

SMP
99/23



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Bassingham Water Main Replacement
Water Lane**

Archaeological Watching Brief

**NGR: SK 9094 6019
Site Code: BAS 99
LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 199.99**

**Report prepared for
Anglian Water Services Ltd**

December 1999

LAS Report No. 374

60787 - PM
6ent LI954

Lincolnshire
Archives

1 5. DEC

Contents

Lists of Figures and Plates

Summary	1
Introduction	1
Archaeological Background	1
The Watching Brief	1
Conclusion	2
Acknowledgements	2
Archive Summary	3
Appendix 1: Post-medieval pottery archive list	

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

1 5. DEC 99

Figures

Fig. 1 Location of Bassingham (inset C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map. © Crown Copyright, reproduced at enlarged scale with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

Fig. 2 Water Lane, showing the position of observations noted in the text. (Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map supplied by Anglian Water Services. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

Plates

- Pl. 1** Trenching north of Hall Field. The junction of Hall Field is visible on the right (looking south).
- Pl. 2** Trench position in the roadside verge, south of Hall Field (looking south).
- Pl. 3** Deposits visible in the roadside verge 7 south of Hall Field.

**Bassingham Replacement Water Main
Water Lane
Archaeological Watching Brief
NGR: SK 9094 6019
Site Code: BAS 99
LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 199.99**

Summary

Monitoring of a narrow trench for a new pipe found no evidence for significant archaeological deposits or features beneath Water Lane. Two possible ditches were seen opposite Orchard House, one of which produced late seventeenth/eighteenth century pottery. A post-medieval brick culvert with stone cover was reported opposite the former lane to the river.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd in August 1999 to conduct an archaeological watching brief during excavation of a pipe trench for a replacement water main along Water Lane, Bassingham (Fig. 1). Monitoring of this section had been requested by the County Archaeological Officer in a letter to the Conservation Section of Anglian Water Services Ltd, dated 16th June 1999. Intermittent monitoring by Sue Farr and Geoff Tann took place between November 1st and 11th 1999; eight monitoring visits were made.

Archaeological Background

Archaeological monitoring was requested because the pipeline route passed beside a known Romano-British and medieval occupation site, excavated in 1995 prior to construction of the residential development off Hall Field. Another area of medieval occupation is known east of Water Lane. It was thought that archaeological deposits relating to the settlement's origins might be disturbed by the works.

The Watching Brief (Fig. 2)

The total length of pipeline identified as being of potential archaeological interest comprised about 300m. The 0.3m wide and 1m deep trench was excavated with a JCB with toothed bucket along the south and east edge of the lane as far as the junction with Hall Field, before crossing to the western verge (Pl. 1).

Water Lane

1. Between High Street and Orchard House, the trench cut through disturbed ground with black sandy soil and patches of gravel to a depth of 0.5m below the road surface. Beneath the dark material was yellow sand which extended below the trench base. The disturbed ground may have been backfill of adjacent service trenches.

2. To the east of 9 Water Lane, a brick shed marks the eastern edge of a house plot. Coinciding with the property boundary was the eastern edge of a 7m wide feature, cut to more than 1m below the road level, and backfilled with black sandy soil. The western edge of the feature coincided with the western

side of the yard area beside the shed. To either side was clean, undisturbed sandy gravel near the trench base. A broad ditch or pit had apparently been dug, either across the present course of Water Lane, or extending about 2m further north than the modern property frontage.

3. A second similar ditch or pit was reported by the contractors to have been seen about 3.5m to the east. This narrower feature produced three sherds of late seventeenth/eighteenth century pottery (Appendix 1). It is probable that these adjacent disturbances were of similar date, and may have been associated with the existing house.

4. Opposite West Cottage, where the modern Water Lane turns a sharp bend, the 0.14m thick tarmac overlay grey/brown silty clay with pebbles to a depth of 0.54m below the road. Beneath this was sand and gravel. The clay is probably alluvial deposition from the Witham, and the angle in the road may mark the edge of the sandier, better drained soil to the east.

5. The former Water Lane led down to the riverbank immediately south of Briar Patch. Its course is now partly under cultivation as vegetable plots, with a footpath beside. Opposite the eastern end of this lane, a brick walled culvert with a stone covering was seen by the contractors beneath the road, filled with dark soil.

6. To the north of Hall Field, the road had been constructed relatively recently above a spread membrane. Modern deposits were 0.48m thick. Underlying the membrane was dark orange sand, which extended beneath the trench base.

7. Immediately south of Hall Field, the trench crossed to the western roadside verge (Pl. 2). The topsoil overlay sand and gravel deposits, possibly track metalling, above dark brown and black sandy loam that extended below the trench base (Pl. 3). This was interpreted as the fill of a post-medieval field/track boundary ditch.

Conclusion

The watching brief found that much of the monitored ground had been considerably disturbed in the past when other services had been installed. The only features observed were of post-medieval date.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to Anglian Water Services (especially Mike Taylor and Bill MacDonald) and their contractors Morrisons, for their help. The pottery was identified by Jane Young.

The report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
9th December 1999

Archive Summary

Anglian Water Services plan (fax copy)

Annotated copies of AWS plan

Photographs (all used in this report) (colour prints, LAS film nos. 99/151/7-8;
99/164/0)

Correspondence

Field notes/sketch

Three sherds of pottery

Pottery archive list

Appendix 1

Post-medieval pottery archive list identified by J. Young

pottery archive bas99

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	part	description	date
3	BL	Black-glazed	large jar	1	rim	vitrified fabric;pre-fired hole below rim	late 17th to 18th c
3	BL	Black-glazed	bowl?	1	BS	hard red fabric;?local	late 17th to 18th c
3	BL	Black-glazed	?	1	base	Staffs?	late 17th to 18th c

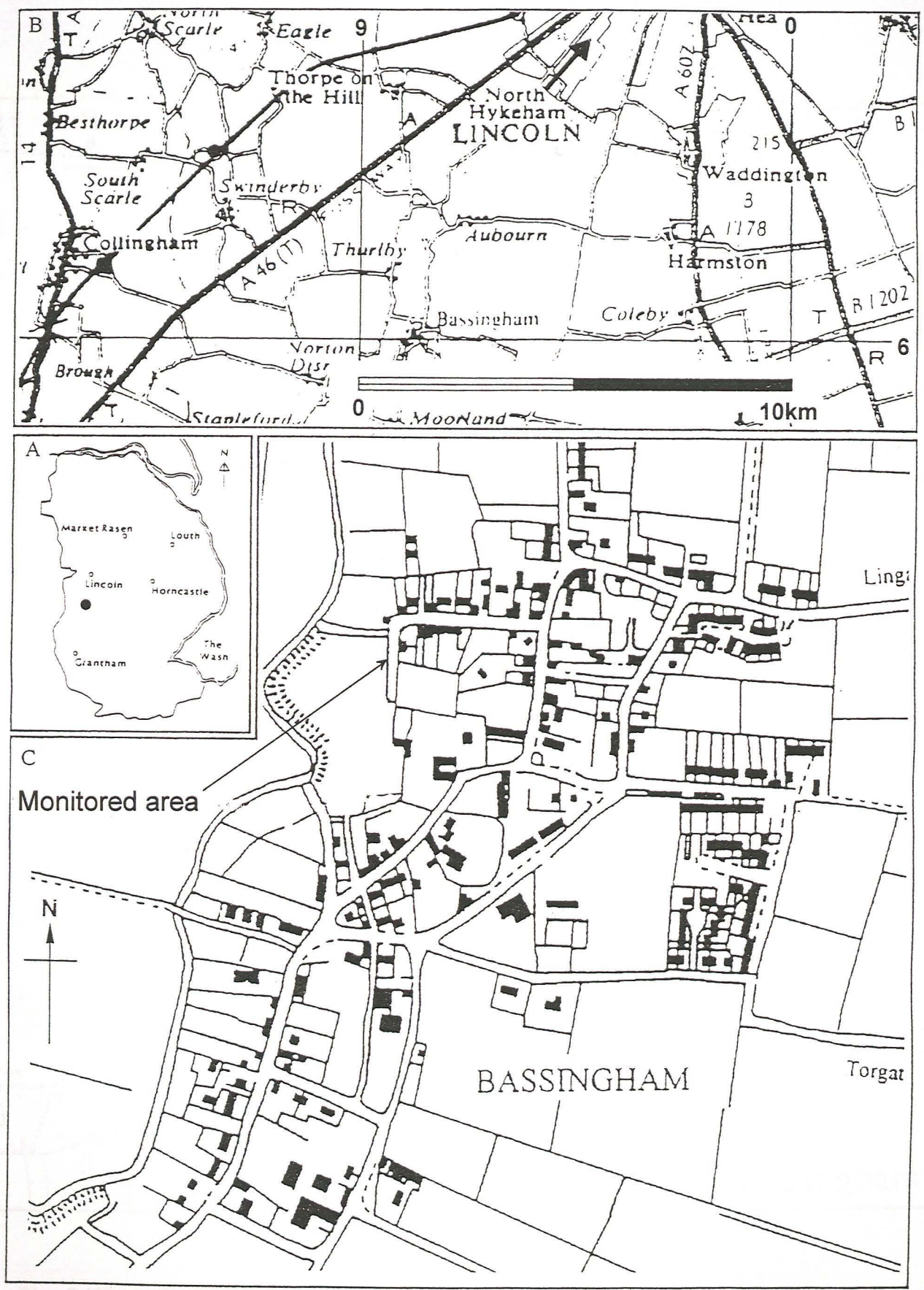


Fig. 1 Location of Bassingham (inset C based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map. © Crown Copyright, reproduced at enlarged scale with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

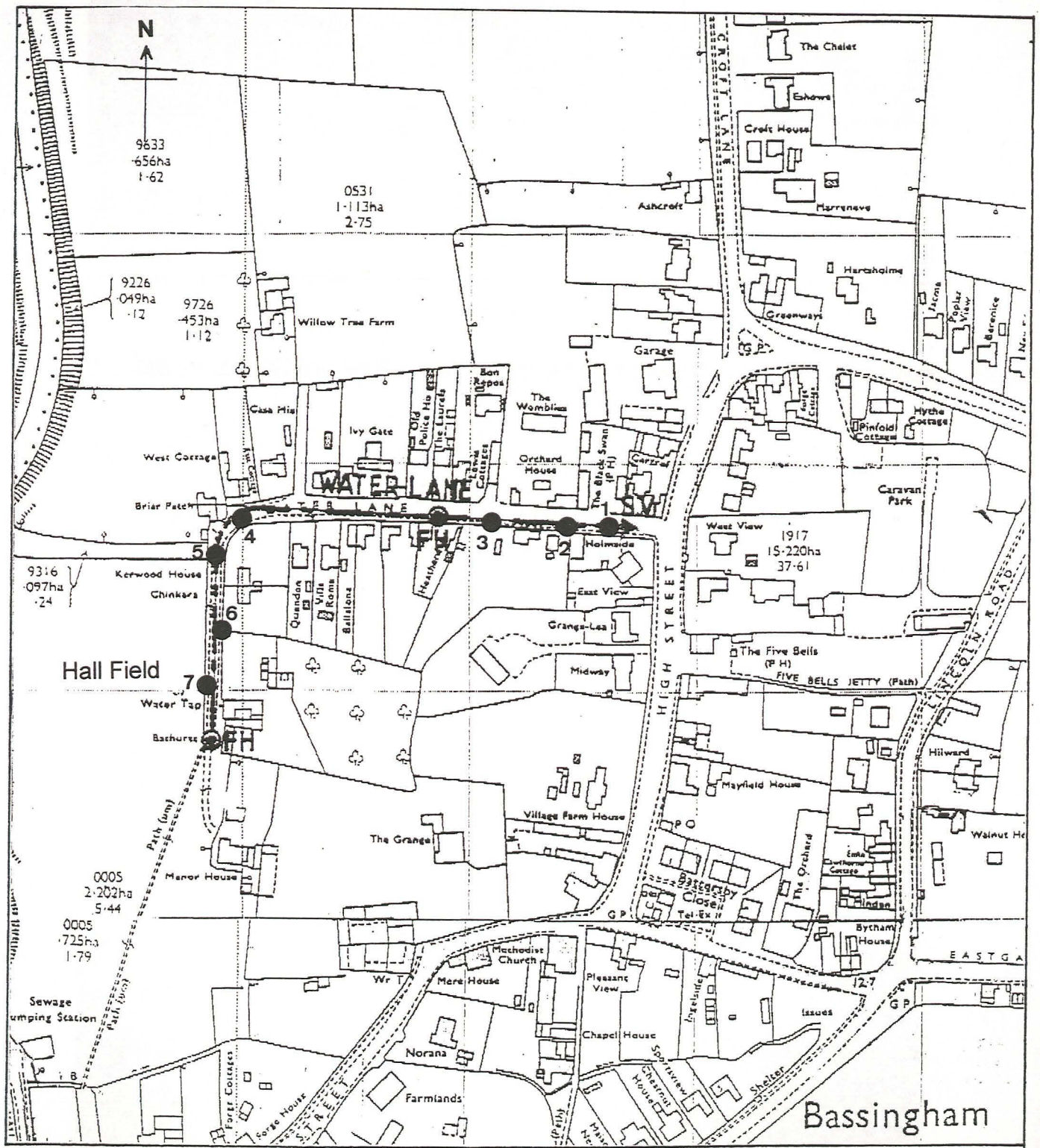


Fig. 2 Water Lane, showing the position of observations noted in the text. (Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map supplied by Anglian Water Services. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).



Pl. 1 Trenching north of Hall Field. The junction of Hall Field is visible on the right (looking south).

Pl. 2 Trench position in the roadside verge, south of Hall Field (looking south).





Pl. 3 Deposits visible in the roadside verge 7 south of Hall Field.