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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Allington Sub Zone

Allington, Sedgebrook, and Hougham Replacement Mains

NGR: SK 85 40; 85 38; 88 44
Site Code: ASM 99
LCNCC Museum Accn. No.: 236.99

SK 8569 4022 (centred)
(Allington)

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report prepared for
Anglian Water Services Ltd
by G. Tann

LAS Report No. 415
May 2000

Lancashire County Council
Archaeology Section
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Figures and Plates

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Summary

Monitoring of small trenches for a new main found no evidence for significant archaeological deposits or features.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd in September 1999 to conduct an archaeological watching brief during directional drilling and excavation of a pipe trench for a replacement water main in Allington, Sedgebrook, and Hougham, Lincs. (Fig. 1). Monitoring of specific sections had been requested by the County Archaeological Officer in a letter to the Conservation Section of Anglian Water Services Ltd, dated 19th August 1999. Intermittent monitoring by Geoff Tann, Mark Allen and Naomi Field took place between 29th September and 25th October 1999; eight monitoring visits were made.

Archaeological Background

Monitoring was requested at specific locations within the scheme.

The Allington medieval cross base, sited at the village junction, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Monitoring at this location was to ensure that no damage was caused to the monument or within its 1m management area.

Monitoring was also conducted along Peach Lane, as far as The Green, Allington Gardens, and to north and south of the junction with Sedgebrook Road; this part of the scheme passed a prehistoric or Romano-British settlement site known from air photographs. A specified section across farmland to the west of the junction was not affected by groundworks.

In Church Lane, Sedgebrook, close to the medieval church, there was the potential for medieval settlement remains and possibly burials. There was similar potential in Hougham.

The Watching Brief

Method

This scheme used directional drilling techniques. This process involves small access trenches at intervals of 50-100m, with the remainder of the pipe laid by moling underground.

Observation numbers were assigned by LAS for recording purposes.

Allington (Fig. 2)

1. Part of a medieval village cross is at the junction of Sedgebrook Road and Bottesford Road (opposite the Welby Arms public house) (Pls. 1 and 2). Trenching close to the cross was monitored particularly closely as the cross is a Scheduled Ancient Monument SAM 22658. No moling or trenching affected the management area of 1m around the monument.

2. Beneath the tarmac of the modern road was a layer of gravel and grey clay, 0.2m thick (Pl. 3). This could be a post-medieval road or yard surface. It covered 0.45m of yellow clay, with grey clay at the trench base.

Bottesford Road (Fig. 2)

3. Opposite The Old Manor House, a trench exposed the gravel and limestone metalling of an earlier road surface, overlying a grey clay which could be a former topsoil (Pls. 4 and 5). Beneath the dark layer was a light brown compact material incorporating limestone, with a grey clayey shale at the trench base.

Sedgebrook Road (Fig. 3)

4. 180m SW of the junction with Peach Lane, an access pit showed a single thick deposit of light brown clay beneath the topsoil of the roadside verge. The close proximity of a minor stream suggests that this could be alluvium filling a former watercourse channel.

Peach Lane (Fig. 3)

5. At the junction of Peach Lane and Sedgebrook Road, the moling access pit revealed only ground which had been previously disturbed for existing services.

6. 80m SE of the junction with Sedgebrook Road, an access pit in the verge showed that within the road, the 0.1m thick tarmac surface covered 0.1m of concrete road foundation. Beneath this was 0.2m of grey/green stony loam, above a brown clay loam. This material could be the natural fill of a palaeochannel; a small stream crosses the adjacent fields 40m to the west. This pit, and all the others in Peach Lane, was excavated beside an existing backfilled trench which had removed the earlier deposits on one side.

7. Further access pits beside the housing estate revealed 0.8m of yellow/brown clay loam below the concrete road surface, with a mix of ironstone brash and brown clay loam at the base of the trench. There were no deposits of archaeological interest.

Sedgebrook (Fig. 4)

Village Street/ The Green

8. The modern road overlies a thick deposit of sand.

9. At the junction of Village Street with Bowman's Way, the thin modern road surface overlies 0.15m of gravel, presumably either an earlier road or bedding for the present one. Below the gravel was brown sandy clay.

Church Lane

10. An access pit, 0.75m x 3m, was excavated on the bend in the road SW of St. Lawrence's Church (Pl. 6). The tarmac road surface was bedded on 0.2m of brick rubble; below this was 0.5m of dark brown clay loam with stone lumps, with ironpanned sand below.

11. To the SW of the church, the road was also bedded on a 0.1m thick layer of brick rubble, with dark brown loam below. The loam could be the fill of a roadside ditch, over which the present road has extended.

Hougham, Church Lane (Fig. 5)

12. Outside White Lodge, the modern road surface covered a layer of brick rubble and an underlying thin spread of white chalk rubble (Pls. 7 and 8). This was interpreted as a 0.25m thick former track, leading to the church. Below it was 0.55m of dark brown loam, with yellow sandy clay at the trench base. These deposits are probably natural alluvium from the River Witham, 100m to the south.

13. During the monitoring visit, slight earthworks were seen in the pasture field to the NE of Church Lane, between White Lodge and All Saints' Church (Pl. 7). Given the proximity of the church, these may be from a medieval settlement. The field may have formed part of a park, and house names of White Lodge and The Old Coach House suggest buildings associated with a hall.

14. SW of All Saints' Church, a small trench excavated in the track leading to Weir House revealed a spread of stone rubble about 0.5m below the present surface, separated from track material by brown stony clay (Pls. 9 and 10). The rubble appeared to be demolition material from the church, either filling a former ditch or covered by alluvium.

Conclusion

Despite the close proximity of known archaeological features to the monitored sections of this scheme, no archaeological remains were found. The watching brief found that much of the monitored ground had been considerably disturbed in the past when existing services had been installed.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to Anglian Water Services Ltd and their contractors AHLCO for their co-operation during the monitoring project.

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

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
18th May 2000

Archive Summary

Anglian Water Services plans

Annotated copies of AWS plans

Photographs (colour prints, LAS film nos. 99/136/21,22; 99/138/16-21; 99/155/0-7, including those used in this report)

Correspondence

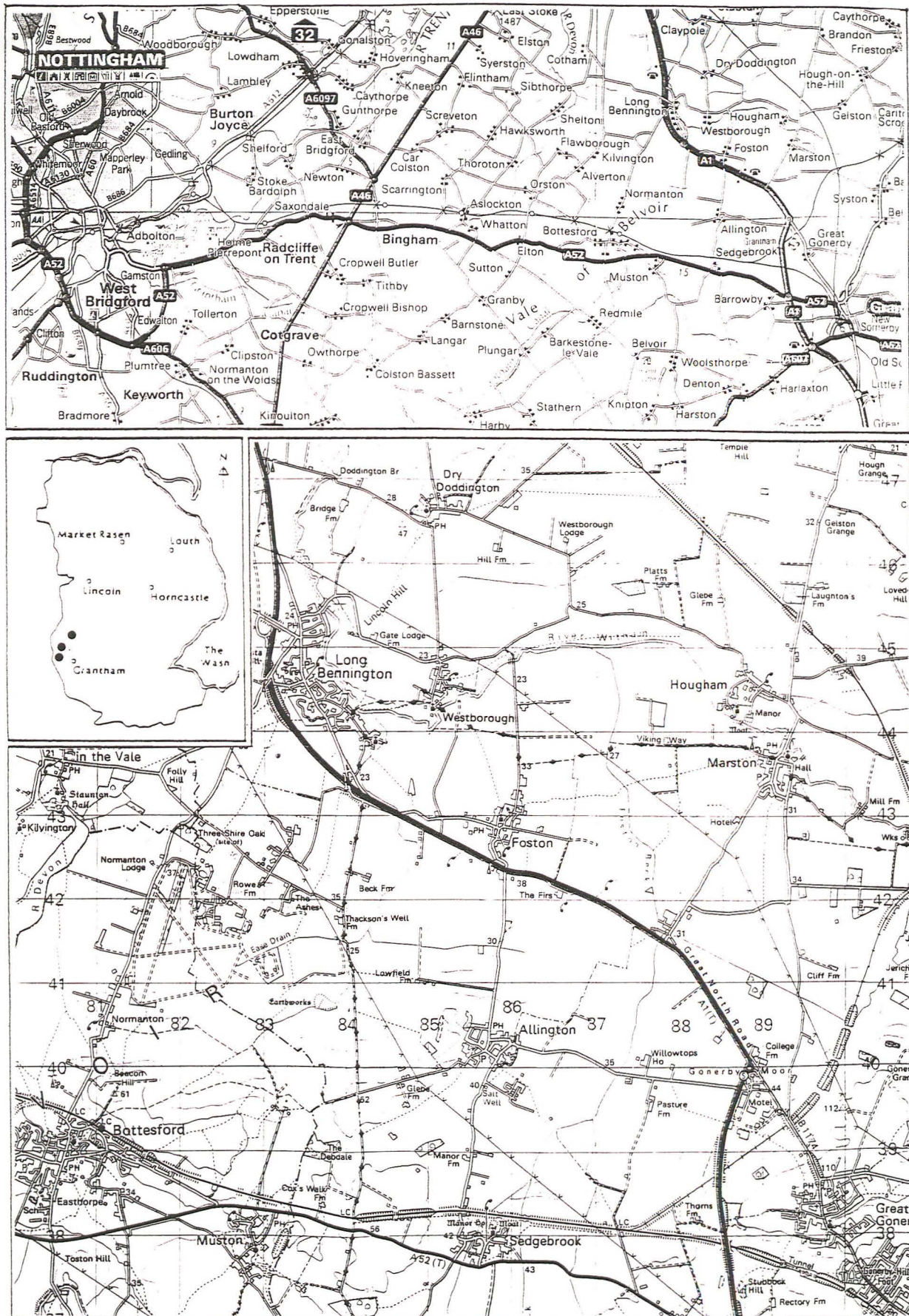


Fig. 1 Location of Allington, Sedgebrook, and Hougham, showing the monitored sections of the scheme (C based on the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger map, Sheet 130. © Crown Copyright, reproduced at reduced scale with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

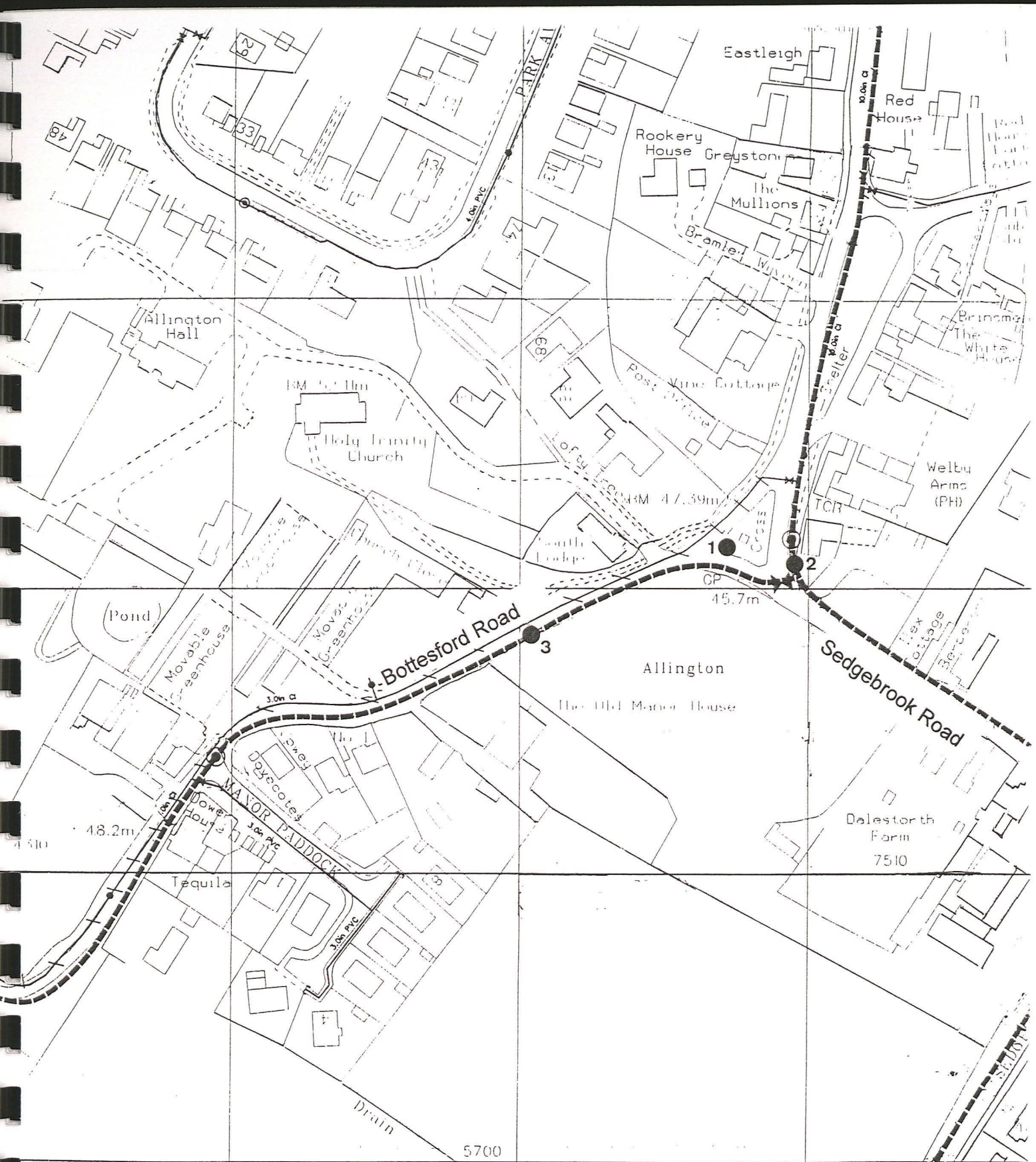


Fig. 2 Location of monitored trenches in Allington village (based on the 1:1250 plan dwg. no. WAT 02772/032, supplied by Anglian Water Services Ltd. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

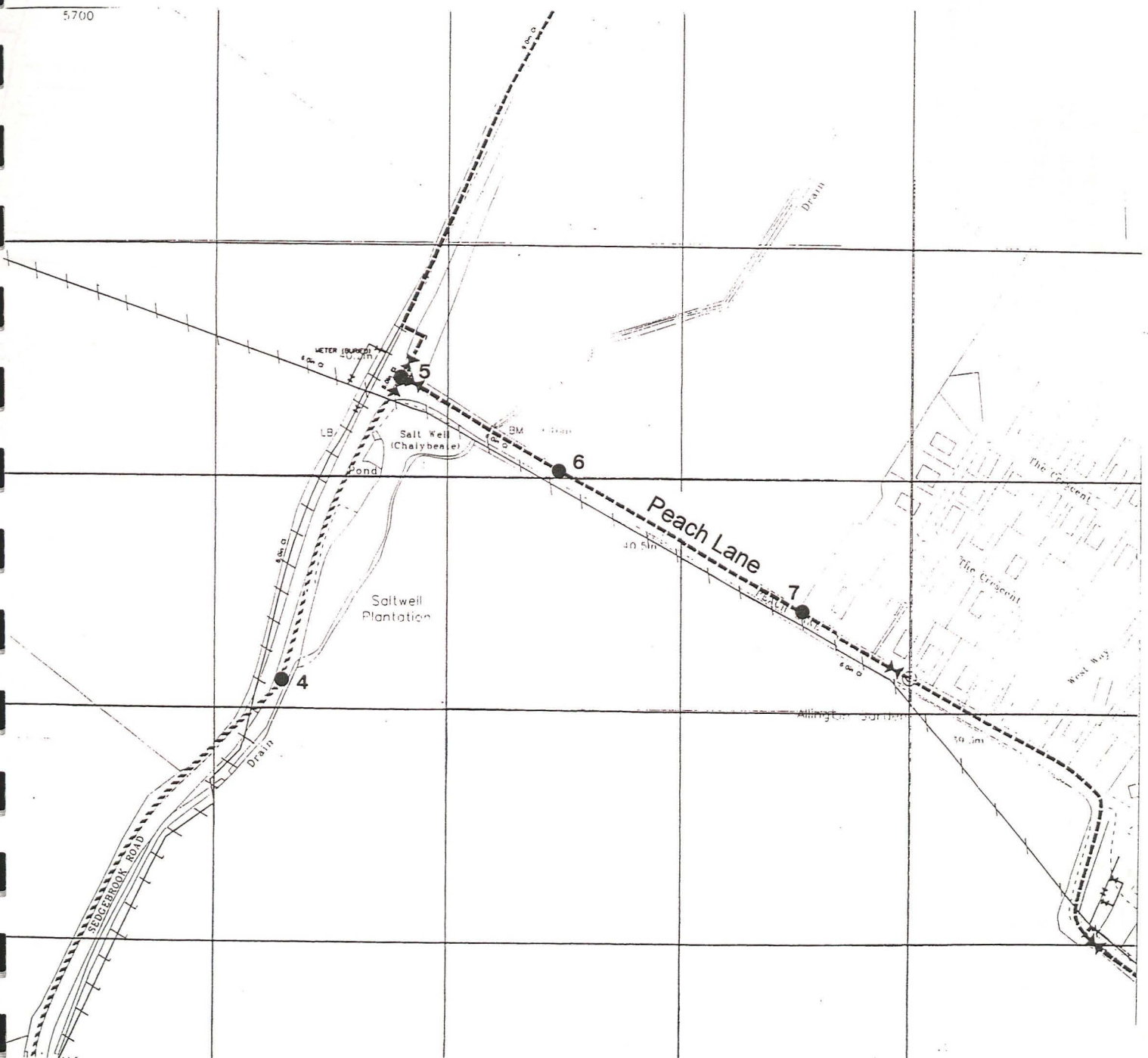


Fig. 3 Location of monitored trenches in Peach Lane and Sedgebrook Road, Allington (based on the 1:1250 plan dwg. no. WAT 02772/033, supplied by Anglian Water Services Ltd. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

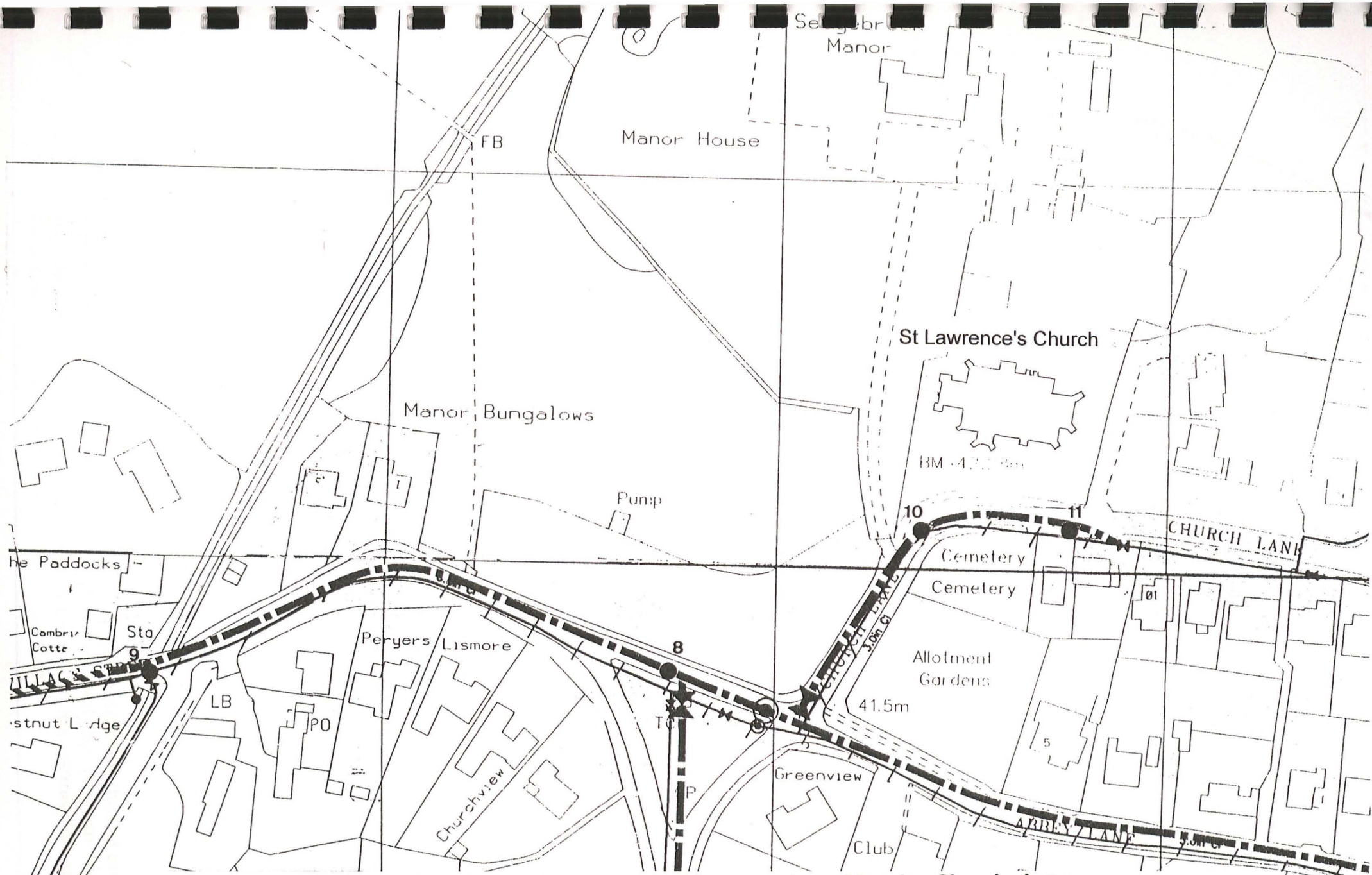


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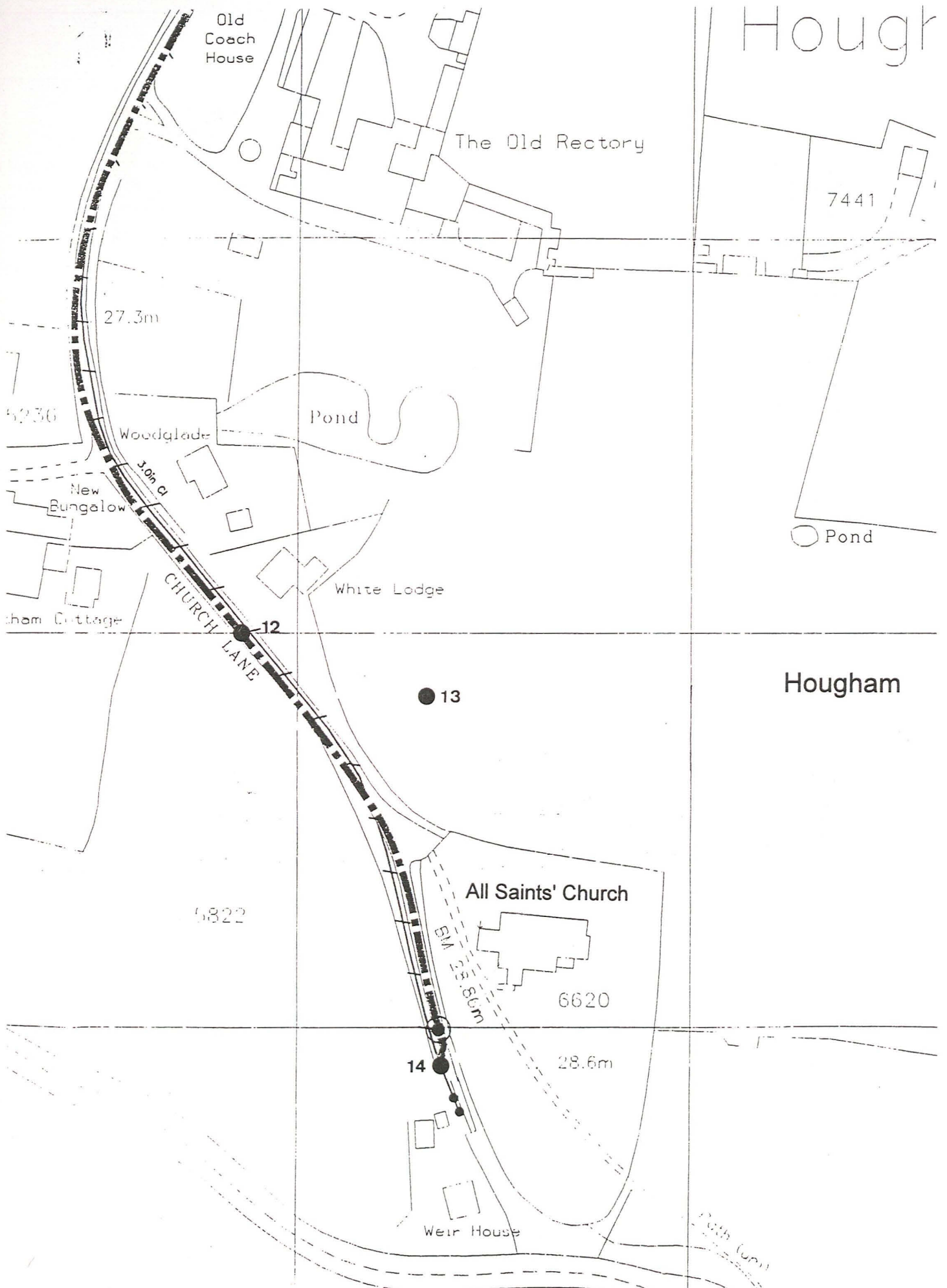


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Pl. 2 Allington village crossroads (looking SW to Bottesford Road).





Pl. 3 Deposits in the trench face at 2, east of the village cross at Allington.

Pl. 4 Location of 3, in Bottesford Road, Allington (looking NE to the village cross).





Pl. 5 Gravel metalling and buried dark brown clay in the trench at 3.



Pl. 6 Church Lane, Sedgebrook, showing St. Lawrence's Church and the trenches at 11 (left foreground) and 12 (on bend in the road). Looking west.



Pl. 7 Church Lane, Hougham, showing trench 12 and the pasture field with slight earthworks 13. Looking north to White Lodge.



PI. 8 Brick rubble and chalk/limestone track metalling, 12, Church Lane, Hougham.

PI. 9 Position of 14, Church Lane, Hougham (looking south).





Pl. 10 Limestone rubble at the trench base, 14, possibly derived from demolition rubble from the adjacent All Saints' Church, Hougham.