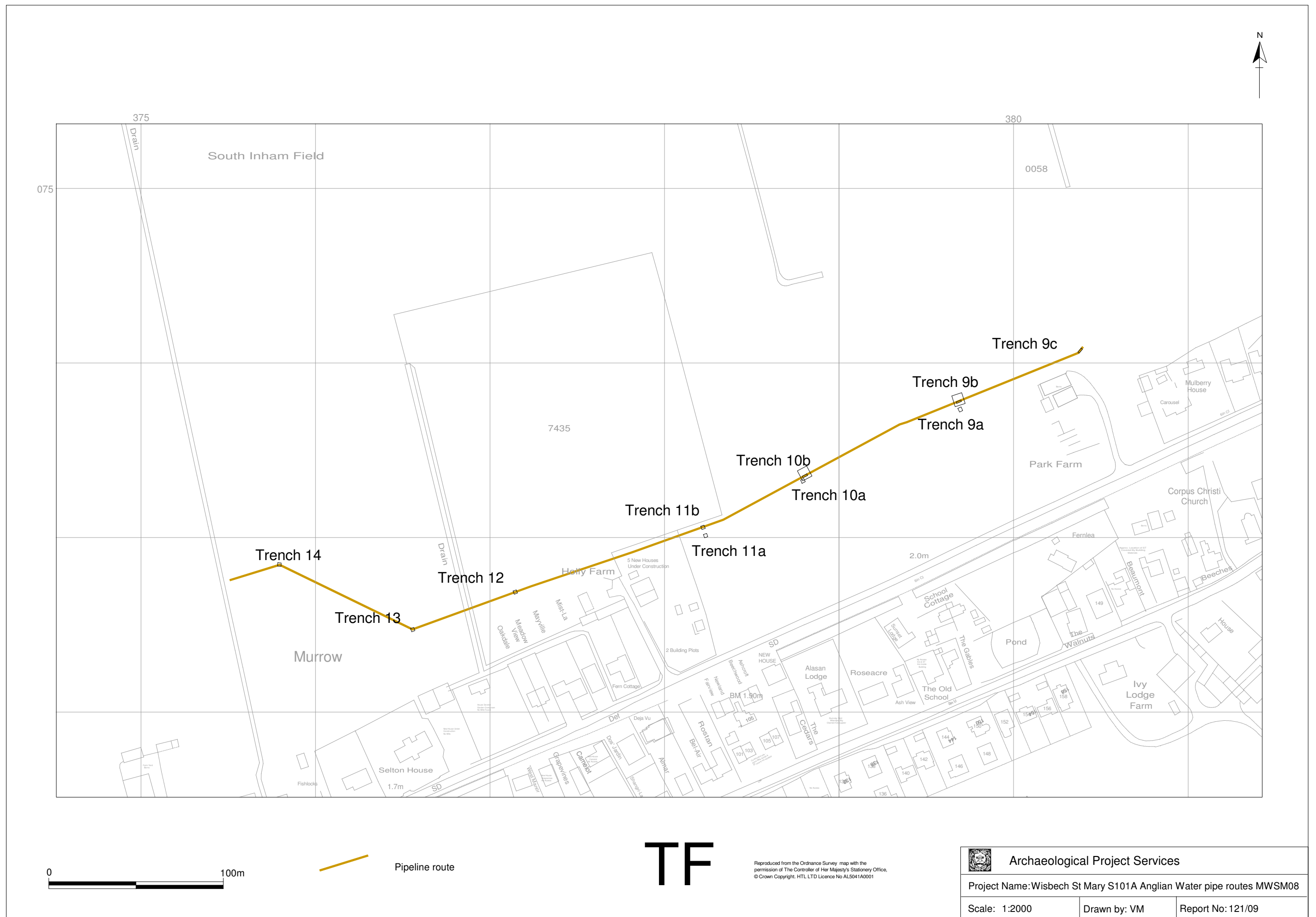


Figure 3 Location of monitored launch pits and evaluation trenches north of Murrow - MWSM08

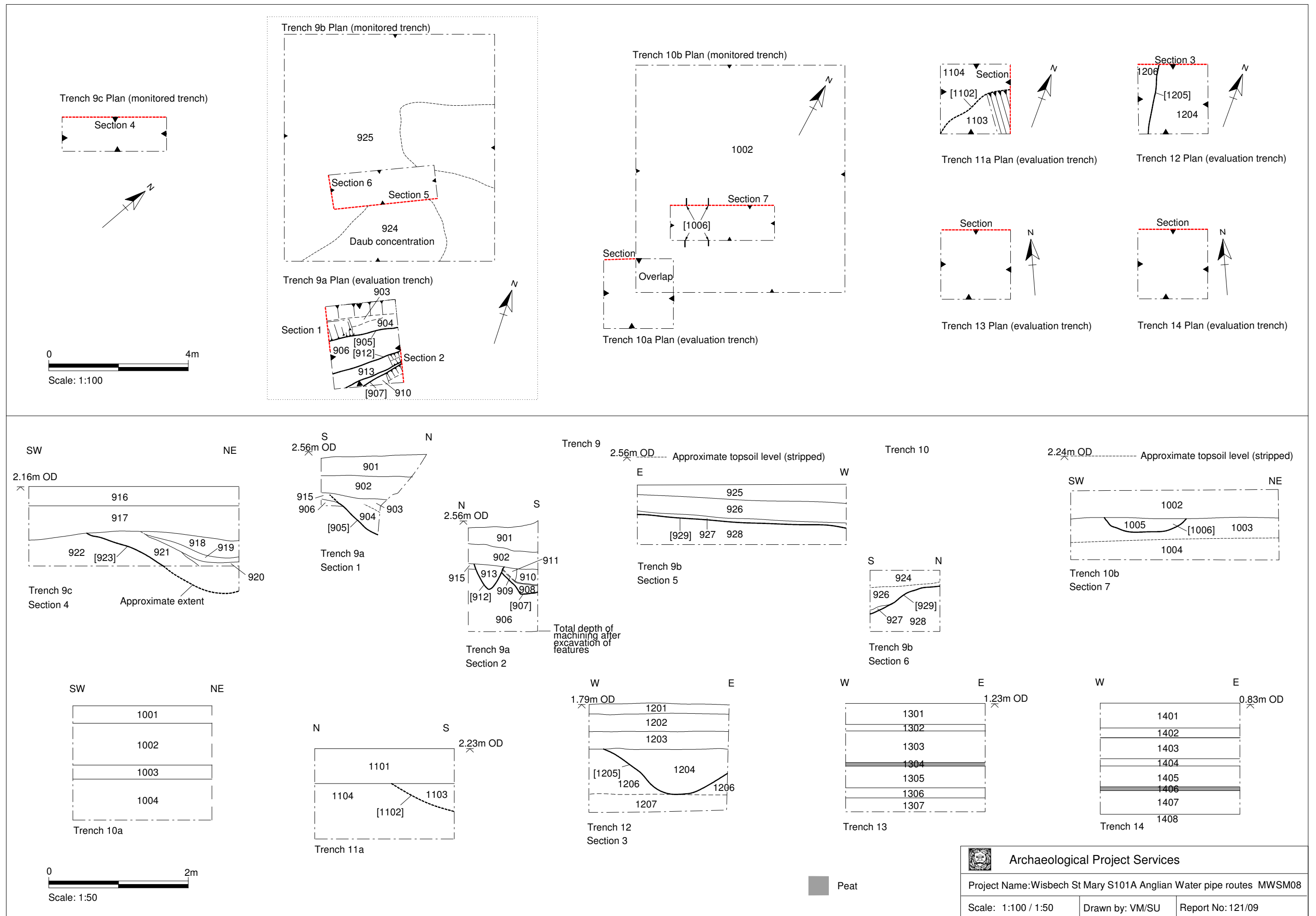


Figure 4 Plans and sections of monitored launch pits north of Murrow - MWSM08





 Pipeline route

TF

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 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Wisbech St Mary S101A Anglian Water pipe routes MWSM08		
Scale: 1:5000	Drawn by: VM	Report No: 121/09

Figure 5 Location of monitored launch pits north of Wisbech St Mary - MWSM08

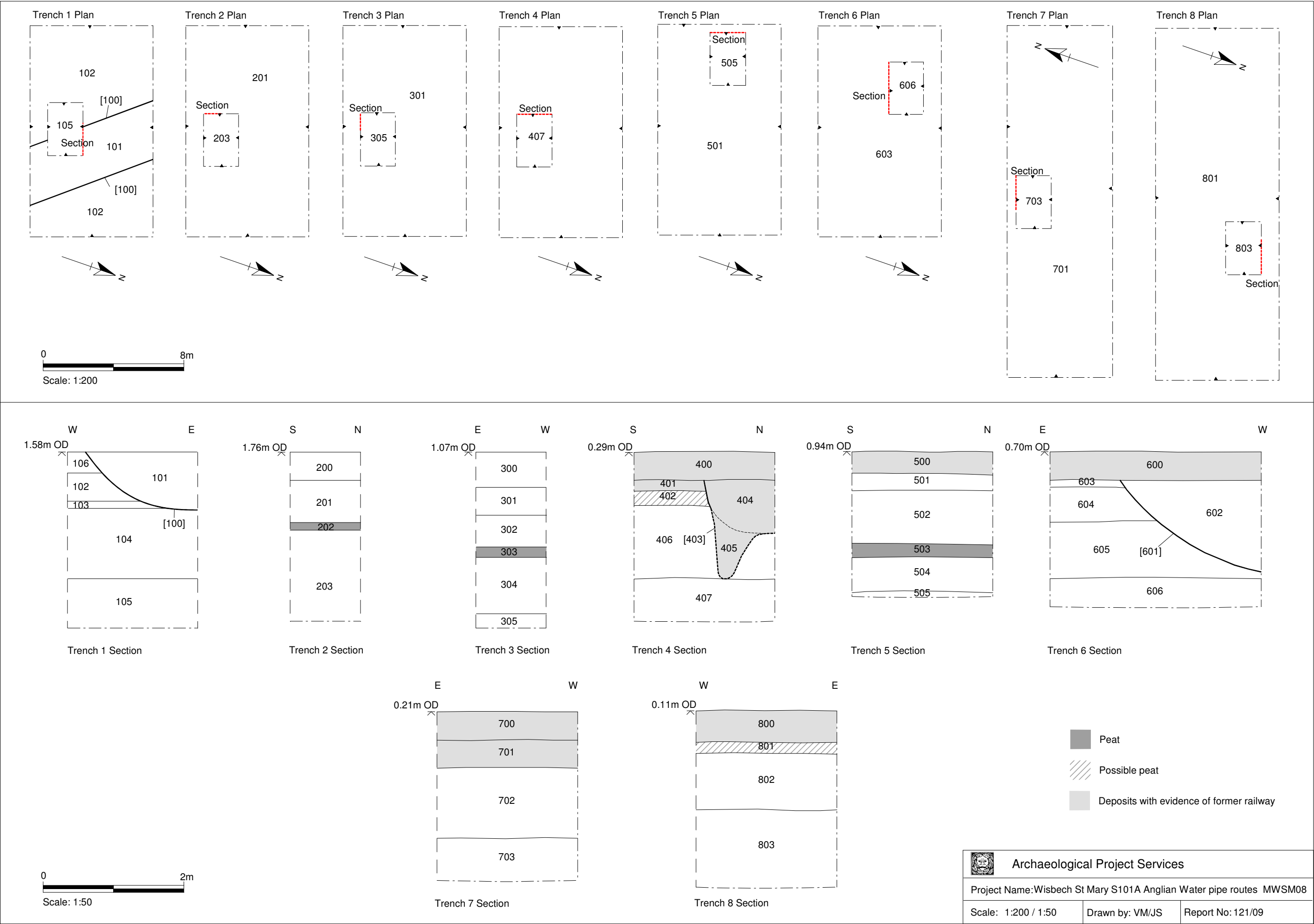


Figure 6 Plans and sections of monitored launch pits north of Wisbech St Mary - MWSM08

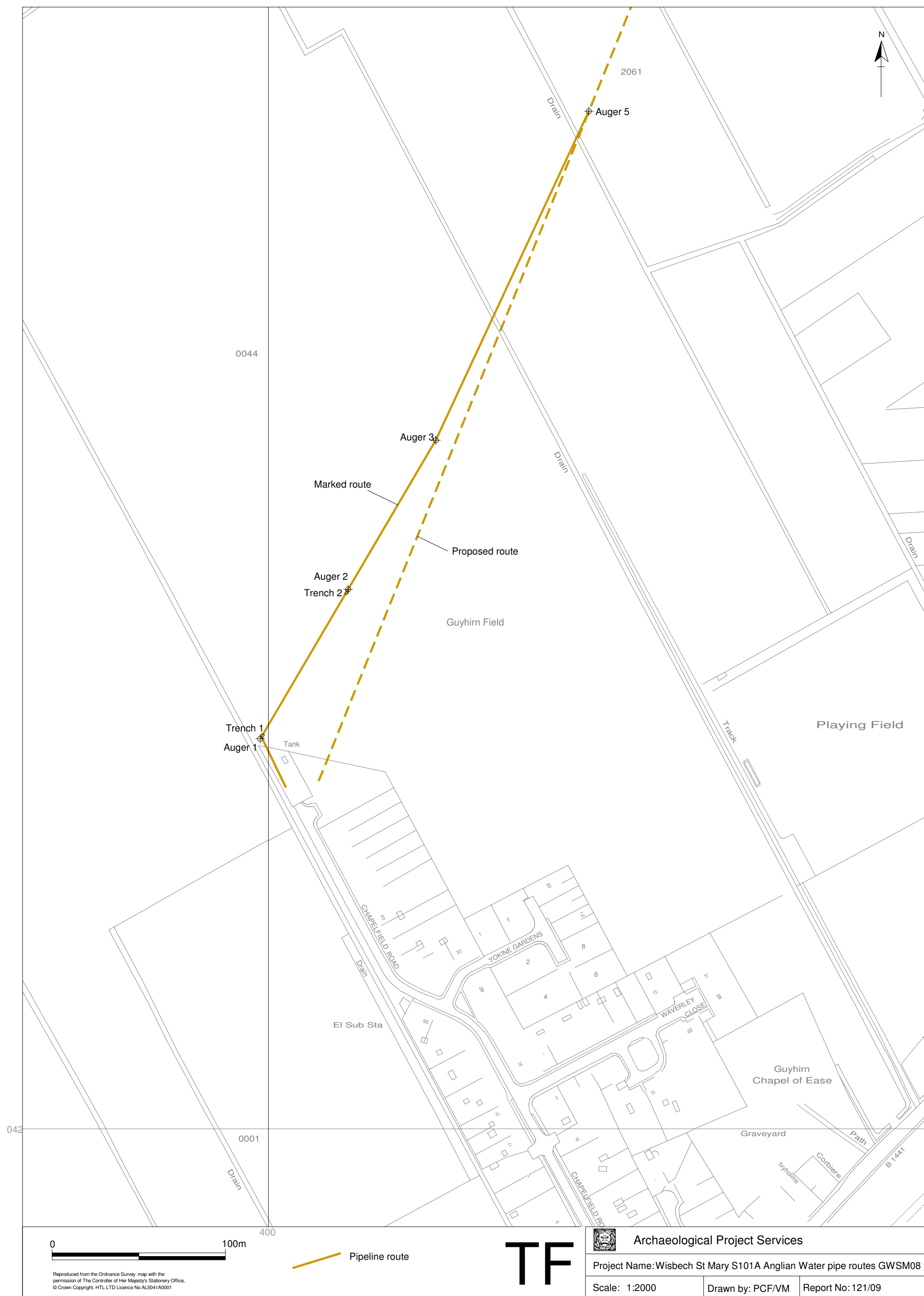


Figure 7 Location of monitored launch pits north of Guyhirn and auger transect - GWSM08

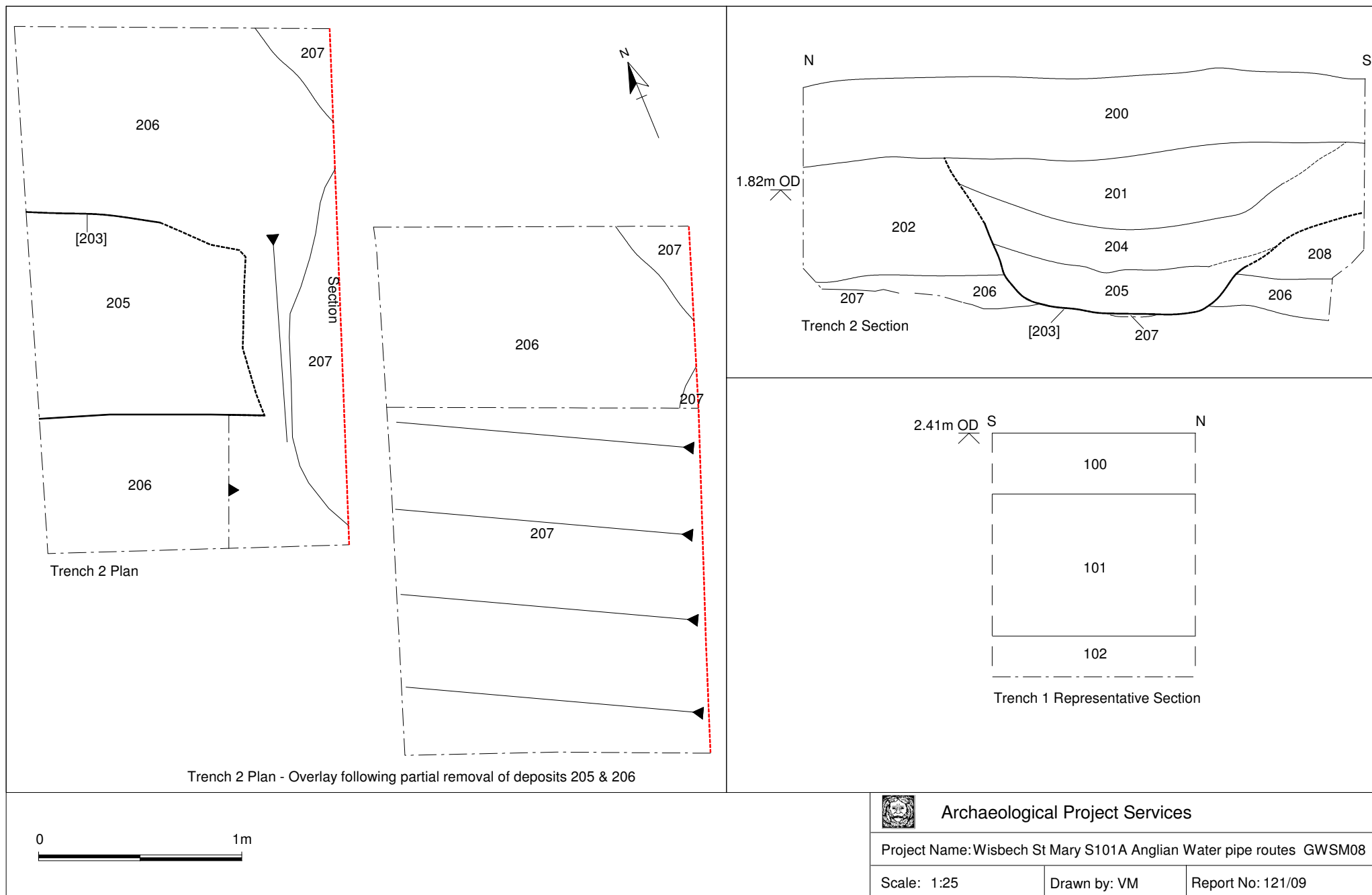
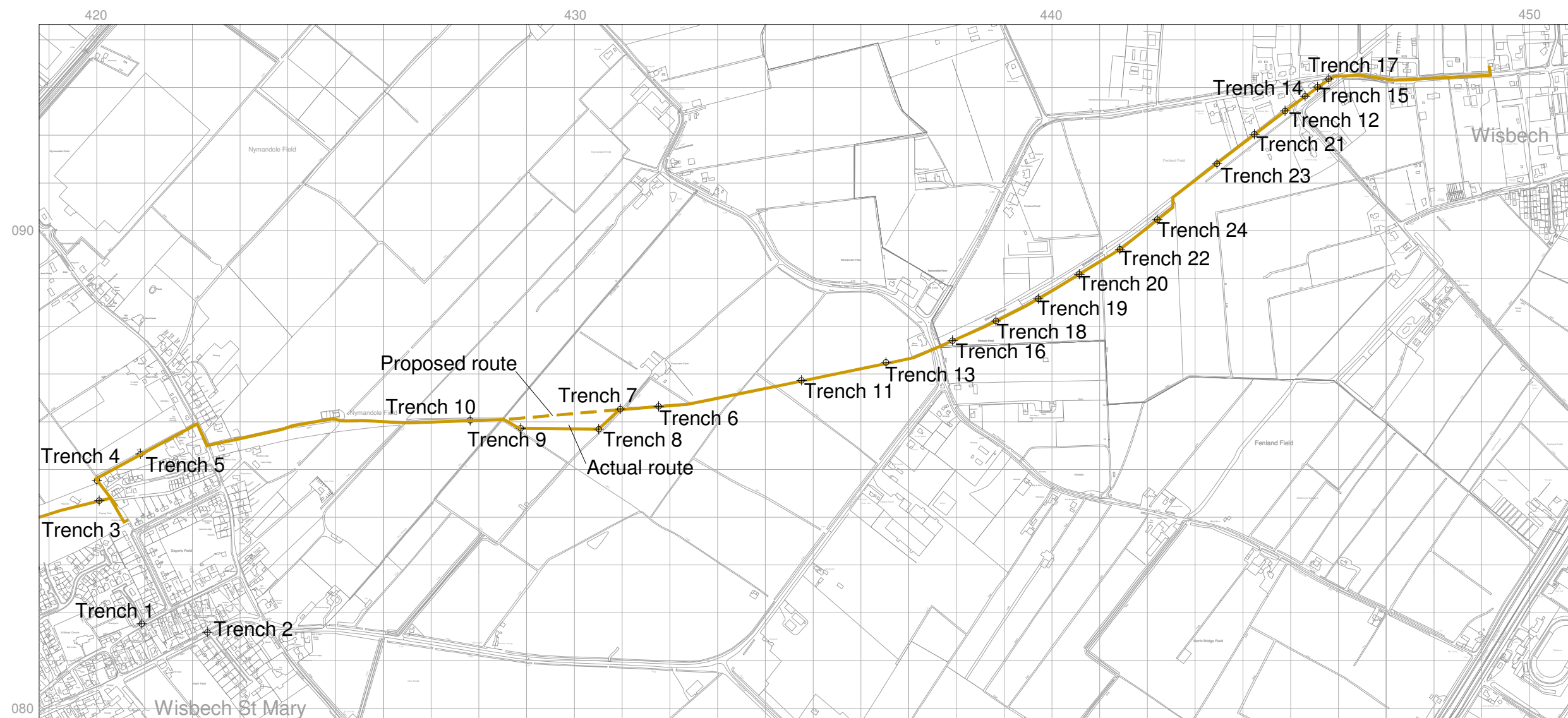


Figure 8 Plans and sections of monitored launch pits north of Guyhirn - GWSM08





0 400m

Pipeline route

TF

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Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Wisbech St Mary S101A Anglian Water pipe routes WISM08

Scale: 1:5000

Drawn by: VM

Report No: 121/09

Figure 9 Location of monitored launch pits between Wisbech and Wisbech St Mary - WISM08

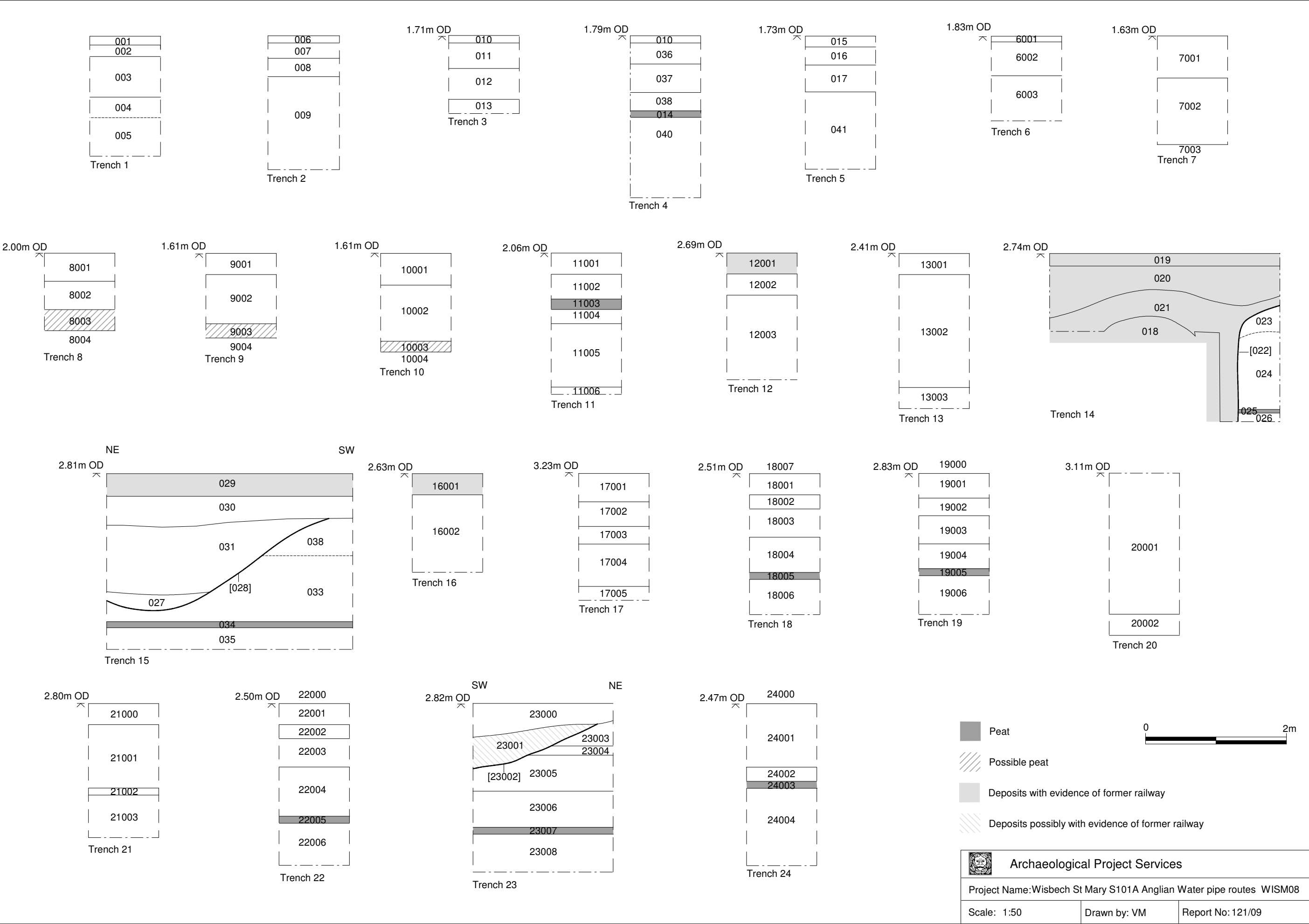


Figure 10 Sections of monitored launch pits between Wisbech and Wisbech St Mary - WISM08



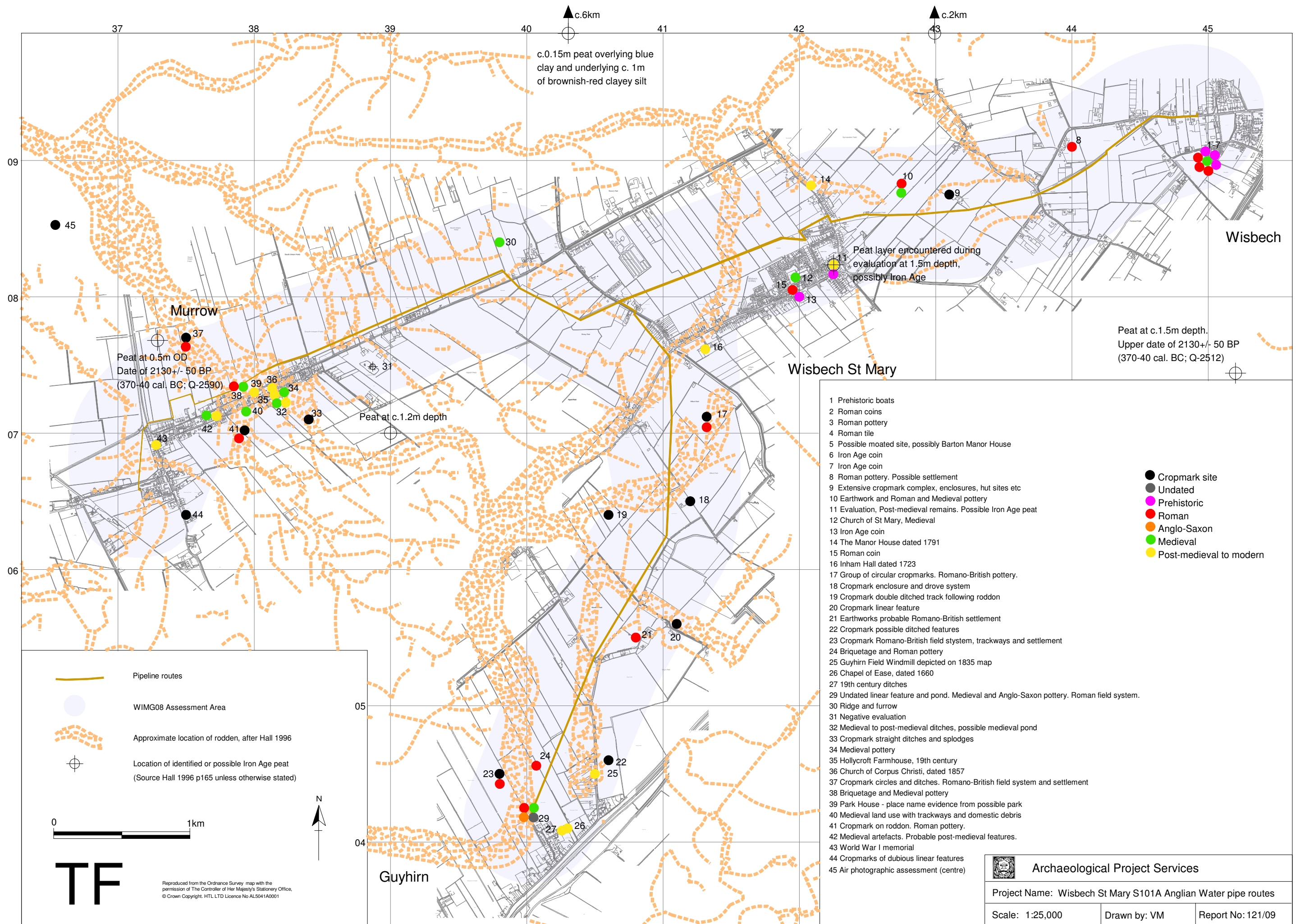


Figure 11 Approximate location of roddons, depths of peat deposits and known archaeology in vicinity of Wisbech St Mary S101A Anglian Water pipelines  
- summary of findings of previous desk-based assessment WIMG08





Plate 1 GWSM08 General view of pipeline route north of Guyhirn, looking north towards Trench 2 (Excavator shown backfilling Trench 2)

Linear cropmark visible during trial trenching – correlates to recent field boundary noted in Aerial Photographic Assessment (Palmer 2008)



Plate 2 GWSM08 Borehole 1, north of Guyhirn, during coring showing methodology, looking southeast



Plate 3 GWSM08 Partial core, Borehole 2, north of Guyhirn, archaeological horizon with possible briquetage and charcoal above laminated sands

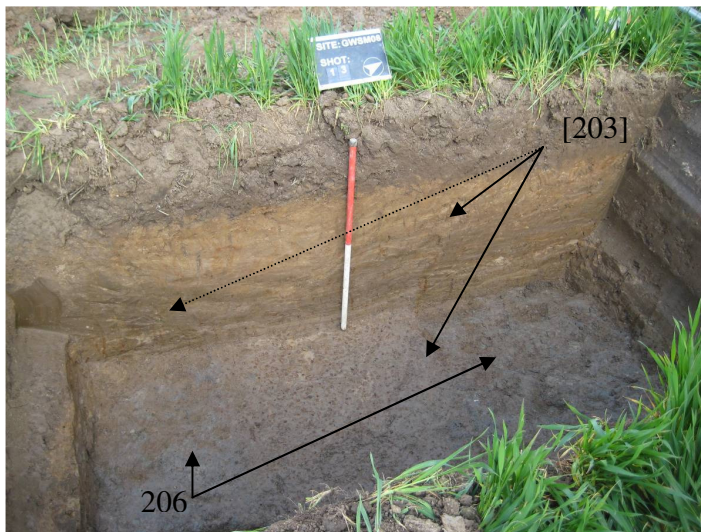


Plate 4 GWSM08 Trench 2 showing channel [203] cutting naturally-formed laminated silts and deposit (206) at base of trench containing possibly early Roman briquetage, animal bone and medieval pottery, looking west



Plate 5 MWSM08 General view of topsoil stripping at monitored Trench 7 showing methodology, looking east



Plate 6 MWSM08 General view of supporting box being lowered into monitored Trench 7 showing methodology, looking west



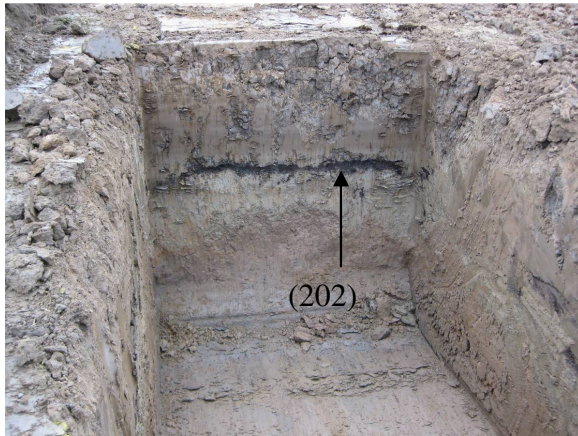


Plate 7 MWSM08 monitored Trench 2 showing naturally-deposited layers including possible Iron Age peat (202), looking west

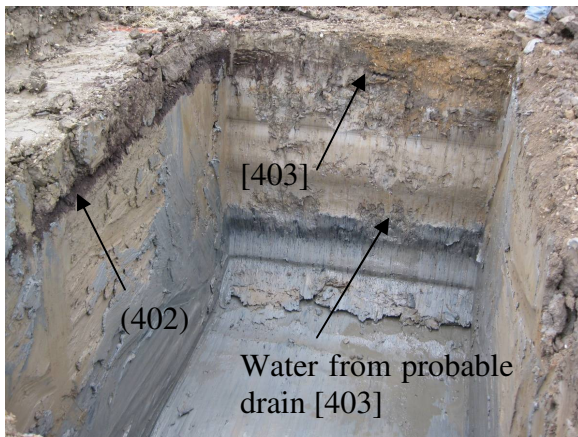


Plate 8 MWSM08 monitored Trench 4 showing naturally-deposited layers including possible Iron Age peat or deposit associated with railway (402) and drain [403], probably associated with railway, looking west



Plate 9 MWSM08 monitored Trench 7 showing naturally-deposited sequence, largely clays, looking northeast



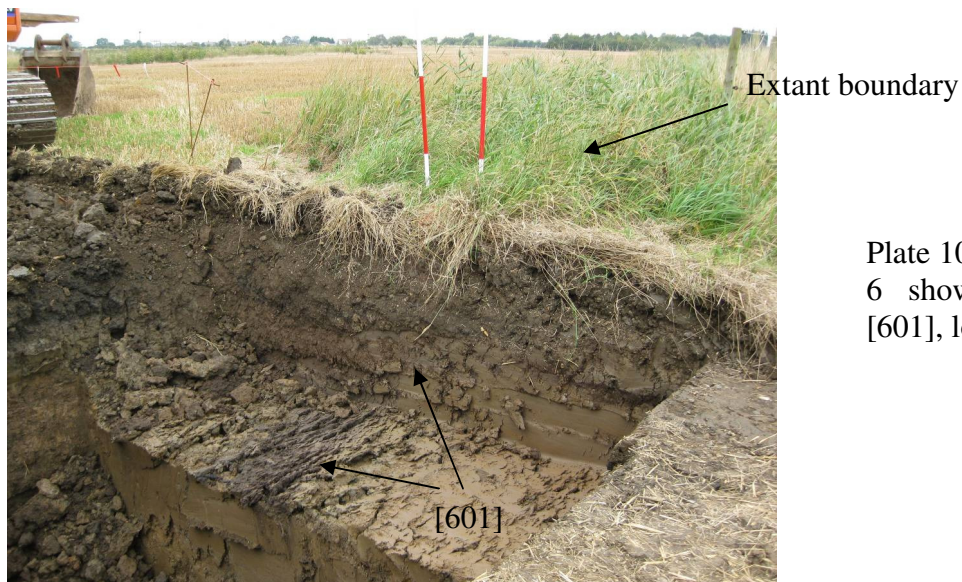


Plate 10 MWSM08 monitored Trench 6 showing partially infilled ditch [601], looking northwest

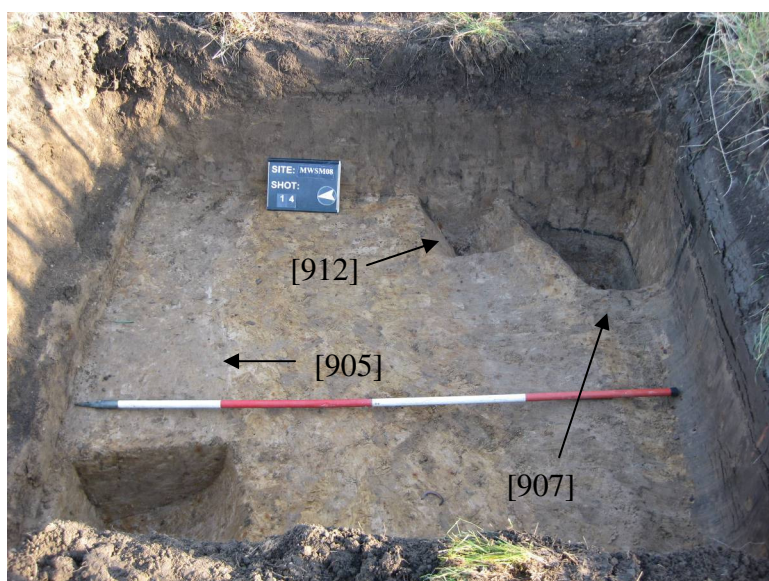


Plate 11 MWSM08 Evaluation Trench 9a showing linear features [905], [912] and [907], Section 2 looking east

Plate 12 MWSM08 Evaluation Trench 9a showing linear features [905], [912] and [907], Section 1 looking west





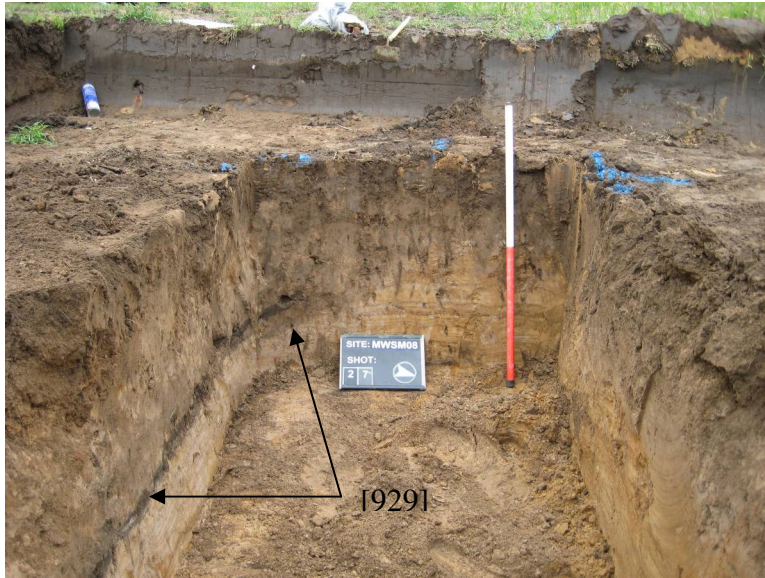


Plate 13 MWSM08 Evaluation Trench 9b showing linear feature [929], looking west



Plate 14 MWSM08 Evaluation Trench 9c showing linear feature [923] looking north



Plate 15 MWSM08 Evaluation Trench 10a showing unusually thick overburden (1001) & (1002), looking north



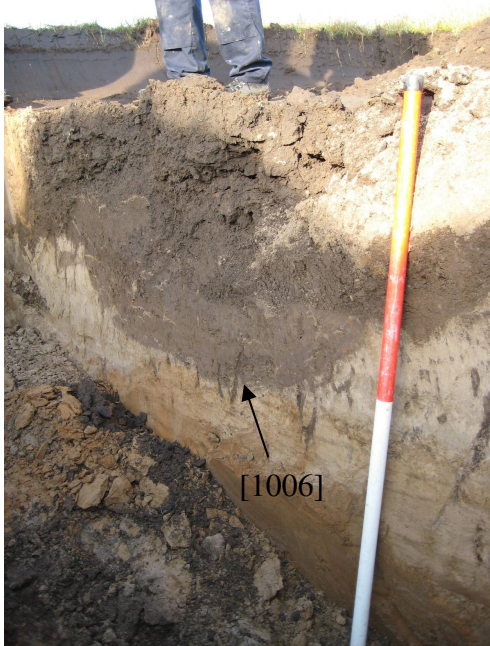


Plate 16 MWSM08 Evaluation Trench 10b showing ditch [1006], Section 7, looking north

Plate 17 MWSM08 Evaluation Trench 11a showing thick laminated silt deposits, looking north



Plate 18 MWSM08 Evaluation Trench 11a showing modern pit [1102], looking north



[1205]

Plate 19 MWSM08 Evaluation Trench 12 showing post-medieval to modern ditch [1205], looking north



(1406)

Plate 20 MWSM08 Evaluation Trench 14 showing naturally-deposited sequence including peat (1406), looking north



Plate 21 WISM08 Monitored Trench 8 showing working conditions as encountered in several trenches, looking east



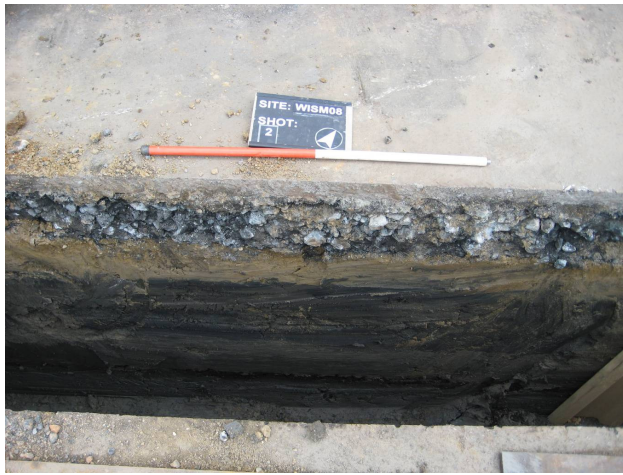


Plate 22 WISM08 Monitored Trench 2 showing asphalt and hardcore of road over naturally-deposited layers, looking north

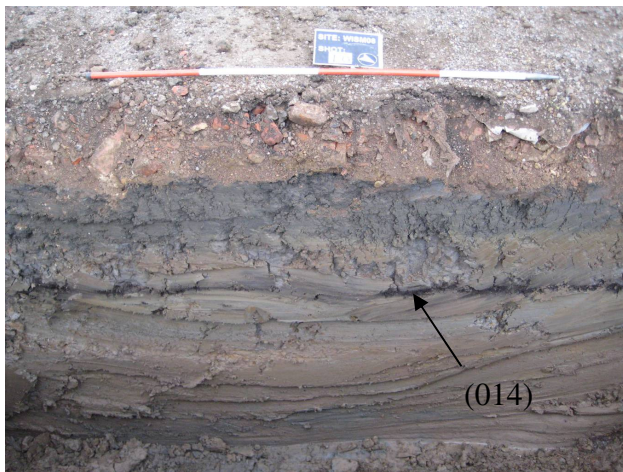


Plate 23 WISM08 Monitored Trench 4 showing car park surfacing over naturally-deposited layers including peat (014), looking west



Plate 24 WISM08 Monitored Trench 19 showing naturally-deposited layers including peat (19005)



Plate 25 WISM08 Monitored Trench 20 showing naturally-deposited layers including laminated slightly sandy silts (20001)





Plate 26 WISM08  
Monitored Trench 5  
showing [028], probable  
ditch, looking east

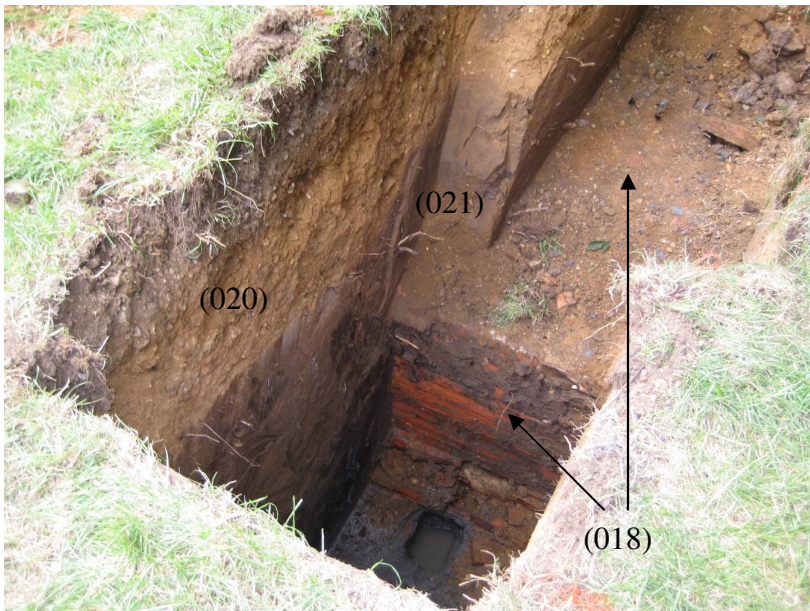


Plate 27 WISM08  
Monitored Trench 14  
showing (018), brick-built  
culvert associated with  
19<sup>th</sup> century railway



Plate 28 WISM08  
Monitored Trench 23  
showing [023], linear  
feature possibly associated  
with 19<sup>th</sup> century railway,  
looking north

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT SUMMARY

#### MWSM08

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
100	1	Northwest-southeast aligned linear feature, 3.20m wide and 0.50m deep with moderately steep and gently concave sides and a concave base	Ditch, undated but matching alignment of medieval strip fields, possibly medieval or later
101	1	Mid grey silty clay, 0.50m thick	Fill of ditch [100]
102	1	Softish to firm, mid pinkish with bluish mottles silty clay, 0.40m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
103	1	Soft light yellowish silt, 0.10m thick, apparently being leached upper surface of layer 104	Naturally-deposited layer
104	1	Soft, light to mid pinkish slightly clayey silt, 1.00m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
105	1	Soft light to mid bluish-grey silt, >0.70m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
106	1	Softish mid to dark greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.30m thick	Topsoil
200	2	Mid to dark grey silty clay, 0.40m thick	Topsoil
201	2	Mid grey mottled clayey silt, 0.60m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
202	2	Soft dark black peat containing occasional small and degraded fragments of wood or roots, 0.10m thick	Peat layer, possibly Iron Age
203	2	Light to mid yellowish to greyish-brown silt with rusty mottles, 1.00m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
300	3	Soft to firmish mid to dark grey silty clay, >1.30m thick	Topsoil
301	3	Compact mid brownish-grey very slightly clayey silt, 0.40m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
302	3	Mid grey very slightly silty clay	Naturally-deposited layer
303	3	Soft to spongy dark black peat, no large organic fragments noted, 0.15m thick	Peat layer, possibly Iron Age
304	3	Soft light grey clay with rusty mottles	Naturally-deposited layer
305	3	Light bluish-grey clay with frequent black flecks	Naturally-deposited layer
400	4	Soft dark greyish-brown silty clay with very frequent gravel especially at north, 0.40m thick	Topsoil with gravel inclusions probably associated with former railway
401	4	Firm mid to dark greyish-brown silty clay with frequent pebbles, 0.15m thick	Layer probably associated with former railway
402	4	Dark reddish-brown to black silt with occasional post-medieval tile fragments, 0.20m thick	Layer, either associated with former railway or peat
403	4	Probable northeast-southwest aligned linear feature, not clearly visible in section, but >1.00m wide and 1.30m deep with moderately steep sides at top and near-vertical sides near base. No drain or similar visible within this but water seen to pour out from base.	Linear feature, probably a drain associated with and parallel to former railway
404	4	Mid yellowish-brown sand and gravel, 0.75m thick	Upper fill of probable drain [403]
405	4	Dark grey clay, 0.55m thick	Lower fill of probable drain [403]
406	4	Mid greyish-brown clay, 0.95m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
407	4	Mid bluish-grey clay with frequent dark blue to black mottles, not bottomed	Naturally-deposited layer
408	4	Unstratified finds from trench	
500	5	Soft dark greyish-brown silty clay with very frequent pebbles, 0.30m thick	Topsoil with gravel inclusions probably associated with former railway
501	5	Softish mid brown clay, 0.25m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
502	5	Softish mid greyish-brown clay, 0.75m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
503	5	Soft dark blackish to reddish-brown peat, 0.20m thick	Peat layer, possibly Iron Age
504	5	Softish light to mid grey clay with black flecks, 0.50m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
505	5	Softish mid bluish clay with black flecks, >50mm thick	Naturally-deposited layer

600	6	Soft dark greyish-brown silty clay with very frequent gravel, 0.40m thick	Topsoil with gravel inclusions probably associated with former railway
601	6	Northwest-southeast aligned linear feature, >2.00m wide and 1.30m deep with moderately steep to gently concave sides	Ditch, matching alignment of extant open ditch to northwest, pos-medieval
602	6	Mixed but generally mid greyish-brown clay with patches of burnt material, occasional stone, post-medieval tile and remains of rusty bucket (none retained), 1.30m thick	Fill of ditch [601]
603	6	Mid grey clay, brownish in places, , 0.10m thick	Possible subsoil layer
604	6	Light yellowish-brown silt, 0.50m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
605	6	Light to mid grey clay with rusty and bluish mottling, 0.80m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
606	6	Light to mid bluish-grey clay with black mottles, >0.40m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
700	7	Firmish dark brown silty clay with frequent pebbles, occasional post-medieval ceramic building material and pottery (not retained), 0.40m thick	Topsoil with gravel inclusions probably associated with former railway
701	7	Soft dark to mid reddish-brown silt, almost black at top, 0.30m thick	Layer, possibly associated with former railway
702	7	Soft light to mid grey clay with brownish mottles, 1.10m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
703	7	Soft light to mid bluish-grey clay with frequent black mottles, 0.60m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
800	8	Dark brown silty clay with frequent gravel, 0.45m thick	Topsoil with gravel inclusions probably associated with former railway
801	8	Mixed deposit comprising patches of light to mid yellowish-brown gravel and dark blackish silt, 0.15m thick	Layer, either associated with former railway or peat
802	8	Soft mid to light brownish and slightly bluish grey clay with brownish mottles, 0.80m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
803	8	Soft mid to light greyish-blue clay with dark blackish mottles, > 1.10m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
901	9a	Softish dark brown silt with occasional fragments of ceramic building material, 0.25m thick	Topsoil
902	9a	Softish mid brown silt with occasional fragments of fired clay, 0.36m thick	Subsoil
903	9a	Firmish mixed light grey and light yellowish-brown silt with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.17m thick	Upper fill of ditch [905]
904	9a	Firmish light grey silt with occasional charcoal flecks, 0.34m thick	Lower fill of ditch [905]
905	9a	East-southeast-west-northwest aligned linear feature, >0.80m wide and 0.50m deep with steep sides and concave base	Ditch, early 8 <sup>th</sup> to mid 9 <sup>th</sup> century or later, or possibly Roman or later
906	9a	Softish light brownish-yellow laminated silt, >0.90m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
907	9a	East-southeast-west-northwest aligned linear feature, >0.60m wide and 0.35m deep with steepish to convex sides and a flat base	Ditch or gully, undated
908	9a	Soft light grey silt, 0.15m thick	A fill of ditch or gully [907]
909	9a	Soft black silt, 40mm thick	A fill of ditch or gully [907]
910	9a	Soft light grey silt, 0.20m thick	A fill of ditch or gully [907]
911	9a	Soft mid brownish-grey silt, 0.20m thick	A fill of ditch or gully [907], possibly representing ancient disturbance
912	9a	East-southeast-west-northwest aligned linear feature, 0.30m wide and 0.35m deep with steep sides and a concave to 'V'-shaped base	Ditch or gully, undated
913	9a	Soft mid brownish-grey silt, 0.35m thick	Fill of ditch or gully [912]
914	9a	Machining finds from trench	
915	9a	Soft light grey silt, 70mm thick	Buried soil layer, undated
916	9c	Soft dark greyish-brown silt, 0.30m thick	Topsoil
917	9c	Soft dark olive-brown silt, 0.50m thick	Subsoil
918	9c	Softish light brown silt mottled with light grey, 0.24m thick	Fill of ditch [923]
919	9c	Soft dark blackish-brown layer rich in organic material, 0.10m thick	Fill of ditch [923]
920	9c	Firm to stiff dark bluish-grey silty clay, 0.12m thick	Fill of ditch [923]
921	9c	Soft light grey silt with rusty mottles and occasional charcoal flecks, 0.30m thick	Fill of ditch [923]

922	9c	Soft light brownish-yellow silt, .0.90m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
923	9c	North-south aligned linear feature, 2.00m wide and 0.90m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base	Ditch, undated (possibly a watercourse but more likely a ditch)
924	9b	Soft mainly mid to dark olive-brown silt with brownish-yellow patches, moderately frequent fired clay, concentrated at southern edge of trench, 40m thick	Number allocated to finds retrieved from level below topsoil, effective subsoil layer and same as 925
925	9b	Soft mid to dark olive-brown silt with light yellowish-brown mottles including fired clay and occasional charcoal fragments, 0.40m thick	Subsoil layer, same as 924
926	9b	Soft light brown silt with light grey mottles and occasional charcoal flecks, 0.28m thick	Fill of ditch [929]
927	9b	Firmish dark grey clayey silt, apparently including ash, 50mm thick	Fill of ditch [929]
928	9b	Soft light brownish-yellow silt, >1.90m deep	Naturally-deposited layer
929	9b	East-west aligned linear feature, >0.80m wide and 0.60m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base	Ditch, 3 <sup>rd</sup> century Roman or later
1001	10a	Soft dark blackish-brown silt, 0.25m thick	Topsoil
1002	10a	Soft, possibly slightly looser than 1001, dark blackish-brown silt, 0.61m thick	Topsoil or subsoil – reason for excessive thickness of overburden in this trench unclear
1003	10a	Soft light grey silt, 0.19m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
1004	10a	Soft light yellowish-brown silt with occasional brown mottles, >0.60m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
1005	10b	Soft mid brownish-grey silt, 0.20m thick	Fill of ditch [1006]
1006	10b	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, 1.15m wide and 0.20m deep with gently sloping sides and a flattish base	Ditch, undated but matching alignment of medieval strip fields, possibly medieval or later
1101	11a	Soft dark blackish-brown silt, 0.50m thick	Topsoil
1102	11a	Amorphous feature, >2.00m by >1.25m and 0.40m deep with gently sloping sides and base	Pit, modern
1103	11a	Soft dark blackish-brown silt with occasional light grey patches, 0.40m thick	Fill of pit [1102]
1104	11a	Soft light yellowish-brown silt with grey mottles and rusty mottles	Naturally-deposited layer
1201	12	Hardcore layer, 0.14m thick	Track, modern
1202	12	Firm dark greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.25m thick	Buried soil under track 1201
1203	12	Firmish mid to dark brown slightly clayey silt, 0.25m thick	Subsoil
1204	12	Firmish dark brown slightly clayey silt with occasional fragments ceramic building material, 0.65m thick	Fill of ditch [1205]
1205	12	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, 1.70m wide and 0.65m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base	Ditch, 17 <sup>th</sup> century or later
1206	12	Softish light brownish-yellow slightly clayey silt, 0.65m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
1207	12	Firm, mid grey silty clay with mid brown mottles, >0.30m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
1301	13	Firm dark brown silty clay, 0.30m thick	Topsoil
1302	13	Firm light yellowish-brown clayey silt, 0.10m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
1303	13	Firm mid brownish-grey silty clay, 0.45m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
1304	13	Firm light bluish-grey clay, 50mm thick	Naturally-deposited layer
1305	13	Firm mid brownish-grey clay, 0.30m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
1306	13	Soft dark blackish-brown peat, 0.15m thick	Peat layer, possibly Iron Age
1307	13	Firm mid grey and mid brown mottled silty clay	Naturally-deposited layer
1401	14	Firmish dark greyish-brown silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
1402	14	Softish light brownish-yellow silt, 0.15m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
1403	14	Firmish mid brownish-grey silty clay, 0.30m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
1404	14	Light bluish-grey clay, 0.10m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
1405	14	Mid to light brownish-grey silty clay with mid brown mottles, 0.30m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
1406	14	Soft dark blackish-brown peat, 50mm thick	Peat layer, possibly Iron Age
1407	14	Firm light bluish-grey clay with mid brown mottles, 0.35m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
1408	14	Light slightly bluish-grey clay	Naturally-deposited layer



**WISM08**

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
001	1	Asphalt, 0.12m thick	Modern road
002	1	Grey hardcore, 0.16m thick	Hardcore under road (001)
003	1	Soft mid to dark grey clayey silt with occasional fragments of ceramic building material, 0.55m thick	Layer – nature unclear – possibly disturbed or make-up
004	1	Soft mottled brown silty clay, 0.30m thick	Layer, possibly naturally-deposited and same as (005)
005	1	Soft brown silty clay >0.57m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
006	2	Asphalt, 0.10m thick	Modern road
007	2	Grey hardcore, 0.22m thick	Hardcore under road
008	2	Soft to friable light brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Layer – nature unclear – possibly naturally-formed or disturbed
009	2	Soft dark grey clayey silt >1.33m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
010	3	Compact dark grey to black gravel, 0.12m thick	Hardstanding of car park
011	3	Firm hardcore and brick fragments, 0.35m thick	Hardcore under car park surface (010)
012	3	Loose to firm dark greyish-brown slightly silty clay with frequent small pebbles, fragments of scrap metal and building materials, 0.45m thick	Disturbed layer
013	3	Firm light brownish-grey silty clay, 0.20m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
014	4	Soft black peat, 0.10m thick	Peat
015	5	Loose mid reddish-brown and grey mixed brick and stone rubble, 0.15m thick	Rubble track
016	5	Friable dark greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.25m thick	Buried soil under track (015)
017	5	Soft mid yellowish-brown sandy silt, 0.20m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
018	14	Brick arch and retaining walls with sandy lime mortar, >1.50m high, >1.75m wide and >0.75m long	Culvert to carry open drain under former railway line
019	14	Loose dark brown stony silty sand, 0.10m thick	Topsoil with gravel inclusions probably associated with former railway
020	14	Loose light yellowish-brown sandy gravel, 0.50m thick	Backfill over culvert (018)
021	14	Firm dark grey and brownish-grey, 1.70m thick	Backfill over culvert (018)
022	14	Northwest-southeast aligned linear feature, >0.75m long and >2.50m wide with vertical sides and a flat base	Construction cut for culvert (018)
023	14	Firmish, dark brown silt, 0.40m thick	Possible buried soil, buried during railway construction
024	14	Soft light brown silt, 1.10m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
025	14	Firmish dark grey to brownish-grey peaty silty clay, 0.10m thick	Peat
026	14	Soft dark bluish-grey silt, >0.25m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
027	15	Firm dark grey silty clay with frequent charcoal, 0.40m thick	Fill of probable ditch[028]
028	15	Northnorthwest-southsoutheast aligned linear feature, >4.00m wide and 1.20m deep with gently sloping sides and concave base	Probable ditch
029	15	Loose dark brown stony silty sand, 0.32m thick	Topsoil with gravel inclusions probably associated with former railway
030	15	Soft light yellowish-brown silt, 0.30m thick	Layer, possibly naturally-deposited
031	15	Firm mid to dark grey silty clay, 0.97m thick	Fill of probable natural channel [028]
032	15	Soft light brown laminated silt, 0.53m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
033	15	Firm to still light bluish-grey silty clay, 0.50m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
034	15	Firm and friable dark greyish-brown peat with some silty clay, 0.20m thick	Peat
035	15	Stiff dark greyish-blue clay, >0.35m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
036	4	Firm hardcore and brick fragments, 0.30m thick	Hardcore under car park surface (010)



037	4	Loose to firm dark greyish-brown slightly silty clay with frequent small pebbles, fragments of scrap metal and building materials, 0.40m thick	Disturbed layer
038	4	Firm light brownish-grey silty clay, 0.26m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
040	4	Firm light brownish-grey silty clay, >1.14m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
041	5	Firm light brownish-grey silty clay, >1.10m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
6001	6	Mid to dark brown deposit, possibly silt, 80mm thick	Possibly topsoil
6002	6	Dark blackish brown deposit, possibly silt, possibly with some organic inclusions, 0.72m thick	Possibly naturally-deposited layer
6003	6	Grey and brown mottled slightly clayey silt, >0.40m thick	Possibly naturally-deposited layer
7001	7	Firmish mid greyish-brown gravel and silt, 0.60m thick	Track
7002	7	Mid to dark brown silt, 0.94m thick	Buried soil under track (7001)
7003	7	Mid grey deposit, possibly slightly clayey silt	Possibly naturally-deposited layer
8001	8	Firmish mid greyish-brown gravel and silt, 0.40m thick	Track
8002	8	Mid brown possibly slightly silty clay, 0.40m thick	Possibly buried soil under track (8001)
8003	8	Dark greyish-black to grey deposit, possibly silt with some organic inclusions, 0.30m thick	Possible buried soil
8004	8	Mid yellowish brown and grey mottled slightly clayey silt	Naturally-deposited layer
9001	9	Firmish mid greyish-brown gravel and silt, 0.30m thick	Track
9002	9	Mid brown clayey silt, 0.70m thick	Buried soil under track (9001)
9003	9	Dark black to greyish-black silt with possibly organic inclusions, 0.20m thick	Possible buried soil
9004	9	Light to mid yellowish-brown and grey mottled silt	Naturally-deposited layer
10001	10	Firmish mid greyish-brown gravel and silt, 0.45m thick	Track
10002	10	Mid brown clayey silt, 0.80m thick	Buried soil under track (10001)
10003	10	Dark black to greyish-black silt with possibly organic inclusions, 0.25m thick	Possible buried soil
10004	10	Light to mid yellowish-brown and grey mottled silt	Naturally-deposited layer
11001	11	Dark brown clayey silt, 0.30m thick	Topsoil
11002	11	Mid to dark brownish-grey silty clay, 0.35m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
11003	11	Dark brownish-grey slightly peaty silt, 0.15m thick	Peat-rich layer, possible buried land surface
11004	11	Light bluish-grey silt, 0.20m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
11005	11	Mid brown laminated silt, 0.90m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
11006	11	Soft (wet) mid to dark bluish-grey silt, >0.10m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
12001	12	Compact dark brown silt and gravel, 0.30m thick	Topsoil with gravel inclusions probably associated with former railway
12002	12	Soft mid brown silt, 0.30m thick	Probable subsoil
12003	12	Soft light brown laminated silt with silty clay lenses, 1.20m thick	Naturally-deposited layer, possibly a fill in a natural channel or creek
13001	13	Dark brown clayey silt, 0.30m thick	Topsoil
13002	13	Light greyish-brown clayey silt, 1.60m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
13003	13	Soft mid to dark bluish-grey silt, >0.30m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
16001	16	Brick and rubble layer, 0.30m thick	Make-up deposit for railway
16002	16	Firm, mid to light brown clayey silt, >1.10m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
17001	17	Firm mid brown silt and gravel, 0.40m thick	Topsoil with gravel inclusions probably associated with former railway
17002	17	Mid to dark brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Buried soil under railway deposits
17003	17	Firm dark grey silty clay, 0.35m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
17004	17	Soft light brown laminated silt, 0.60m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
17005	17	Firm light bluish-grey silty clay, >0.20m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
18001	18	Firm laminated mid reddish-brown and yellow sandy silt, 0.30m thick	Naturally-deposited layer

18002	18	Firm mid grey clayey silt, 0.20m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
18003	18	Firm, laminated, mid brown and yellow silt, 0.40m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
18004	18	Firm mid grey silty clay, 0.50m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
18005	18	Friable dark greyish-brown peat, 0.10m thick	Peat
18006	18	Soft, bluish-grey clay, >0.50m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
18007	18	Firm dark brown sandy clayey silt	Topsoil
19001	19	Firm dark brown sandy clayey silt	Topsoil
19002	19	Firm laminated mid reddish-brown and yellow sandy silt, 0.30m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
19003	19	Firm mid grey clayey silt, 0.25m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
19004	19	Firm, laminated, mid brown and yellow silt, 0.40m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
19005	19	Firm mid grey silty clay, 0.35m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
19006	19	Friable dark greyish-brown peat, 0.10m thick	Peat
19007	19	Soft, bluish-grey clay, >0.55m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
20000	20	Firm mid brown sandy clayey silt	Topsoil
20001	20	Laminated mid yellowish-brown slightly sandy silt, 2.00m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
20002	20	Firm bluish-grey clay, >0.30m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
21000	21	Dark brown silt, 0.30m thick	Topsoil
21001	21	Firm laminated mid yellowish-brown silt, 0.90m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
21002	21	Firm bluish-grey clay, 0.10m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
21003	21	Firm mottled grey and brown silty clay, >0.60m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
22000	22	Firm dark brown sandy clayey silt, 0.30m thick	Topsoil
22001	22	Firm laminated mid reddish-brown and yellow sandy silt, 0.30m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
22002	22	Firm mid grey clayey silt, 0.20m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
22003	22	Firm, laminated, mid brown and yellow silt, 0.40m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
22004	22	Firm mid grey silty clay, 0.70m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
22005	22	Friable dark greyish-brown peat, 0.10m thick	Peat
22006	22	Soft, bluish-grey clay, >0.60m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
23000	23	Dark greyish-brown silt, 0.46m thick	Topsoil
23001	23	Loose stone rubble with greyish-brown silty sand matrix	Fill of linear feature [23002], possibly associated with railway
23002	23	Northeast-southwest aligned linear feature with gently sloping to slightly concave sides, >1.75m wide and 0.48m deep	Linear feature, possibly associated with railway
23003	23	Firm laminated mid reddish-brown and yellow sandy silt, 0.33 m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
23004	23	Firm mid grey clayey silt, 0.10 m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
23005	23	Firm, laminated, mid brown and yellow silt, 0.50 m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
23006	23	Firm mid grey silty clay, 0.50 m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
23007	23	Friable dark greyish-brown peat, 0.10 m thick	Peat
23008	23	Soft, bluish-grey clay, >0.60 m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
24000	24	Dark brown silt, 0.30m thick	Topsoil
24001	24	Firm laminated mid yellowish-brown sandy silt, 0.90m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
24002	24	Firm mid grey clay, 0.20m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
24003	24	Friable dark brown to black peat, 0.10m thick	Peat
24004	24	Firm mid bluish-grey clay, >1.10m thick	Naturally-deposited layer

**GWSM08**

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
100	1	Firmish dark greyish-brown clayey silt, 0.30m thick	Topsoil
101	1	Soft light brownish-yellow laminated sandy silt, 0.70m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
102	1	Soft light greyish yellow laminated sandy silt, >0.20m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
200	2	Firm dark brown silt with occasional red flecks of fired clay, 0.40m thick	Topsoil
201	2	Soft light yellowish-brown to mid yellowish-brown mottled and laminated silt with small fraction of clay in some laminations, 0.38m thick	Naturally-deposited layer within probably naturally-formed channel [203]
202	2	Firmish light yellowish brown, mid brown, light to mid greyish-brown mottled (patchy lacking clear laminations) silty clay with occasional fired clay (possibly briquetage?) flecks and charcoal fragments, 0.59m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
203	2	East-west aligned linear feature, >2.00m wide and 0.80m deep with steepish sides at north and unclear edge at south, possibly with gentler slope at south, with flattish to gently concave base	Probably naturally-formed channel
204	2	Firm to soft mid to light yellow and mid to light greyish-brown silt and clay with some lamination, 0.25m thick	Naturally-deposited layer within probably naturally-formed channel [203]
205	2	Soft light yellow, mid yellow, light to mid grey and brown and reddish-grey laminated clayey silt with iron-rich mottles, 0.21m thick	Naturally-deposited layer within probably naturally-formed channel [203]
206	2	Soft light to mid grey silt with occasional fragments of fired clay (possibly briquetage?), charcoal and animal bone, 0.41m thick	Naturally-deposited layer containing small quantities of dumped waste material perhaps from domestic and salt-making activity
207	2	Soft light yellowish-brown with mid brown mottles (mottles often circular in plan, apparently representing former roots etc and laminated in section) silt, >0.20m thick	Naturally-deposited layer
208	2	Firmish light yellowish-brown, mid brown, light to mid greyish-brown mottled silty clay, 0.28m thick	Naturally-deposited layer

## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS

#### ROMAN POTTERY

*By Alex Beeby and Barbara Precious*

*MWSM08*

#### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by Darling (2004), using the codes developed by the City of Lincoln Archaeological unit (Darling and Precious, Forthcoming). A total of 40 sherds from 15 vessels, weighing 1092 grams was recovered from MWSM08. No Roman material was recovered from GWSM08 or WISM08.

#### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 1. A single sherd from context (924), fabric NVGWC, was removed for the South Lincolnshire Roman pottery type series held by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

#### Condition

The average sherd weight is moderately low at 27 grams reflecting the fairly fragmented nature of the material. However, many of the sherds have very fresh looking breaks and nine vessels are represented by multiple sherds, some of which are also joining. This includes a substantial number of sherds from two vessels within context (924). These alone represent 38% of the total number of sherds by fragment count, while only representing 13% by total vessel count. In total seven vessels are recorded as abraded, an unusually high proportion, representing 47% of the total number. Though most of this apparent 'abrasion' is probably caused by soil conditions, one vessel, a jar from context (924) is abraded internally, perhaps an indicator of use during the life of the pot. One vessel has external sooting, perhaps evidence of use over a hearth or fire, while a further single vessel has a sooted break, perhaps evidence of post-use burning. Two vessels have ferruginous concretions, whilst a further four have a reddy-brown staining. These effects are probably due to the action of iron-rich minerals within the soil. There are no cross-context vessels.

#### Dating

A summary of dating listed by context is included in the table below (Table 1). The pottery dates almost entirely to the 3rd century AD. One context (924) also produced post Roman pottery.

*Table 1, Date of the Pottery*

Date Range (latest date)	Trench	Cxt	NoS	W (g)	Av. Sherd Weight
3rd Century	9b	924	24	861	35.9
3rd Century	9b	927	12	146	15.15
3rd Century	11a	1101	4	85	21.3
Total			40	1092	-

#### Results

A summary of pottery types recovered from MWSM08 is included in the table below (Table 2). Noticeably the assemblage is composed almost entirely of coarsewares, of which there is a good variety.

Table 2 - Summary of the Roman Pottery

Fabric	Cname	Full name	NoS	NoV	W (g)
Reduced	GYBN	Grey with Brown Surfaces	2	1	10
	GMIC	Grey Fine Micaceous ware	1	1	2
	GREY	Miscellaneous Grey ware	1	1	9
	NVGW	Nene Valley Grey Ware	6	4	153
	NVGWC	Nene Valley coarse Grey Ware	10	1	404
	NVGWV	Nene Valley Grey Ware variant	5	1	96
Shell	SLSH	South Lincolnshire Shell-Tempered	6	3	291
	SLSHB	South Lincolnshire Shell-Tempered, Bourne Type			
			2	1	90
Total			40	15	1092

### Provenance

Roman pottery was recovered from two trenches along the length of the investigated area.

#### Trench 9b

Within Trench 9b pottery was recovered from layer (924) and fill (927) within ditch [929].

#### Trench 11a

Pottery was recovered from topsoil within this trench.

### Range

The assemblage is almost entirely constituted of reduced coarsewares (some of which could be used at the table), with a single sherd from a fine reduced ware vessel present (see table 3 below). The range is dominated by closed forms, these make up 95% of the assemblage by sherd count and 93% by weight. Within this group jars are the most common vessel type, these make up 60% of the total by sherd count and 80% by weight. There is at least one beaker represented, as well as a single open form vessel; a wide mouthed bowl.

There is a broad range of coarsewares present, including three different types of fabric probably originating from the area of the Nene Valley. These include the locally common Nene Valley Grey Ware (NVGW), and two coarser variants, Nene Valley Grey Ware Coarse (NVGWC) and a slightly different fabric with an unusually sandy matrix, recorded here as Nene Valley Grey Ware Variant (NVGWV). The NVGW vessels are a product of the Lower Nene Valley pottery industries, probably largely based around the Roman town of Durobrivae, in North Cambridgeshire (Fincham, 2004, 102-106). While NVGWC may have an origin in the Upper Nene Valley (Lindsey Rollo, Pers Comm.), the origin of NVGWV is uncertain. Other grey fabrics within the assemblage include miscellaneous Grey Wares (GREY), miscellaneous Grey Ware with brown surfaces (GYBN) and a single vessel in a Grey Fine Micaceous Ware (GMIC). This Micaceous fabric is highly burnished and similar in character to Parisian ware, a product known to have been produced in mid/north Lincolnshire and South Yorkshire (Elsdon, 1982, 2). The sherds from this site however are very fragmentary and do not have any of the stamped decoration which is a defining characteristic of this product. In addition to the Grey Wares, sherds from four Shell-Tempered ware vessels were recovered. Three of these are in South Lincolnshire Shell-Tempered Ware (SLSH) and one in South Lincolnshire Shell-Tempered Bourne type Ware (SLSHB), a variant of South Lincolnshire Shell-Tempered Ware fabric similar to that found some 20 miles away at the Grammar School kiln site in Bourne.

The decorative elements are as would be expected for an assemblage of this sort; these include two vessels with a shoulder groove and one with a burnished wavy line.

Table 3, forms by function and percentage of sherd count and weight

Form	Cname	Full name	NoS	% by NoS	NoV	W (g)	% by W
Beaker	BK	Unclassified beaker	5	12.5	1	8	0.73
Bowl	BWM	Wide mouthed bowl	2	5	1	68	6.6
Closed	CLSD	Closed form	6	15	5	99	9.07
Jar	JCUR	Jar with curved rim	4	10	1	236	21.61
Jar	JEV	Jar with everted rim	1	2.5	1	28	1.92
Jar	JRR	Jar with rounded rim	2	5	1	90	8.24
Jar	J	Unclassified Jar	17	42.5	3	529	48.44
Jar/Beaker	JBK	Unclassified Jar/Beaker	3	7.5	2	34	3.11
<b>Total</b>			<b>40</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1092</b>	<b>100</b>

### Potential

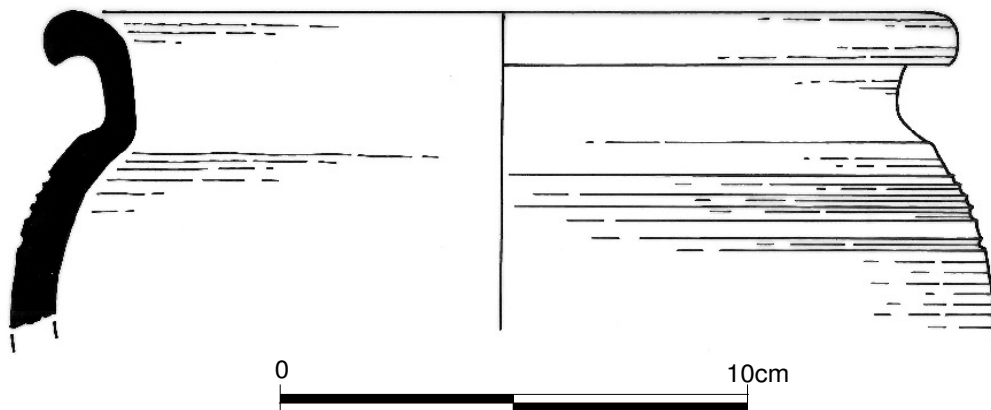
The assemblage poses no problems for long term storage and should be retained. A single vessel has been selected for illustration for its intrinsic typological value ( See table 4 below).

Table 4, illustrated vessels

Draw	Cxt	Cname	Form
01	927	SLSHB	Jar with rounded rim

### Drawing 01 (927)

not to scale



### Summary

A small assemblage of pottery was recovered during archaeological investigations along the route of the Murrow to Wisbech St Mary water pipeline (MWSM 08). Almost all of this material dates to the third century AD suggesting activity occurring in this area at that time. While much of the assemblage is very fragmentary, some of the material is quite fresh, particularly that from context (924), suggesting a low level of redeposition.

### POST ROMAN POTTERY

By Anne Boyle and Ross Kendall

### Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out in Slowikowski *et al.* (2001). The pottery codenames (Cname) are in accordance with the Post Roman pottery type series for Lincolnshire, as published in Young *et al.* (2005); the equivalent codenames for Cambridgeshire are also included. A total of 21 sherds from 21 vessels,

weighing 1031 grams was recovered from GWSM08, MWSM08 and WISM08.

### Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Sherds were counted and weighed by individual vessel within each context. The pottery was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the pottery is included in Archive Catalogue 2, with a summary in Table 5.

### Condition

All the sherds are in fresh condition. Most of the vessels are represented by more than one sherd. Three vessels show expected levels of abrasion and the average sherd size is relatively high at 49 grams.

### Results

*Table 5, Summary of the Post Roman Pottery from GWSM08, MWSM08 and WISM08*

Cname	Full name	Cambs cname	Earliest date	Latest date	NoS	NoV	W (g)
BOU	Bourne D ware	BOND	1350	1650	12	10	568
BOUA	Bourne-type Fabrics A, B, C, E, F and G	BONA	1150	1400	1	1	3
ENGs	Unspecified English Stoneware	ENGs	1690	1900	2	2	330
GRIMT	Grimston-type ware	-	1200	1550	4	3	92
IPS	Ipswich-type ware *Subsequent further examination confirmed this sherd to be Roman Greyware GREY	-	730	850	1	1	28
LERTH	Late Earthenwares	MODR	1750	1900	1	1	9
MISC	Unidentified types	-	-	-	3	3	1
TOTAL					24	21	1031

### Provenance

#### GWSM08

A small amount of pottery was retrieved from layer (206) in Trench 2.

#### MWSM08

Context (408) represents unstratified finds. Late medieval Bourne ware vessels came from Trenches 9a & 9b (914 and 924); an early sherd which is either a fine Roman Greyware or a middle Saxon Ipswich ware type, came from (904) in Trench 9a [Subsequently this sherd of possible Ipswich ware was reassessed and confirmed to be Roman Greyware]. A maximum of two vessels were recovered during machining of Trench 9a (914). Both sherds are fragments from Bourne-type (BOU) ware bowls. A small fragment of one Bourne-type (BOU) vessel was recovered from plough-soil context (1001), while eight Bourne-type (BOU) vessels, represented by ten sherds came from topsoil context (1002). Topsoil context (1002) also yielded two sherds, representing two vessels, of Grimston-type ware (GRIMT).

#### WISM08

Two early modern sherds came from topsoil layer (18007) in Trench 18

### Range

The sites lie almost equidistant between the major medieval pottery industries of Bourne (c.50km to the northeast) and Grimston (c.47km to the northwest). It is therefore unsurprising to find both pottery types present here. Finds of Ipswich ware are not very common and this sherd requires further work before its identification can be confirmed. Early modern stonewares and Late Earthenwares are frequently found in assemblages from this area.

### Potential

The ceramic assemblage is in stable condition and proposes no problems for long-term curation.

## Summary

A small mixed assemblage of post Roman pottery was recovered from trial-trenching at the site; the majority of the assemblage was recovered from plough- and top-soil contexts.

## CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

*By Anne Boyle and Ross Kendall*

## Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A total of 24 fragments of ceramic building material weighing 5601 grams was recovered from GWSM08, MWSM08 and WISM08.

## Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments were counted and weighed within each context. The ceramic building material was examined visually and using x20 magnification. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the ceramic building material is included in Archive Catalogue 3, with a summary in Table 6.

## Condition

A total of 17 fragments of hand-made brick (BRK) are present, varying in size and condition from nearly half brick to several small flakes. Two brick fragments are partially vitrified and organic impressions are also present on some of the bricks, suggesting the use of grass or straw as a temper and bedding material. Two fragments have mortar over broken edges, suggesting later reuse.

## Results

*Table 6, Summary of the Ceramic Building Material from GWSM08, MWSM08 and WISM08*

Cname	Full name	NoF	W (g)
BRK	Brick	17	5442
CBM	Ceramic building material	7	159
TOTAL		24	5601

## Provenance

### *GWSM08*

Post medieval brick was retrieved from topsoil deposit (200) in Trench 2.

### *MWSM08*

A total of three unidentified ceramic building material fragments came from subsoil layer (924). Brick was retrieved from plough-soil layer (1001), topsoil (1002) and ditch fill (1204).

### *WISM08*

Brick fragments were recovered from the fill of possible palaeochannel [028]. A representative brick was collected from culvert (018).

## Range

All the fragments have a calcareous fabric which is typical of "Fenland brick". Manufacturing techniques are evident; the bricks are handmade, possibly using moulds lined with organic material. Occasional surface striations indicate where surplus clay was struck off using a wooden bat or wired bow. There is no evidence any of the pieces are frogged. Bricks with vitreous glassy surfaces, the result of being high fired, are present in channel fill MWSM08 (1204). Although this type is produced as early as the medieval period, these examples are likely to be post medieval/early modern in date.

## Potential

The brick is stable and poses no problems for long-term storage, although the smaller flakes and non-diagnostic pieces of ceramic building material are suitable for discard.



## Summary

A small assemblage of brick and non-diagnostic material was recovered during trial trenching. Much of the assemblage is from disturbed contexts and is flaked and/or abraded.

## FIRED CLAY

*By Anne Boyle and Ross Kendall*

## Introduction

All the material was recorded at archive level in accordance with the guidelines laid out by the ACBMG (2001). A total of 84 fragments of fired clay, weighing 3452 grams were recovered from WSM08 and MWSM08.

## Methodology

The material was laid out and viewed in context order. Fragments of fired clay were counted and weighed within each context. This information was then added to an Access database. An archive list of the fired clay is included in Archive Catalogue 4, with a summary in Table 7.

## Condition

While many fired clay assemblages are low-fired, friable and in poor condition, this assemblage is generally in good condition. This is reflected in the average fragment weight of 41 grams.

## Results

*Table 7, Summary of the Fired Clay from GWSM08 and MWSM08*

Classification	NoF	W (g)
DAUB	61	3450
FCLAY	23	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>3452</b>

## Provenance

### *GWSM08*

A small collection of fired clay came from waterlain deposits (202) and (206).

### *MWSM08*

The majority of fragments (58 accounting for 95% of the assemblage), were recovered from subsoil layer (924). Machining finds context (914) yielded the remaining three (5%) fragments of daub.

## Range

The entire assemblage consists of daub, 95% of which was recovered from subsoil context (924). Although it may be unusual for daub to be fired, these pieces have clearly been so, as indicated by the range of oxidation/reduction stages. It has been suggested that fire hardened pieces of daub were utilised to strengthen wall structures (Shaffer 1993). The common occurrence of lath/wattle impressions, flat faces and corner pieces strongly suggest that this was indeed the function for much of the assemblage.

## Potential

Although this assemblage comes entirely from disturbed contexts, it should be retained as it offers potentially valuable evidence for local settlement activity on, or near to, the sites. Confirmation of the range of material could be sought from a specialist in fired clay should further work be required. The assemblage should be re-evaluated should further archaeological work be necessary on the site.

## Summary

A small assemblage of daub was recovered from the site, the vast majority of which was recovered from a subsoil context. The assemblage suggests settlement on, or close to, the site.

## BRIQUETAGE

By Tom Lane

### Introduction

Briquetage was retrieved from GWSM08, from a dumped layer at the side of a roddon. No saltern-related features were found.

### Condition

The material is in good condition and requires no conservation for long-term storage.

### Results

Table 8, Briquetage Archive from GWSM08

Site code	Cxt	Fabric	Sub type	No F	W (g)	Description
GWSM 08	206	Silty clay with high organic content	Container fragments	15	34	Container fragments all c.6-8mm thick. All body sherds with no rims or bases. Fabric stained yellow throughout from intense contact with brine.
	206	Similar to above but with v. small flecks of flint	Miscellaneous	16	55	Some possible container fragments, remainder of uncertain origin. Definite briquetage with assortment of salt colours, either yellow, as with containers above or buff-lavender.
	206	Similar to above but with slightly larger flint inclusions (still only 3mm max)	Container	4	40	These have two parallel edges typical of container pieces but of a greater thickness than those previously recorded (above). Typically 10-14mm thick these again are body sherds with no bases or rims
	206	While the fabric has some organic content there are also moderately frequent small stones and briquetage grog making this unlike the usual pan-like vessels	Upright container?	1	25	Possible vertical container in briquetage fabric and coloured yellow through contact with brine. It has a gentle curving internal surface. 12mm thick. Max dimensions 70 x 40 x 12mm.
	206	Miscellaneous pieces, possibly structural. Hard fired. Dark red colour, in some cases becoming slightly purple. Chiefly silty clay with only small amount of organic material. One piece has a few pieces of small flint or shell inclusion.	Miscellaneous possibly structural.	7	114	There are no flat surfaces. Colours suggest contact with brine and hard fired pieces suggest structural items.
	206	Hard fired silty clay		1	5	Non-briquetage fired clay
	206				20	Numerous tiny fragments of briquetage retrieved from the environmental samples

### Provenance

All of the material came from context 206, a layer of predominantly dumped material on the edge of a roddon.

### Range

Comprising container sherds and miscellaneous, probably structural, pieces the collection has a number of types found on saltmaking sites. It indicates the presence of a saltern nearby but the quantities of material would be much greater if it was on the actual saltern site.

## Potential

The material joins the growing corpus of evidence for salting in the fenland. The items are almost certainly of the early Roman period, before the close of the second century AD.

## Summary

The material is a good indication of the presence of one or more Roman salting sites in the area. It is believed that the material is of early Roman date.

## FAUNAL REMAINS

By Paul Cope-Faulkner

## Introduction

A total of 117 (c. 742g) fragments of faunal remains were recovered from GWSM08 and MWSM08.

## Provenance

### GWSM08

The remains come from layer 206.

### MWSM08

The faunal remains were recovered from 904 a fill of ditch [905], 910 a fill of ditch or gully [907], 913 a fill of ditch or gully [912], 924 finds concentration within subsoil 925, 927 fill of ditch [929] and 1101 topsoil.

## Condition

The overall condition of the remains was good to moderate, although pieces from GWSM08 are quite fragmentary.

## Results

Table 9, Fragments Identified to Taxa from GWSM08 and MWSM08

	Cxt	Taxon	Element	Side	Number	W (g)	Comments
GWSM08	206	<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i> , liver fluke snail	shell		1	<1	
		cattle	skull		1	72	with horn core
		cattle	mandible		1	36	
		cattle	metacarpal		1	87	
		large mammal	uncertain		16	37	some burnt
		medium mammal	various		18	14	calcined
MWSM08	904	sample <1> unidentified	uncertain		55	4	most calcined
		sheep/goat	mandible		1	9	fragmentary
		<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>	shell		2	<1	
		<i>Planorbis planorbis</i>	shell		1	<1	
		<i>Planorbis corneus</i>	shell		1	<1	
	904 <4>	amphibian	limb		5	<1	
	910 <3>	unidentified	molar		1	<1	
		unidentified	unknown		1	<1	
	913	<i>Lymnaea truncatula</i>	shell		1	<1	
	913 <2>	unidentified	unknown		3	1	
		fish	mandible		1	<1	
		unidentified	unknown		3	<1	
	924	cattle	mandible	L	1	404	
		cattle	metacarpus		1	9	
	927	oyster	shell	top	1	26	
	1101	cattle	molar		1	42	

## Summary

### GWSM08

Cattle represent the only remains identified to species, though the medium mammal remains may have derived from sheep/goat. The possible sheep/goat is heavily burnt. A single example of a liver fluke snail shell was recovered. This species is common in marshes, ditches, puddles or even on wet mud (McMillan 1973, 108).

The assemblage has limited potential due to its size, though should be retained as part of the site archive.

### MWSM08

Cattle and sheep/goat are present among the animal bones but are too few to warrant further examination. Fish and amphibian bones were also identified which may elucidate the local environment.

With the exception of the single oyster, all the mollusc shells are freshwater species. The *Lymnaea truncatula*, or liver fluke snail, occurs widely in marshes, ditches, *etc*, often living out of water on wet mud, and in small habitats. The other species, the Planorbids, are ramshorn snails and occur in hard water lakes or ponds, rivers, streams and ditches, the *Planorbis planorbis* often in small habitats (McMillan 1973, 107-8; 110).

Almost all of the mollusc shells inhabit the same environment and therefore indicate the presence of fresh water bodies, though possibly small, in the investigation area in the past. The single oyster is probably food residue.

## GLASS

By Gary Taylor

### Introduction

Three pieces of glass weighing together 6g were recovered from a single context from MWSM08.

### Condition

All the glass is in good condition, though at least 2 of the pieces are severely heat-affected. Additionally, glass is naturally fragile.

### Results

Table 10, Glass Archive for MWSM08

Site code	Cxt	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
MWSM08	924	Colourless glass vessel – drinking vessel? Two pieces have wheel-cut rilling and two are severely heat-affected	3	6	Roman, 2 <sup>nd</sup> century?

### Provenance

#### MWSM08

The glass was recovered from 924, finds concentration within subsoil 925

### Range

All three pieces of glass are of comparable nature, being thin and colourless. They are likely to be parts of a single vessel, probably a thin-walled wheel-cut cup or beaker. Examples of such vessels occur commonly on Romano-British settlements, generally in 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD contexts (Price and Cottam 1998).

### Potential

The glass is of moderate potential. Roman glass is much less common on archaeological site than pottery of the period and it may be that glass vessels were associated with higher status individuals. Although the three fragments probably come from the same vessel they do indicate the use of glassware at the site in the Roman period, and suggest the moderate status of the occupants.

## CLAY PIPE

By Gary Taylor

### Introduction

Analysis of the clay pipes followed the guidance published by Davey (1981) and the material is detailed in the accompanying table. All of the clay pipe was retrieved from MWSM08.

### Condition

The clay pipe is in good, archive-stable condition.

### Results

Table 11, Clay Pipe from MWSM08

Site code	Cxt	Bore diameter /64"					NoF	W(g)	Comments	Date
		8	7	6	5	4				
MWSM08	1204		1				1	4	stem	17 <sup>th</sup> century

### Provenance

MWSM08

The clay pipe was recovered from 1204, fill of ditch [1205]. It is probably a fairly local product of the Wisbech area.

### Range

A single 17<sup>th</sup> century pipe stem was recovered.

### Potential

Other than providing some dating evidence the clay pipe is of limited potential.

## OTHER FINDS

By Gary Taylor

### Introduction

A small quantity of other finds, 23 items weighing a total of c. 8g, was recovered from GWSM08 and MWSM08.

### Condition

The other finds are in good condition, though the charcoal is naturally fragile.

### Results

Table 12, Other Materials from GWSM08

Site code	Cxt	Material	Description	NoF	W (g)	Date
GWSM09	206	charcoal	Charcoal, roundwood and grains	1	1	
		stone	Burnt flint	2	4	
MWSM08	904	Magnetic material	Some probable plate hammerscale	10	1	
	910	Magnetic material	Some probable plate hammerscale	10	1	
	1101	Industrial residue	Iron smithing slag	1	6	
	1103	Plasticated paper?	Printed seed potato label, dated	1	1	21/2/1984

### Provenance

GWSM08

The other finds were recovered from layer 206.

MWSM08

The other finds were recovered from 904 a fill of ditch [905], 910 a fill of ditch or gully [907], 1101 topsoil and 1103 fill of pit [1102].

### Range

The other finds from GWSM08 were represented by charcoal and stone. Those from MWSM08 are mainly magnetised material. Some of this is likely to be heated ironstone, though a few flakes of probable plate hammer scale are present. There is also a single piece of smithing slag. However, the quantities of these materials are too low to indicate iron smithing in close proximity to the investigation area

### Potential

As a small collection of undatable material the other finds are of limited potential. However, those from GWSM08 are associated with fire and indicate burning at the site. The other finds from MWSM08 are of low potential and could be discarded.

### SPOT DATING

The dating in Table 13 is based on the evidence provided by the finds detailed above.

Table 13, Spot dates

Site code	Cxt	Date	Comments
WISM08	018	18th to early 20th	Possibly 19th
	027	18th to 20th	
	18007	19th to 20th	
MWSM08	408	20th	Date on a single sherd
	904	Early 8th to mid 9th	Date on a single sherd
	914	14th to 15th	
	924	14th to 15th	Includes 3rd century pot and 2nd century glass
	927	3rd	
	1001	15th	Date on a single sherd; includes 3rd century
	1002	15th to 16th	
	1101	3rd	
	1103	20th	Date on other finds
	1204	17th	Date on clay pipe

### ABBREVIATIONS

ACBMG	Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group
BS	Body sherd
CBM	Ceramic Building Material
CXT	Context
NoF	Number of Fragments
NoS	Number of sherds
NoV	Number of vessels
W (g)	Weight (grams)

### REFERENCES

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*Archive catalogue 1, Roman Pottery*

Site code	Tr	Cxt	Cname	Form	Dec	Alter	Dr	Comments	NoS	NoV	W (g)
MWSM 08	9b	924	NVGW	BWM		ABR; FE CONC		RIM; BS	2	1	68
	9b	924	GFIN	J	BWL	FE CONC		BSS	2	1	29
	9b	924	SLSH	JEV		ABR		RIM; PB	1	1	28
	9b	924	SLSH	JCUR	SHG	SOOT RIM + O BREAK	DR?	RIMS; JOIN; PB	4	1	236
	9b	924	NVGWC	J		ABR		BASES; BSS; SOME JOIN SHRDS; FS	10	1	404
	9b	924	ZZZ					SMASH; MPOT	0	0	0
	9b	924	NVGWV	J		ABR INT		BSS; JOIN; OCC LQ	5	1	96
	9b	924	ZDATE					3C / POSTRO	0	0	0
	9b	927	SLSHB	JRR	SHG		DR 1	RIM; BS; JOIN; CF BOURNE	2	1	90
	9b	927	GREY	CLSD				BS	1	1	9
	9b	927	GFIN	BK	B			BSS; SANDW; HI BURNISH; CF PARTNEY	5	1	8
	9b	927	GMIC	CLSD				BS	1	1	2
	9b	927	GYBN	JBK				RIM; BS; JOIN	2	1	10
	9b	927	SLSH	CLSD		ABR; SOOT INT		BS; MOD PB	1	1	27
	9b	927	ZDATE					3C	0	0	0
	11a	1101	NVGW	JBK		ABR		FTM	1	1	24
	11a	1101	NVGW	CLSD		STAIN		BS	1	1	30
	11a	1101	NVGW	CLSD		ABR		BS; CHIP	2	1	31

Site code	Tr	Cxt	Cname	Form	Dec	Alter	Dr	Comments	NoS	NoV	W (g)
	11a	1101	ZDATE					3C	0	0	0

*Archive catalogue 2, Post Roman Pottery*

Site code	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	Form	No S	No V	W (g)	Part	Description	Date
GWSM 08	206	MISC	Reduced sandy fabric + occasional calcareous	?	3	3	1	BS	Tiny frags; sample 1	?
	206	BOUA	B	Jar?	1	1	3	BS	?ID or EMHM; burnt; soot	Late 12th to 14th
MWSM 08	408	ENGS		Industrial	1	1	315	-	Insulator?	20th
	904	IPS		Jar?	1	1	28	BS	?ID or Roman; bloated/ blown fabric	Early 8th to mid 9th  *Further examination confirmed this to be Roman Greyware GREY
	914	BOU	Slightly bumpy	Bowl	1	1	43	Rim		14th to 15th
	914	BOU	Slightly bumpy	Bowl	1	1	52	BS		14th to 15th
	924	BOU	Sandy	Jug/ jar	1	1	8	BS	?ID; abraded	14th to 15th
	924	GRIM T	Coarse	Jug	2	1	19	BS	?ID	13th to 15th
	1001	BOU	Smooth	?	1	1	4	BS		15th
	1002	BOU	Slightly sandy	Bowl	3	1	54	Rim / BS	Odd; ID?; internal glaze	15th to 16th
	1002	BOU	Slightly bumpy	Jug	1	1	22	BS	Finger-pressed decoration	15th to 16th
	1002	BOU	Slightly sandy	Jar/ cistern	1	1	69	Rim	Applied pressed strip	15th to 16th
	1002	BOU	Slightly bumpy	Jug	1	1	163	Base	Leached internal	15th to 16th
	1002	BOU	Sandy	Jar/jug	1	1	111	Base	Internal deposit; knife cut	15th to 16th
	1002	BOU	Bumpy	Jar	1	1	42	BS	Internal deposit	15th to 16th
	1002	GRIM T		Jug	1	1	33	Neck	?ID; Ridged neck	13th to 15th
	1002	GRIM T		Jug	1	1	40	Handle	Hollow strap	13th to 15th
WISM0	18007	ENGS		Hollow	1	1	15	BS		19th to 20th



8	18007	LERT H		Garden pot	1	1	9	BS		18th to 20th
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*Archive catalogue 3, Ceramic Building Material*

Site code	Cxt	Cname	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Description	Date
GWSM08	200	BRK	Oxidised calcareous	1	93	Almost vitrified; struck surface; handmade	post medieval+
	200	BRK	OX/R; fine sandy	1	47	Almost vitrified; surfaceless; handmade?	post medieval+
	200	CBM		4	10	Small fragments	
MWSM08	924	CBM	Oxidised; fine sandy + fe + light firing clay	3	149	ID?; very abraded	
	1001	BRK	Oxidised; fine sandy; calcareous	1	781	End; salt surface; struck; mortar; mortar over break; organic impressions; 105 x 57mm	
	1002	BRK	Oxidised; fine sandy; calcareous + fe	1	125	Flake; organic impressions	15th to 16th
	1002	BRK	Oxidised; fine sandy; calcareous + fe	1	105	Flake	
	1002	BRK	Oxidised; fine sandy; calcareous	1	477	End; salt surface; mortar; mortar over broken edge; struck; 103 x 50mm	
	1204	BRK	Oxidised; fine sandy; calcareous	1	215	Flake; organic impressions; abraded	
	1204	BRK	OX/R/OX; fine sandy	1	159	Flake; clinkered; salt surface; struck; organic impressions	15th to 16th
	1204	BRK	Oxidised; fine sandy; calcareous	1	582	End; partially clinkered; salt surface; organic impressions; abraded; 90 x 52mm	15th to 16th
WISM08	018	BRK	Oxidised; calcareous	1	2729	225 x 65 x 105mm; ventral frog; complete; handmade; slop moulded?; mortar	18th to early 20th
	027	BRK	Oxidised; calcareous	7	129	Flakes	?

*Archive catalogue 4, Fired Clay*

Site code	Cxt	Class.	Fabric	NoF	W (g)	Comment
GWSM08	202	FCLAY	Oxidised; fine sandy	4	1	Possible salt surfacing?; tiny fragments
	206	FCLAY		19	1	Tiny fragments; not identifiable; sample 1
MWSM08	914	DAUB	Oxidised; fine; occ fe; rare calc	1	76	Amorphous; organic impressions
	914	DAUB	Oxidised; fine; occ rounded voids	2	42	Flat on both faces with shallow concave grooves at the edge of fracture (diameter 13mm); poss lath impressions; organic impressions
	924	DAUB	Reduced; fine	5	187	No obvious faces; lath impressions between 13-25mm wide; organic impressions
	924	DAUB	OX/R; fine; occ fe	17	265	One flat face. Lath impressions between 11-

						19mm wide; organic impressions
924	DAUB	Reduced; fine	3	149		One flat face; lath impressions on each fragment between 13-23mm wide
924	DAUB	Reduced; fine	5	210		Two flat faces; lath Impressions between 10-15mm wide
924	DAUB	Oxidised; fine	1	51		One flat face; lath impressions between 9mm, 13mm and 15mm wide
924	DAUB	Oxidised; fine	3	76		Amorphous; organic impressions
924	DAUB	Oxidised; fine	1	97		One flat face; lath impression 15mm wide; organic impressions
924	DAUB	Oxidised; fine	1	79		Corner piece with two flat faces at 90 degrees to each other; organic impressions
924	DAUB	Oxidised; fine	7	396		One flat face; organic impressions
924	DAUB	Oxidised; fine	1	160		Corner piece with two flat faces at 90 degrees to each other; lath Impression 30mm wide; possible fe concretion in lath groove; organic impressions
924	DAUB	Oxidised; fine	3	887		Two flat faces; lath impressions all 15mm wide; angular impressions as if plastered to a squared post; organic impressions; struck?
924	DAUB	OX/R; fine; rare fe; rare calc; rare fe	1	92		Plano-concave; organic impressions
924	DAUB	OX/R; fine	1	174		Two flat faces. Lath impression 15mm wide; organic impressions; occ fe
924	DAUB	OX/R; fine	2	14		One flat face
924	DAUB	OX/R; fine	4	295		One flat face; lath impressions between 13-25mm wide
924	DAUB	OX/R; fine; rare fe	1	124		Corner piece with two flat faces at 90 degrees to each other; lath Impression 15mm wide; organic impressions
924	DAUB	OX/R; fine	2	76		One flat face; lath impressions 14mm and 23mm wide; angular impressions as if plastered on a squared post; organic impressions

Appendix 3

**ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

*By Val Fryer*

## ASSESSMENT OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM THE GUYHIRN TO WISBECH ST. MARY PIPELINE (GWSM 08)

Val Fryer, Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF  
June 2009

### Introduction and method statement

Excavations along the route of the Guyhirn to Wisbech pipeline, undertaken by Archaeological Project Services (APS), recorded a possible layer of Roman dump material within a system of rodden deposits. A single sample for the retrieval of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken.

The sample was bulk floated by APS and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots were common within the assemblage.

### Results

The assemblage was extremely small (<0.1 litres in volume) and largely composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments. However, a single wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain was recorded along with small fragments of burnt bone.

### Conclusions and recommendations for further work

Although small, this assemblage would appear to be consistent with either a small deposit of domestic refuse or, more likely, an accidental accumulation of wind-blown detritus.

As only a single grain is recorded, no further analysis of this assemblage is possible.

### Reference

Stace, C., 1997                      *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

### Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens    xx = 11 – 50 specimens

Sample No.	1
Context No.	206
Plant macrofossils	
Triticum sp. Grain	x
Charcoal <2mm	xx
Charcoal >2mm	x
Other remains	
Bone frags.	x
Sample volume (litres)	10
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%

Table 1 Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from the Guyhirn to Wisbech St Mary pipeline

# **AN EVALUATION OF THE CHARRED PLANT MACROFOSSILS AND OTHER REMAINS FROM THE MURROW TO WISBECH ST. MARY PIPELINE (MWSW 08)**

**Val Fryer, Church Farm, Sisland, Loddon, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 6EF  
June 2009**

## **Introduction and method statement**

Evaluation excavations along the route of the Murrow to Wisbech St. Mary pipeline, undertaken by Archaeological Project Services (APS), recorded features of probable Roman date. Samples for the evaluation of the preservation and content of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from ditch fills, and three were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by APS and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed on Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Fibrous and woody roots were present throughout.

## **Results**

All three assemblages were small (<0.1 litres in volume) and largely composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments. However, cereal grains, including individual specimens of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.), were present within all three assemblages. Shells of terrestrial and freshwater molluscs were also recorded from samples 3 and 4.

## **Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

In summary, it would appear most likely that all three assemblages are derived from scattered or wind-blown refuse, which was almost certainly accidentally included within the ditch fills. The composition of the small mollusc assemblage may indicate that the ditch was situated within a grassland area and at least semi-permanently waterfilled.

Although the current assemblages are somewhat sparse, they clearly illustrate that well-preserved plant remains are present within the archaeological horizon within this area. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all well-sealed and datable contexts recorded during excavation.

## **Reference**

Stace, C., 1997                      *New Flora of the British Isles*. Second edition. Cambridge University Press

## **Key to Table**

x = 1 – 10 specimens    xx = 11 – 50 specimens    cf = compare

<b>Sample No.</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>913</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>904</b>
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Ditch [912]</b>	<b>Ditch [907]</b>	<b>Ditch [905]</b>
Plant macrofossils			
Hordeum sp. (grains)	xcf	xcf	x
Triticum sp. (grains)	x	x	
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x	x
Charcoal <2mm	x	xx	x
Charcoal >2mm		x	
Other remains			
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	
Small coal frags.		x	
Molluscs			
Open country species			
Vallonia sp.			x
V. costata			x
Freshwater obligate species			
Anisus leucostoma		x	x
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 1 Charred plant macrofossils and other remains from the Murrow to Wisbech St Mary Pipeline



## **Appendix 4**

### **BOREHOLE LOGS**

*By James Rackham*

#### **Borehole 1 – BH1**

Core 1 0-100cm

0-18 empty – compression

18-40 ploughsoil – dark greyish brown sandy silt loam – 10YR 4/2

40-55 brown fine sandy silt – 10YR 4/3; roddon sediments?

55-100 light yellowish brown mixed laminated fine sandy silt – 10YR 6/4; roddon sediments?

Core 2 – 100-200cm

0-22 empty- compression

22-50 broadly laminated yellowish brown fine sands – 10YR 5/4; roddon

50-100 broadly laminated pale brown fine and fine to medium sands – 10YR 6/3; roddon

Core 3 – 200-300cm

0-16 empty – compression

16-86 broadly laminated damp brown to pale brown fine and fine top medium sands – 10YR 5/4 to 10YR 6/3

86-100 grey laminated fine sands and some silt – 10YR 5/1

#### **Borehole 2 – BH2**

Core 1 – 0-100cm

0-20 empty – compression

20-45 ploughsoil, very dark greyish brown sandy silt loam – 10YR 3/2

45-52 mixed sand and ploughsoil – disturbed zone at base ploughsoil

52-64 brown sandy silt loam with charcoal and briquetage? – 7.5YR 4/3

64-100 laminated fine sandy silt

Core 2 – 100-200cm

0-18 empty- compression

18-100 brownish yellow laminated fine sands – 10YR 6/6

Core 3 – 200-300cm

0-18 empty – compression

18-100 poorly laminated wet fine yellowish brown fine sands – 10YR 5/4

#### **Borehole 3 – BH3**

Core 1 – 0-100cm

0-13 empty – compression

13-46 ploughsoil – very dark greyish brown sandy loam – 10YR 3/2

46-60 dark greyish brown fine sand – 10YR 4/2

60-95 brown sandy clay/clayey sand – 7.5YR 5/3, 5/4

95-100 dark grey silty clay with traces of organics and charred reeds? – 2.5Y 4/1

Core 2 – 100-200cm

0-36 empty- compression

36-100 dark grey laminated sandy clays – 2.5Y 4/1

Core 3 – 200-300cm

0-19 empty- compression

20-80 brown laminated sands – 7.5YR 5/3

80-100 grey laminated sands – 10YR 5/1

**Borehole 5 – BH5**

Core 1 – 0-100cm

0-10 empty – compression

10-42 ploughsoil, dark greyish brown silt loam – 10YR 4/2

42-50 dark grey stiff silty clay – 10YR 4/1

50-59 dark grey and grey slightly silty fine sand – 10YR 4/1, 5/1 – possible palaeosol

59-100 brownish yellow fine sand – 10YR 6/6

Core 2 – 100-200cm

0-100 yellowish brown fine laminated damp sands – 10YR 5/4

Core 3 – 200-300cm

Core came up empty, could not be recovered. Sediment traces on the window sampler indicate wet fine grey sands – 10YR 5/1

## Appendix 5

### GLOSSARY

<b>Alluvium</b>	Deposits laid down by water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea, and fresh water alluvium is laid down by rivers and in lakes.
<b>Briquetage</b>	A term given to fragments of ceramic equipment and hearth/oven remains from the processing of salt.
<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
<b>Context</b>	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 interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
<b>Cropmark</b>	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
<b>Cut</b>	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, etc. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
<b>Domesday Survey</b>	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
<b>Fill</b>	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) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term used to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Mesolithic</b>	The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 11000 - 4500 BC.
<b>Manuring Scatter</b>	A distribution of artefacts, usually pottery, created by the spreading of manure and domestic refuse from settlements onto arable fields. Such scatters can provide an indication of the extent and period of arable agriculture in the landscape.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
<b>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
<b>Old English</b>	The language used by the Saxon (q.v.) occupants of Britain.

<b>Palaeolithic</b>	The 'Old Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 500000 - 11000 BC in Britain.
<b>Post hole</b>	The hole cut to take a timber post, usually in an upright position. The hole may have been dug larger than the post and contain soil or stones to support the post. Alternatively, the posthole may have been formed through the process of driving the post into the ground.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	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 1st century AD.
<b>Ridge and Furrow</b>	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
<b>Roddon</b>	Raised banks of clay or silt representing sinuous channels which formed dendritic patterns and which later became silted up. Roddons stand proud of the fen surface due to tidal levees and also due to post depositional compression and wastage of the surrounding peat.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

## Appendix 6

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

26	Daily record sheet
32	Trench record sheets
5	Photographic register sheets
2	Plan register sheets
3	Section register sheets
7	Context register sheets
82	Context record sheets
20	Sheets containing scale drawings
2	Sample register sheets
7	Sample record sheets
	Various annotated site plans
1	Box of finds

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:

Cambridgeshire County Council  
Castle Court  
Shire Hall  
Cambridge  
CB3 0AP

Event Number: ECB2867, ECB2869, ECB2868

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: WISMO8, GWSM08, MWSM08

Oasis Record No: archaeol1-68919

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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