



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Burton, Main Street, Mains Replacement Scheme

NGR: SK 960 746 (centre)
Site Code: BVWM 02
LCNCC Museum Accn No. 2002.96

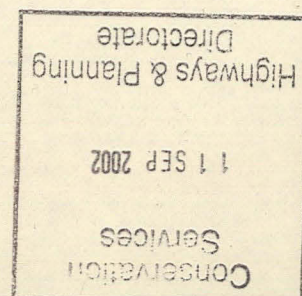
Archaeological Watching Brief

Report prepared for Anglian Water Services Ltd

by G. Tann

LAS Report No. 610

September 2002



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Burton, Main Street, Mains Replacement Scheme Archaeological Watching Brief

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Summary

Trenching for a replacement water main along Main Street, Burton revealed the courses of limestone culverts below the modern road. In other places, the road is constructed over deep deposits of tipped materials, which may be filling a former watercourse or raising a medieval hollowed way. No significant archaeological remains were exposed.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by PDM Associates on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd in January 2002 to conduct an intermittent watching brief of trenching for a replacement water main within Burton by Lincoln (Fig. 1). The route represented a continuation to the scheme monitored by LAS in 1995 (Tann 1996). Archaeological monitoring had been requested by Lincolnshire County Archaeology Section in a letter to Anglian Water Services Ltd, dated April 4th 2001, because of archaeological remains found at Burton. Monitoring was requested for three areas:

- West of Mexborough House and alongside Ormsby Place
- East of Lime Trees, towards Middle Street/Burton Road
- South of the junction at Lime Trees to St Vincent's Church.

Groundworks were monitored by Geoff Tann and Dave Marshall for LAS on 19 occasions between March 19th and July 23rd 2002.

Archaeological Background

Evidence for a Roman villa has been found at Burton at Water House (near the junction with Middle Street/Burton Road) and further remains were anticipated in the vicinity of Burton Hill House.

Burton is mentioned in the *Domesday Survey* of 1086, when there were several manors (estates) in the village. Late Saxon and medieval pottery has been found close to Mexborough House, and it was suspected that the works for the new main might reveal evidence of the early settlement. By the seventeenth century, the village comprised two parallel west-east streets, with the southern street not reflected in the modern layout.

The Watching Brief

Where possible, the new main was directionally drilled, using access pits at intervals. Parts of the scheme were open-cut. Trenches were excavated to a depth of about 1.1m.

Main Street

The works along this road were open-cut along the southern edge of the road as far as Mexborough House, and then along the western edge to Beechcroft.

1. Close to the drive to The Waterhouse, the modern road surface sealed a mixed clay layer, with patches of sandy gravel (which may have been earlier road metalling) above the yellow clay. To the east of the property entrance, a 0.4m thick deposit of mixed tarmac and stone rubble was seen in the middle of the road, perhaps the result of alterations to the slope for traffic.
2. Opposite Denton's Cottage (1, Hillside Cottage), the bedding layer for the road lies on a 0.9m thick layer of clay, overlying ironstone. The thick clay is not present immediately west of the cottage, where it is replaced by brown clay loam with bands of ironstone. This observation is beside a depression in the surface of the adjacent pasture field, and may mark a backfilled quarry or consolidation of a natural valley (Pl. 1).
3. The road bedding layer covers a 0.1m thick brown silt band SE of the drive to Essex House. It was unclear what had caused this deposit to form, but it may have been material in a roadside gully.
4. To the east of the junction with Manor Lane, the tarmac covered a 0.4m thick layer of stone rubble, with yellow clay below.
5. To the north of Rosewalk, the various tarmac and asphalt layers of the modern road amounted to a thickness of about 0.15m. Beneath this was a 0.4 5m thick dense spread of limestone lumps, laid to consolidate the underlying 0.3m thick black silt deposit (Pl. 2). The silt appeared to be fill of a roadside ditch or culvert, and the backfill contained four sherds of eighteenth century pottery (Appendix 1). Flat limestone pieces at the trench base may have formed part of a lined culvert, but this could not be confirmed.
6. Beyond the first sharp bend, east of Lindisfarne, the trench cut through a NW-SE aligned stone culvert. This probably connected with a culvert from further up the hill.
7. To the east of Beechcroft, an eastern spur from the NW-SE aligned culvert was seen (Pls. 3 and 4).

Lane to St. Vincent's Church

The church is approached from Main Street via a narrow gravelled lane, formerly an integral part of the village street network.

8. Below the Main Street pavement at the NW end of the lane, an access pit revealed earlier metalling layers, above a layer of yellow clay with limestone rubble. Spoil from this trench (and an intermediate trench midway between 8 and 9) contained fragments of roof tile, which were not collected.

9. At the churchyard entrance, the modern drive surface (incorporating roof-tile fragments), sealed a layer of yellow clay with limestone rubble. This seemed to be filling a depression cut into the underlying yellow/brown clay along the line of the lane, which may have been hollowing created by pedestrian and cart wear.

Land SW of Mexborough House

10. A small trench excavated beside Mexborough House, at the junction of the public road, was backfilled with no opportunity to inspect the trench faces.

11. Beside Deeping Cottage, the trench cut through layers of limestone chip, brick rubble and fine gravel which had been earlier yard surfaces (Pl. 5). This area had formed part of the village street layout, and some of the material may have been laid as roadstone. Beneath the hardcore was a clay deposit with small stones; it was unclear whether this was a naturally occurring layer.

12. To the NE of Beechwood, the trench remained almost entirely within the backfill of its predecessor (Pl. 6). The spoil contained disturbed cobbles and limestone rubble, interpreted as earlier metalling of the yard or of an abandoned village street.

13. A small hole excavated in the lawned area west of Ormsby Place remained water-filled during monitoring visits. One sherd of late seventeenth/eighteenth century pottery was found in the adjacent spoil.

14. A moling access pit excavated to the rear of No. 2 Hall Yard revealed gravelly clay (Pl. 7). Post-medieval finds were collected from the spoil heap, but no features were seen.

15. Within Hall Yard, the access hole was excavated at a point severely disturbed by existing services (Pls. 8 and 9). Yard surfaces and spreads of brick and stone rubble produced a combined thickness of 0.4m of made ground, beneath which was sandy clay.

Manor Lane

16. Several access pits were excavated along Manor Lane (to the north of Main Street), but all were backfilled without being recorded.

Conclusion

The new main was laid without disturbing features associated with early settlement in the village. The main was laid in present-day roads and thoroughfares, which appear to have had similar use in the past. The various metalling deposits could have been older than the post-medieval period, but there was no evidence for this.

Acknowledgements

LAS is grateful to Anglian Water and their contractors ALHCo plc for their co-operation. Jane Frost prepared illustrations are produced the report.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
6th September 2002

References

- Race, P. 1990 *Burton by Lincoln: The story of a Lincolnshire village*. Lincoln.
- Tann, G. 1996 *Burton, Middle Street, and Lincoln, Burton Road Mains Replacement Scheme: Archaeological Monitoring*. LAS Report No. 189, June 1996.

Archive Summary

Archaeological finds: pottery, clay tobacco pipe stem

Specialist archive: pottery

Correspondence

Annotated Anglian Water Services Ltd plans

LAS field notes

Photographs: LAS colour print film nos. 02/28/0-1; 02/30/24; 02/31/3-7; 02/36/10-15; 02/37/27-31; 02/70/5-20; 02/71/25-29; 02/81/4a,5a (including those used in this report).

APPENDIX 1

Pottery Archive BVWM02

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	vessels	weight	part	description	date
05	BL	Black-glazed wares	jar	2	1	35	BS		18th
05	BL	Black-glazed wares	large bowl	1	1	34	BS		18th
05	BL	Black-glazed wares	large bowl	1	1	43	rim		18th
13	RGRE	Reduced glazed red earthenware	large handled jar	1	1	40	BS	same vessel context 14	late 17th to 18th
14	GRE	Glazed Red Earthenware	bowl	1	1	11	BS		late 17th to 18th
14	RGRE	Reduced glazed red earthenware	large handled jar	1	1	37	BS	same vessel context 13	late 17th to 18th

THE FIGURES



Fig. 1 Location of Burton. (C based on the 1980 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey map, Landranger Sheet 121. Crown Copyright reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

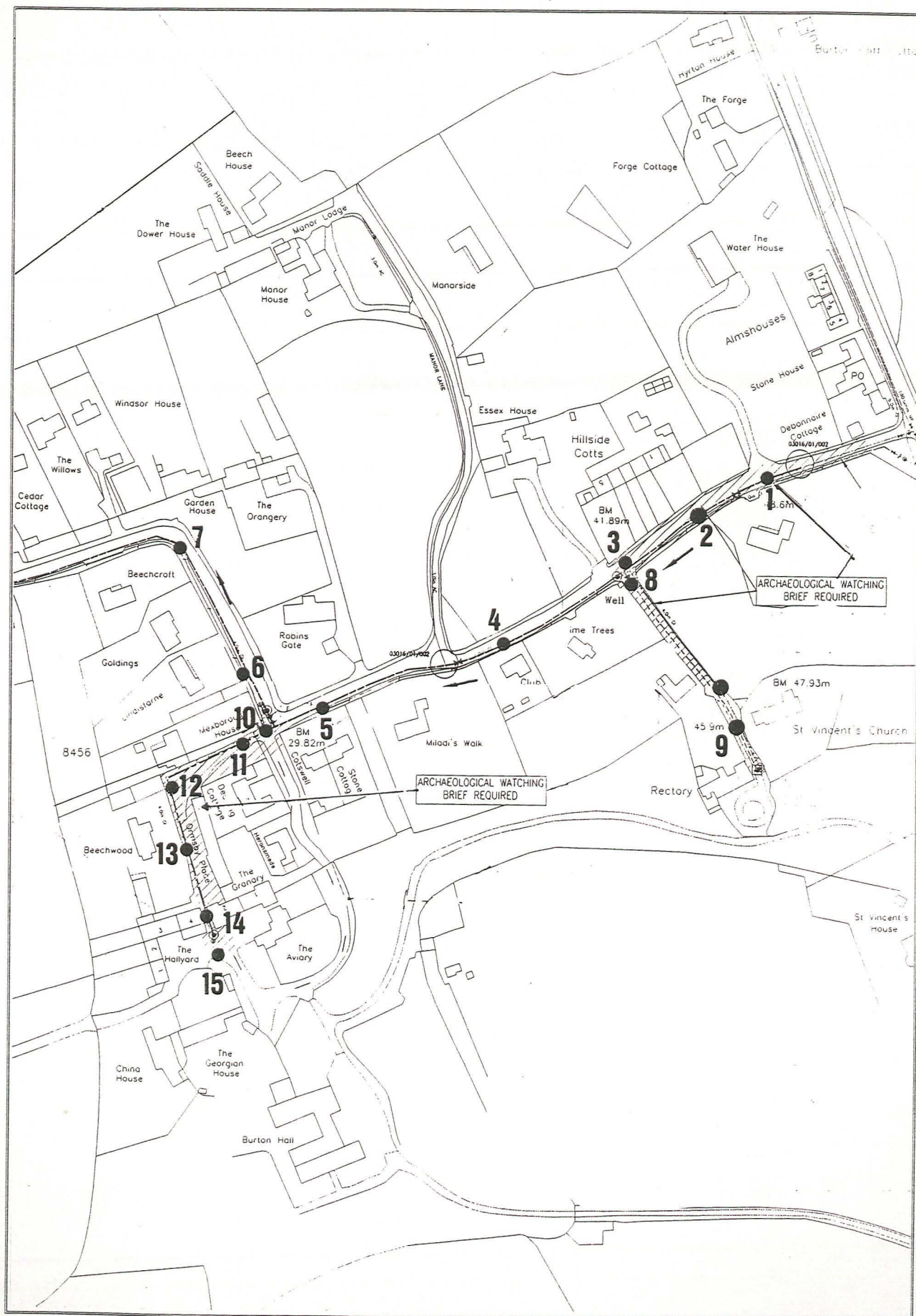


Fig. 2 Position of the observations noted in the report (based on a reduced scale copy of PDM Associates dwg no. WAT 03016/01. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 The depression in the pasture field beside the lane to the church coincided with an area of backfill 2, below Main Street (looking SW towards St. Vincent's Church).



PI. 2 Black silt and possible limestone culvert at the trench base at 5.

PI. 3 Main Street, looking south from near Beechcroft. The stone rubble in the right trench face is the remains of a disturbed stone culvert 6; a spur of this culvert is visible in the foreground.





Pl. 4 Culvert 7, looking west.

Pl. 5 Gravel and limestone surfaces of yard or former street, 11.





Pl. 6 Short length of open-cut trench 12 to NE of Beechwood (looking NW towards Mexborough).

Pl. 7 Gravelly clay beside the dark backfill of the existing pipe trench at 14, behind No. 2 Hall Yard.





Pl. 8 Hall Yard, showing the existing setts and cobbles in the disturbed spoil at 15 (looking west).



Pl. 9 Remains of yard or road cobbling at 15, in Hall Yard.