



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**Leadenham to Welbourn Water Main Replacement
Pottergate Road, Welbourn**

Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: SK 9722 5324 - SK 9707 5303

Site Code: WLM 99

LCNCC Accn. No. 67.99

Report prepared for

Anglian Water Services Ltd

LAS Report No. 350

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Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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Plates

- Pl. 1** Trenching for the replacement main, south of the Pottergate Road junction near The Mill Farm (looking south).
- Pl. 2** Windmill Plantation, growing in a former limestone quarry beside Pottergate Road.
- Pl. 3** Trench spoil showing areas with differing densities of limestone at 1. This was interpreted as a natural feature, possibly an ancient stream course, perhaps affected by post-medieval stone quarrying and later soil tipping (looking south).

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Summary

A trench excavated in the verge of Pottergate Road revealed no evidence of the known Romano-British occupation site recorded in a roadside field.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Anglian Water Services in March 1999 to conduct an archaeological watching brief during excavation of a pipe trench for a new water main along Pottergate Road, Welbourn. The monitoring had been requested by the County Archaeological Officer in a letter dated 20th January 1999.

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any evidence of the presence or absence of a Romano-British site with building stone and pottery, or other archaeological features.

The first site visit was made on 8th March. Further monitoring visits were made until 31st March 1999, when the specified section of trenching was completed; a total of seven visits were made.

Archaeological Background

Fourth century Romano-British pottery, together with building stone, has been reported from the vicinity of Windmill Plantation. It is probable that a building and occupation site is close to the road, and it was anticipated that the groundworks might reveal further remains.

The Watching Brief

The trench was excavated within the eastern roadside verge, using a trenching machine or a JCB with narrow toothed bucket (Pl. 1). The trench was positioned to the east of the existing mains trench.

No archaeological remains were seen during the continuous watching brief, and the occasional variations in the depths of layers overlying the loose limestone bedrock were assumed to be the result of a combination of natural features and post-medieval disturbances.

Mill Farm Plantation lies within a former quarry site, which has been partly backfilled close to the roadside verge (Pl. 2). On the opposite site of Pottergate Road, the trench revealed a large soil-filled disturbance which produced infrequent and unstratified fragments of nineteenth century material 1. It is likely that this was the edge of a small limestone quarry, cutting into a limestone outcrop where it is exposed on the edge of a natural depression (Pl. 3).

Conclusion

The absence of any Romano-British remains appears to indicate that the previously reported site does not extend east of Pottergate Road. There is no reason, on present information, that Pottergate Road is of Roman origin, and the limit seems to be coincidental.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to Anglian Water Services (especially Mick Claffey), their contractors AHLCO and the trenching machine operator (Richard) for their help.

Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid, and the report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
17th May 1999

Archive Summary

Anglian Water Services plans
Annotated copies of AWS plans
Photographs (colour prints, LAS film no. 99/18/15-17)
Correspondence

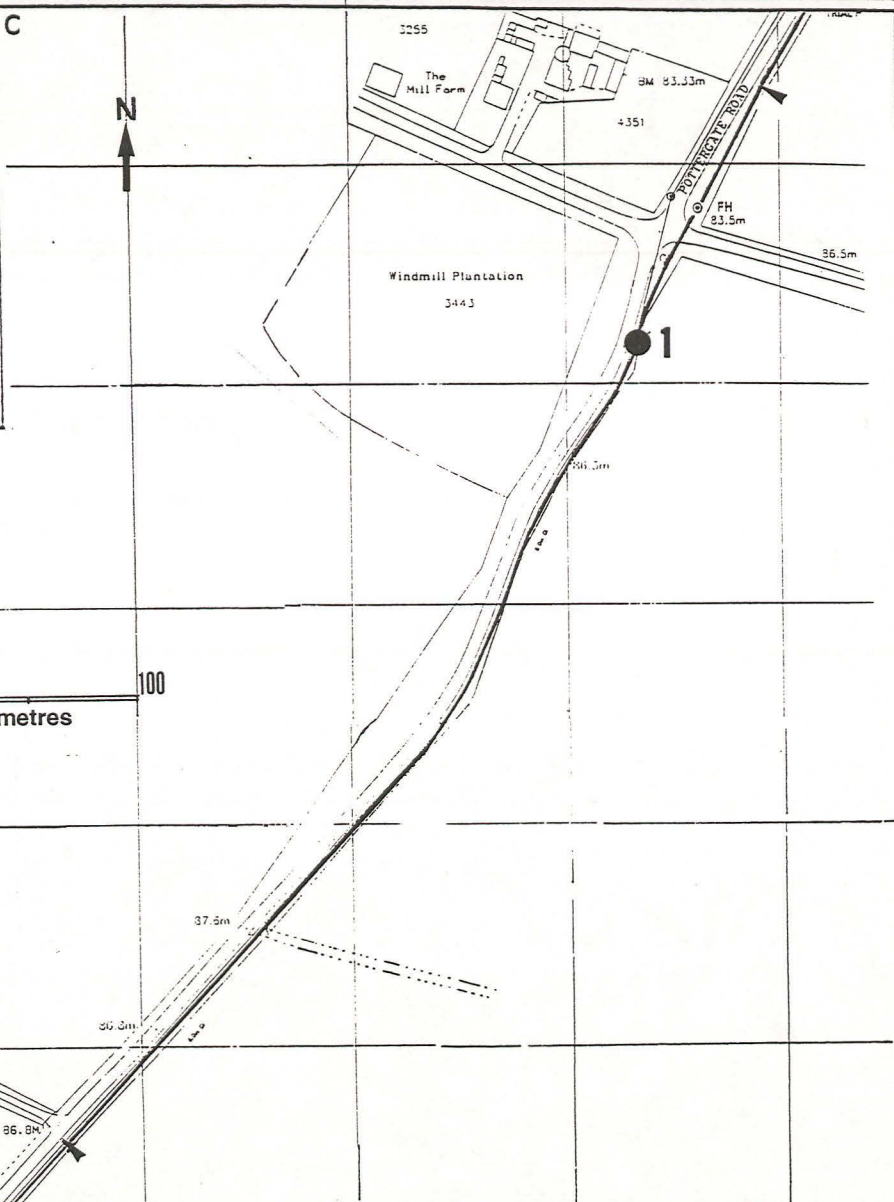
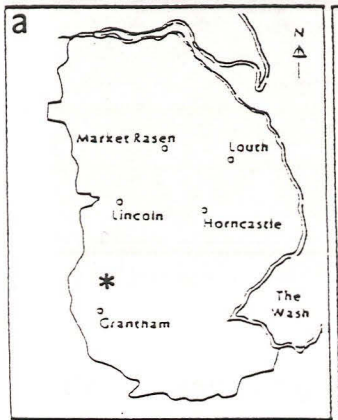
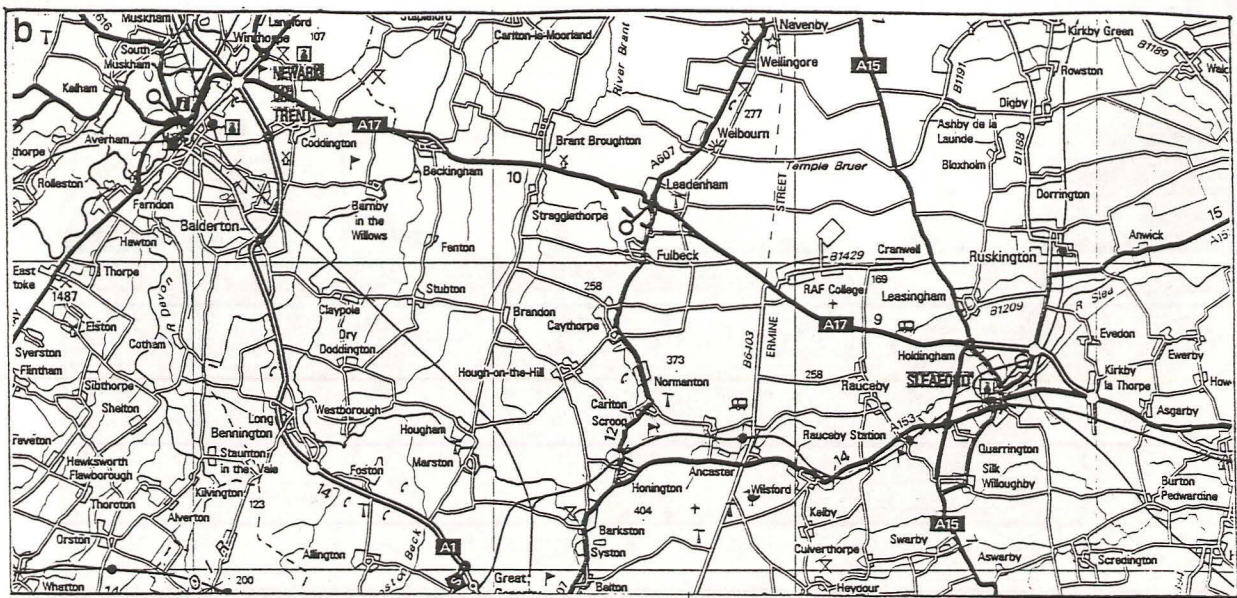


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Pl. 1 Trenching for the replacement main, south of the Pottergate Road junction near The Mill Farm (looking south).

Pl. 2 Windmill Plantation, growing in a former limestone quarry beside Pottergate Road.





Pl. 3 Trench spoil showing areas with differing densities of limestone at 1. This was interpreted as a natural feature, possibly an ancient stream course, perhaps affected by post-medieval stone quarrying and later soil tipping (looking south).