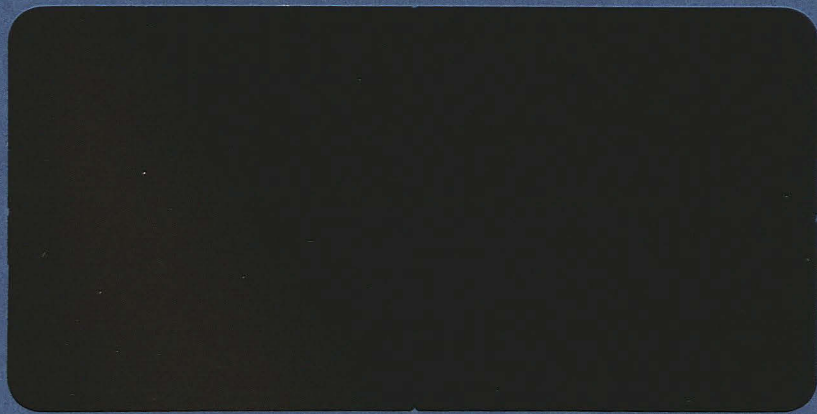


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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
EASTON TO OLD SOMERBY WATER MAINS
REPLACEMENT SCHEME

99/10

Site Code: EOS98
LCNCC Acc No. 192.98
NGR SK-97153083 - 96602857



Lincolnshire County Council
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Report prepared for Anglian Water Services Ltd.
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May 1999

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Fig. 2 Map showing the location of Area 1. Scale 1:5000.

Fig. 3 Section through stone structure [102], looking west. Scale 1:20.

Summary

- * *An archaeological watching brief was carried out for Anglian Water Services Ltd. during the Easton to Old Somerby water mains replacement scheme.*
- * *Five areas along the route were monitored. In four of these, only natural deposits were exposed below either topsoil or road make up.*
- * *In Boothby Pagnell the remains of an undated stone structure were exposed, this structure probably related to surviving earthworks adjacent to the road.*

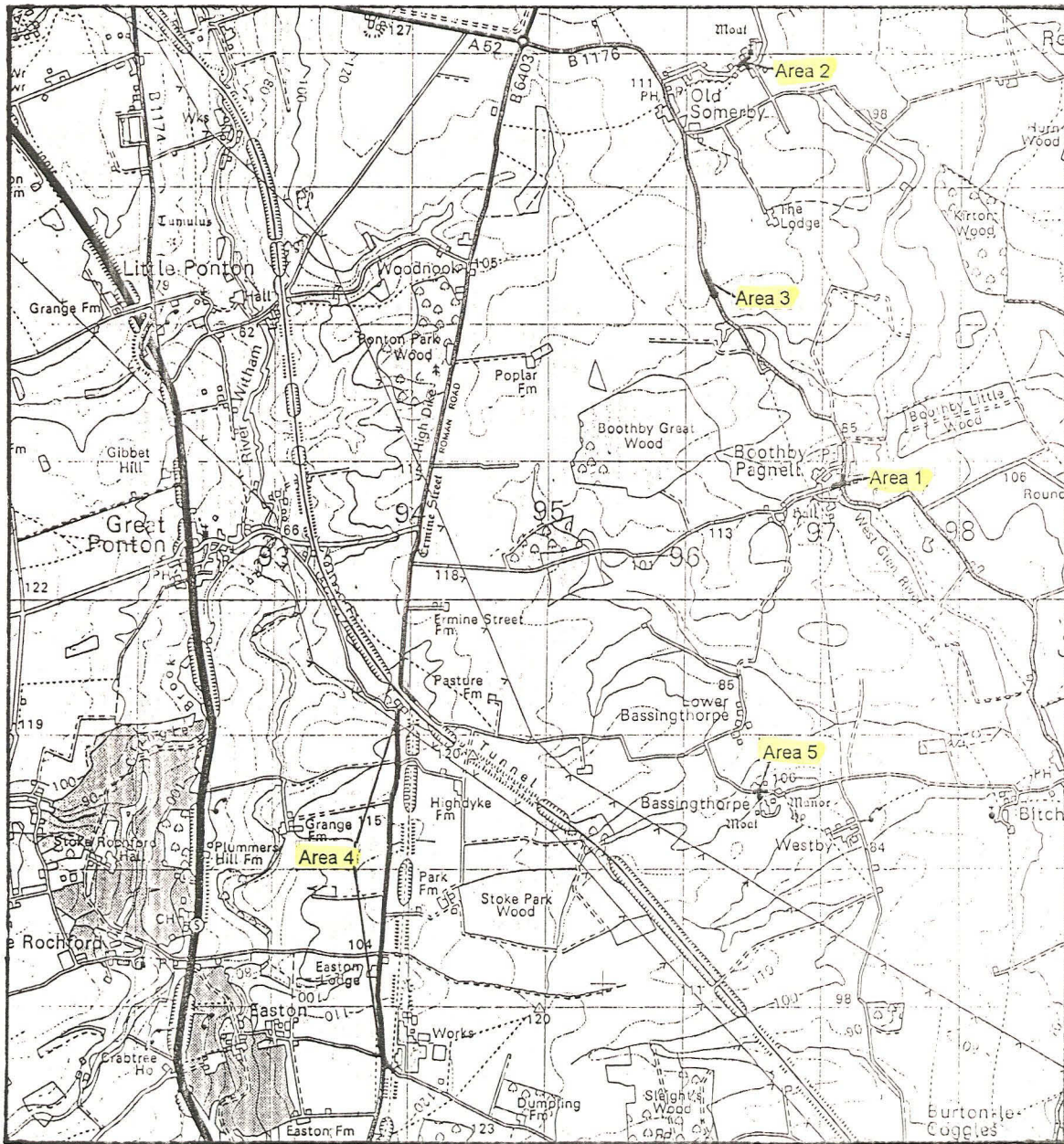


Fig. 1. 1:50,000 map showing the location of monitored areas.
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1.0 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was carried out for Anglian Water Services Ltd., during the Easton to Old Somerby water mains replacement scheme. The project was commissioned in accordance with Anglian Waters own conservation policy and took into account the recommendations of Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section. The brief was undertaken on an intermittent basis between July 1998 and April 1999. The work took into consideration the guidelines set out in the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section publication *'Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A Manual of Archaeological Practice' 1998*. A specification was prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) in July 1998.

2.0 Location and Description

The villages of Easton, Bassingthorpe, Boothby Pagnell and Old Somerby are situated between 5 km and 9 km to the south and south-east of Grantham. They lie in the administrative district of South Kesteven between 85m and 110m above OD. The geology of the area is dominated by the underlying limestone, with either degraded limestone brash or organic clays forming the subsoil in most areas (BGS survey Sheet 143).

The route of the mains replacement scheme passed through each of these settlements.

Five areas of archaeological importance were highlighted by the Assistant County Archaeologist for monitoring:-

Areas 1, 2 & 5: the vicinity of the medieval churches at Old Somerby (St Mary Magdeline), Boothby Pagnall (St Andrew's) and Bassingthorpe (St Thomas').

Area 2: a section of road to the south of Old Somerby which lies close to Romano-British settlement remains.

Area 4: at Easton, a long section of pipeline extending southwards from the railway crossing close to Pasture Farm to the Easton Cold Store. This section lies close to the Roman road and extensive evidence of Romano-British roadside settlement has been reported.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Easton

The remains of a Roman small town were discovered on Ermine Street (the well known Roman road to the east of Easton) in the nineteenth century. Large quantities of Roman pottery, coins and brooches have been found on this site (centred on SK 9380 2640) which appears to have been enclosed by a ditch. Small towns were situated at regular intervals along major Roman roads, and a number of possible parallels for the Easton site may be sought elsewhere in the county: at Saltersford, Navenby and

Owmbly along Ermine Street to the north and Spartan on the Long Hollow Road to the east. Very little formal investigation has taken place at Easton. A small quantity of Iron Age pottery has been found at the site, a situation reflected at the settlements mentioned above.

This site formed the basis for a watching brief in Area 4.

The village of Easton is c.700 m to the west of the Roman road. It is a nineteenth century village created in the Stoke Rochford estate and has no church of its own. Medieval and nineteenth century halls existed in Easton Park but do not survive.

3.2 Bassingthorpe

Bassingthorpe is entered in the Domesday Survey of 1086 as *Torp* (an outlying farmstead or hamlet) which belonged to Burton Coggles and was held by the Archbishop of York (Morgan and Thorn 1986). The remains of the medieval village survive as earthworks to the west of the church. The church, which is dedicated to St. Thomas a Beckett, has a chancel arch of Norman date (Pevsner et al 1995, 128).

The manor house survives on a moated site to the south of the church. The surviving building is part of a larger house and is dated 1568. It was constructed or re-built for Thomas Cony, a Grantham wool merchant, who inherited the estate 1545 (Pevsner et al 1995, 129). The site of the earlier moated manor here is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (No 316).

The area of the church and manor house, in the centre of the hamlet, formed the focus of watching brief Area 5.

3.3 Boothby Pagnell

Boothby Pagnell is recorded in the Domesday Book as *Bodebi*. The manor was held by Gilbert of Ghent and Guy of Craon (Morgan and Thorn 1986).

The village is famous for the important Norman manor house which survives in the grounds of the later Hall. The house was built around 1200 and was the chamber block of a larger complex. The present hall was built in 1825.

Remains of the medieval village survive as earthworks to the west of the church. These have been interpreted as house plots by Healey and Roffe (unpubl., 27).

The church, dedicated to St. Andrew, has a late Norman west tower, arcades and chancel arch. The style of the chancel itself dates it to around the early fourteenth century. These earlier element of the church survive despite extensive restoration by J. L. Pearson in the late nineteenth century (Pevsner et al 1995, 152).

The area between the church and the earthworks was the basis of watching brief Area 1.

3.4 Old Somerby

Evidence of prehistoric activity has been found close to the village of Old Somerby. A Bronze Age flanged palstave axe was found on the site of an undated cropmark enclosure c.150 m to the south of School Lane.

Roman pottery and coins have been found to the west of the road south to Boothby Pagnell at SK 96103230. The location of this site beside the road resulted in the requirement of a watching brief in Area 3.

At the time of the Domesday Survey land at Old Somerby (*Sumerdebi*) was held by the King, Walter of Aincourt, Kolgrimr and by Guy of Craon as a jurisdiction of his manor at Butterwick (Morgan and Thorn 1986).

The manor house may date to the sixteenth century and is located on a moated site. The church is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen and has a Norman chancel arch. The rest is in the Early English to Perpendicular styles and was restored in 1876 (Pevsner et al 1995, 594).

4.0 Methodology

In line with their policy on Conservation, Recreation and Access, Anglian Water Services Ltd. submit details of proposed schemes to the Archaeology Section of Lincolnshire County Council for an assessment to be made of the likely impact to archaeological resources. The route of the proposed scheme is appraised against records held at the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), and areas of archaeological potential are identified. Five areas of archaeological potential were recognised along the route of the Easton to Old Somerby pipeline, and monitoring (in the form of a watching brief) was recommended by the Assistant County Archaeologist.

The locations of the watching brief areas were marked on 1:2500 development plans provided by Anglian Water Services Ltd. In order to maintain efficient monitoring of excavation work in the appropriate areas, close liaison was maintained with both Anglian Water and their contractors.

Trenches and thrust bore pits were visually inspected and, where conditions safely permitted, sections were cleaned and recorded. Recording of archaeological deposits and structures was carried out using pro forma watching brief record sheets. Relevant sections of trenches/pits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:20 or 1:10) and a photographic record was maintained. Brief records of the natural stratigraphy were made for trenches/pits which contained no archaeological features. The location of the monitored sections of pipe trench and thrust bore pits were plotted on 1:2500 plans provided by Anglian Water Services Ltd.

Where necessary rapid excavation of archaeological features was undertaken in an attempt to clarify form and provide artefactual evidence for dating purposes (most

notably pottery). However, within the small area disturbed by pipe trenches and thrust bore pits, datable finds were rarely encountered.

The use of open cut trenches in some areas increased the potential for the identification of archaeological deposits. Monitoring in such areas consisted of the inspecting the trench sides and cleaning and recording the exposed soil surfaces.

The contractors were most co-operative and made suitable provisions within their own timescales for archaeological recording to take place.

Recording was undertaken using standard context record sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations, and stratigraphic relationships). Features were drawn to scale (1:20) in section, and photographic recording was undertaken (some prints are reproduced in this report).

Where exposed, the locations of archaeological features were plotted on 1:2500 development plans. In sterile areas, representative column sections were drawn on an intermittent basis. The plans, and the rest of the paper record will form the basis for a long-term project archive.

A copy of this report will be deposited at the County SMR, and a short text will be submitted to the editor of the county journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*; effectively placing the information in the public domain. Reports will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied with an ordered project archive.

5.0 Results

5.1 Area 1: Boothby Pagnell (SK 97153083)

The remains of a stone wall [102] were exposed in the pipe trench on High Street. A single course of limestone blocks extended for 6m below topsoil [100] and buried road make up [101]. The original extent of the wall could not be established as it had been destroyed by a sewer pipe trench to the south and stones were missing to the north. It seems likely that the wall was part of a structure fronting onto the road. Twentieth century pottery and a fragment of brick were recovered from between the stones but these finds may have been intrusive, having been dragged down by the bucket of the mechanical excavator. (see Fig. 3)

Although the date of the wall is uncertain, it is possible that it was medieval or early post-medieval. A building fronting the road at this point would have continued into the field to the west, which contains medieval earthworks, including house platforms. With the exception of the school on the north-east side, no structures are shown in this field on a tithe map of 1838, and none have been built until recent times (Healey and Roffe unpubl. 27). Below the foundations were natural silt and clay deposits [104].



Fig. 2. Map showing the location Area 1. Scale 1:5000.

5.2 Area 2: Old Somerby (SK 96453392)

The mains replacement was carried out using open trenching techniques. The trenches were cut through road make up and limestone bedrock. No archaeological remains were exposed.

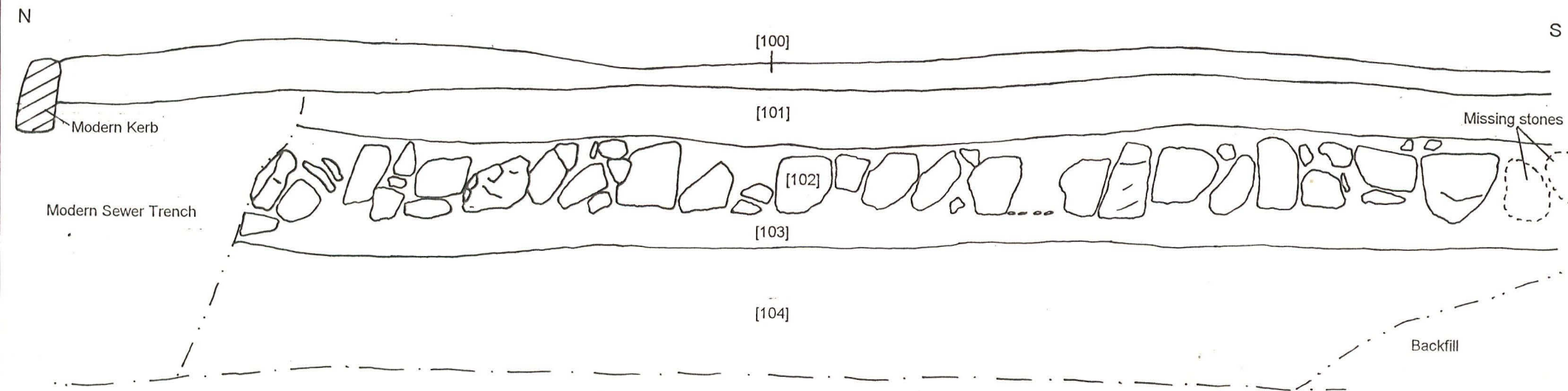
5.3 Area 3: Roman site, south of Old Somerby (SK 96103230)

The mains replacement was carried out using a single open cut trench. Due to a breakdown in communications, an area at the north end of the route was backfilled before it was monitored. An examination of the remaining open trench showed it to be cut through topsoil over natural organic clay deposits. No archaeological features were exposed, and no artefactual remains were recovered.

5.4 Area 4: Ermine Street, Easton

In this area the scale of the works was greatly reduced. A small section of trench was cut through Ermine street close to Easton, and a small number of access pits were excavated around existing water mains and valves. In the area close to Easton, only natural organic clay deposits were exposed below the topsoil and road make up. To the north of Easton, close to Ermine Street, the access pits cut through the topsoil and clay subsoil onto limestone brash and natural limestone bedrock. No archaeological remains were disturbed.

Fig. 3 Section through stone structure [102], looking west. Scale 1:20.



5.5 Area 5: B¹assingthorpe (SK 96602857)

A combination of open trenching and thrust boring was used in this area. Below the topsoil and road make up was natural organic clay deposits. No archaeological remains were exposed in this section of the route.

6.0 Conclusions

Despite the close proximity of the mains replacement scheme to a number of known archaeological remains, the project had a limited impact on the recognisable archaeological remains. In Areas 2, 3, 4 and 5, no archaeological deposits were disturbed. In Area 1 (Boothby Pagnell) a single course from a stone structure was disturbed and recorded. This structure probably related to adjacent earthworks, but its date and function could not be established.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Anglian Water Services Ltd. for this commission; in particular Mr D. Waterfield. PCA would also like to thank Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy (County SMR) for allowing access to the relevant parish files.

8.0 References

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Appendix 1.



P.1 General working shot of the mains replacement in area 1, looking east.



P.2 General shot of pipe trench in area 1 showing stone structure [102], looking south-west.