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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Fosdyke Sewerage Scheme

NGR: TF 32 33

Site Code: FVS 03

LCNCC Museum Accn. No.: 2003.106

Archaeological Desk-Based Appraisal

Report prepared for
Anglian Water Services Ltd

by
G. Tann

LAS Report No. 661

May 2003



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Fosdyke Sewerage Scheme Archaeological Desk-Based Appraisal

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Summary

The proposed village re sewerage scheme is not anticipated to affect significant archaeological remains. No sites or findspots are recorded close to the route. The open-cut trench has the potential to reveal new areas of archaeological interest, but ground conditions are seldom favourable for identifying features during machine trenching; an infrequent inspection of the trench face may be useful. Groundworks on the site of the proposed new treatment works will provide the best opportunity for recognising and recording archaeological features, and a watching brief may be appropriate during topsoil stripping and trench excavation.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in April 2003 by Anglian Water Services Ltd to prepare an archaeological desk-based appraisal of a proposed re sewerage scheme for Fosdyke, Lincs. (Figs. 1 and 2).

The purpose of the desk-based assessment is to identify the archaeological potential of the proposed route by collating available existing information, and to recommend any necessary mitigation.

The Proposed Route

The replacement sewer will be located below existing roads around the village of Fosdyke, and will be installed using open trenching methods. A new sewage treatment works is planned for land north of the existing pump house to the north of Bell Lane.

Planning Background

The archaeological desk-based assessment was requested by Anglian Water Services for internal consideration. Most of the works for the proposed scheme are not subject to planning processes, although a planning application has been submitted for the proposed pumping station east of Whitecross Gate.

Methods and Sources

A desk-based appraisal of the pumping station site and the pipeline route was undertaken in order to identify and assess all archaeological constraints. Research was conducted by G. Tann between April 23rd and May 6th 2003. The following sources were consulted and available information researched:

- Lincolnshire County Council County Archaeology Office (Sites and Monuments Record, National Mapping Programme overlay of cropmarks, parish files, previous reports)
- Lincolnshire Archives Office (Manuscript maps, Ordnance Survey maps, other documentary and published sources)
- Lincoln Central Library Reference Department, Local Studies Collection (published sources, Ordnance Survey maps)

Topography and Geology

Fosdyke is at the southern edge of an island of higher ground, with land reclaimed from the Wash to the south. Most of the proposed pipeline route within the study area is on soils classified as 811 Rockcliffe and Tanvats Association, typical alluvial gley soils. A division between the soil types coincides with the northern part of the village (Soil Survey 1983). Land levels vary between about 2m and 4m OD.

Archaeological and Historical Background (Fig. 2)

Previously recorded sites and findspots are listed in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record. These have been allocated Primary Record Numbers (PRNs) and these are used in the text.

Repeated fluctuations in sea level have affected the Fosdyke area, and these are of significance in considering the potential for prehistoric and Roman occupation. Using data available in the late 1970s, the extent of inhabited land in this part of Lincolnshire during the Iron Age was defined by the 4.6m OD contour, which would exclude Fosdyke. Roman sites had seldom been identified below 3m OD (Simmons 1980, 65-67). No pre-medieval sites or finds have been reported from the area of the sewerage scheme.

Land to the north of Fosdyke had been settled by the date of the *Domesday Survey* of 1086, but Fosdyke was reclaimed later (Hallam 1965). The settlement derives its name from an artificial drainage dyke and bank of the same name. The dyke is documented from 1195, with the name *Fotesdic* (Cameron 1998, 45-6). The constituent elements are interpreted as indicating 'a ditch or channel held by Fot', an Old Norse personal name, which is also known from Foston and Fotherby, Lincs. The sea bank protected the eastern edge of habitable land from inundation.

At the beginning of the early fourteenth century, Fosdyke remained at the eastern edge of the Lincolnshire fens, and Fosdyke Bridge was at the limit of reclaimed land in about 1600 (Hallam 1965). The settlement was able to expand by reclamation of the adjoining marshland, developing from a subsidiary part of the parish of Algakirk into a separate parish in the seventeenth century, with focii around the church and beside the River Welland. Both the settlement centres were on the Newark - Kings Lynn road, until construction of the A17 bypass

(Healey 1973). All Saints Church is a Victorian building, replacing a Georgian church and a medieval predecessor.

Site Visit

A site visit was made on May 1st 2003 to determine current land use of the proposed new treatment works site. This field had been ploughed but remained empty.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

The nearest scheduled site is the churchyard cross (SAM 22673, SMR 13283) in the churchyard of All Saints Church. This is described as a good example of a medieval churchyard cross. The re sewerage scheme should have no impact on this monument or on listed buildings in the village.

Hedgerows

No hedgerows are affected by the proposed scheme.

Archaeological Potential of the Assessed Scheme

This scheme has very little potential for encountering archaeological remains.

Potential Archaeological Impact of the Proposed Scheme

Construction of the new treatment works to the north of Whitecross Gate is anticipated to involve temporary topsoil stripping of much of the affected field, as well as limited groundworks, with building foundations and service supply trenches, in addition to pipe trenches and an access road. The combined effect of these activities will be the removal of any archaeological remains on most of the field.

The trench for the new pipelines will remove any archaeological remains along its course, but this will be restricted to a narrow path.

Conclusion

This scheme will affect no known archaeological sites, and is entirely within an area where land reclamation has occurred since the eleventh century. Some land may have been inhabitable in the Roman period. The field where the treatment works is to be sited offers the best opportunity for the identification of archaeological remains.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their help during the preparation of this assessment:

Tony Goodchild (Anglian Water Services); archaeologists in the Built Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council (Highways and Planning Directorate); staff at the Lincolnshire Archives Office, and Lincoln Central Library Reference Collection.

The illustrations were prepared by Karen Dennis The report was collated and produced by Naomi Field.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
23rd May 2003

References and Background Sources

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- Foster, C.W. and Longley, T. 1976 *Lincolnshire Domesday and the Lindsey Survey*. Lincoln Record Society 19 (1924), reprinted 1976.
- Hallam, H.E. 1965 *Settlement and Society: A study of the early agrarian history of South Lincolnshire*.
- Healey, H. 1993 *Fosdyke*. Leaflet produced by Fosdyke parish council.
- Soil Survey 1983 *Soils of Eastern England: Sheet 4*. Soil Survey of Great Britain.

Archive Summary

Correspondence
Developer's plans
Archaeological finds: pottery, flint
Photographs: colour prints, LAS film no. 03/60/00-4a

THE FIGURES

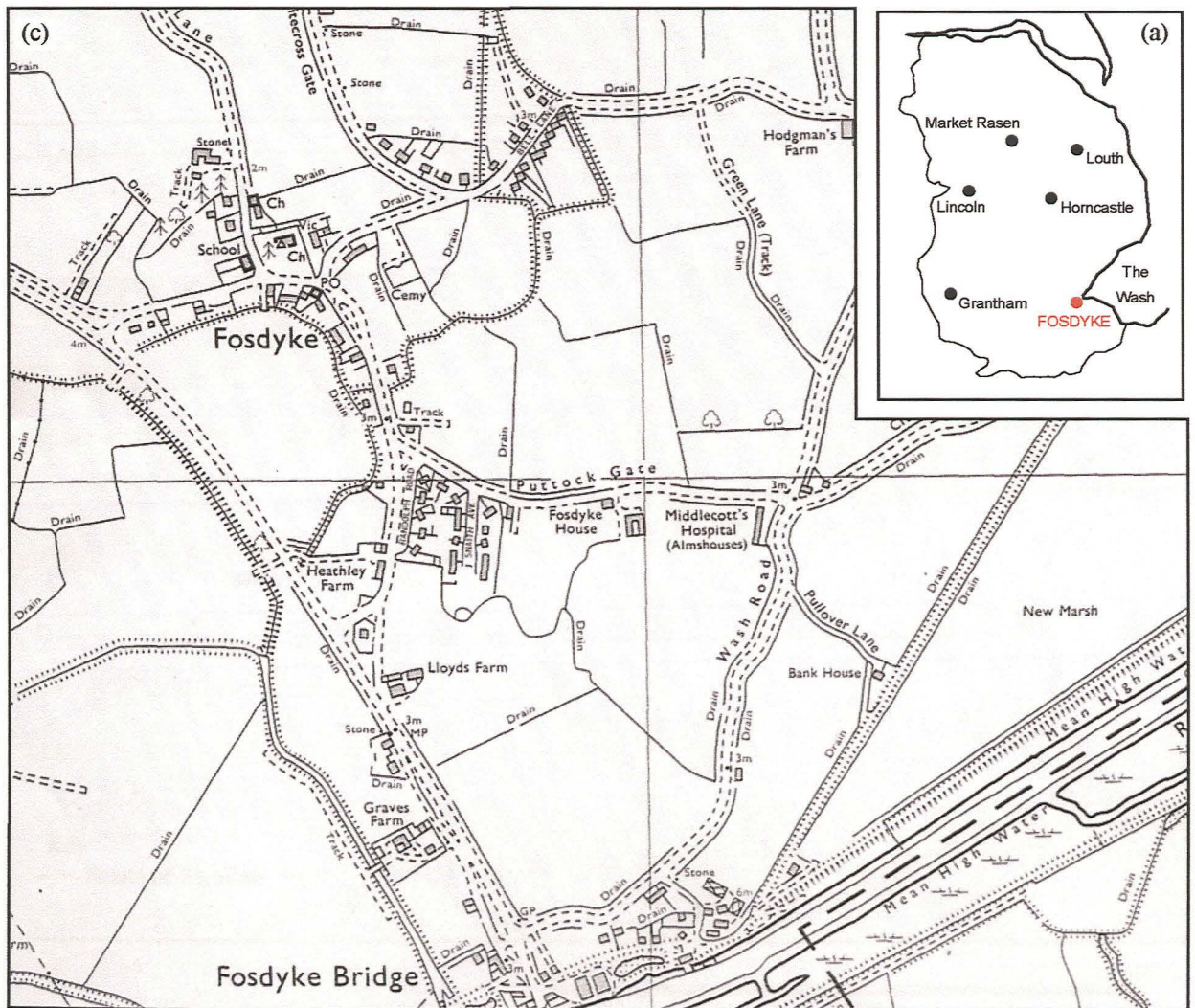
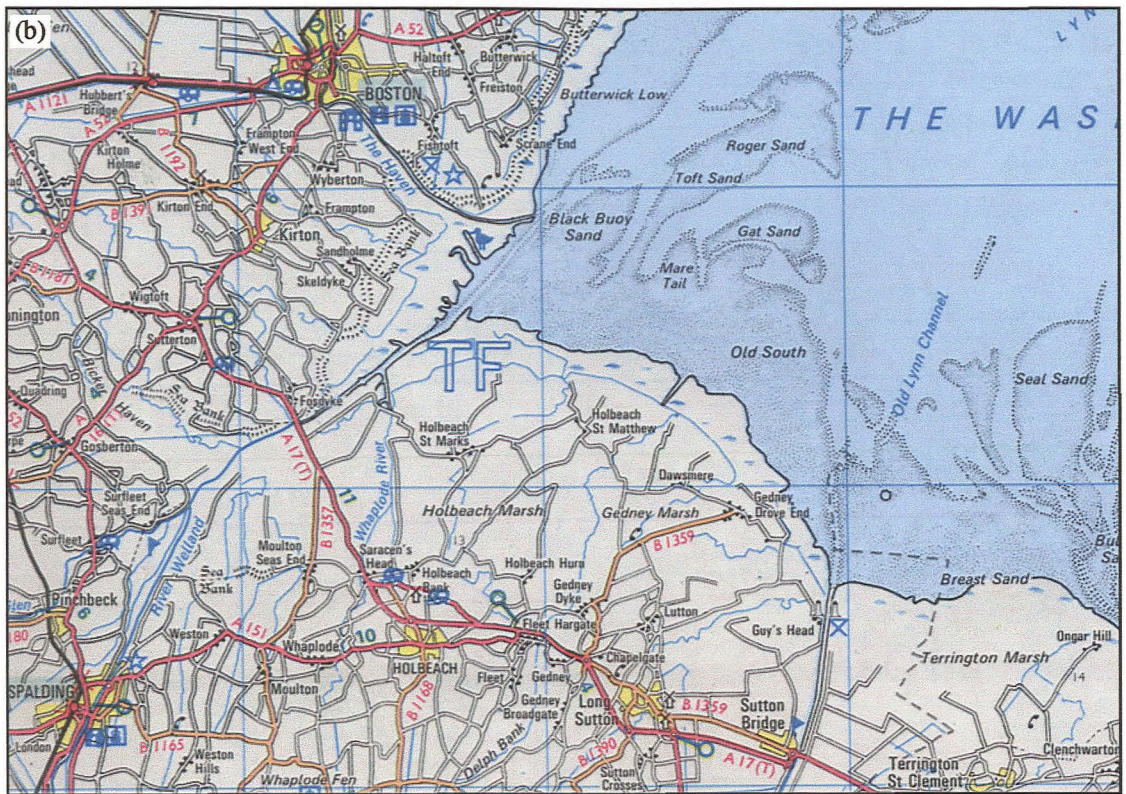


Fig. 1 Location of Fosdyke (C based on the 1979 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map, Sheet TF 33 SW. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).

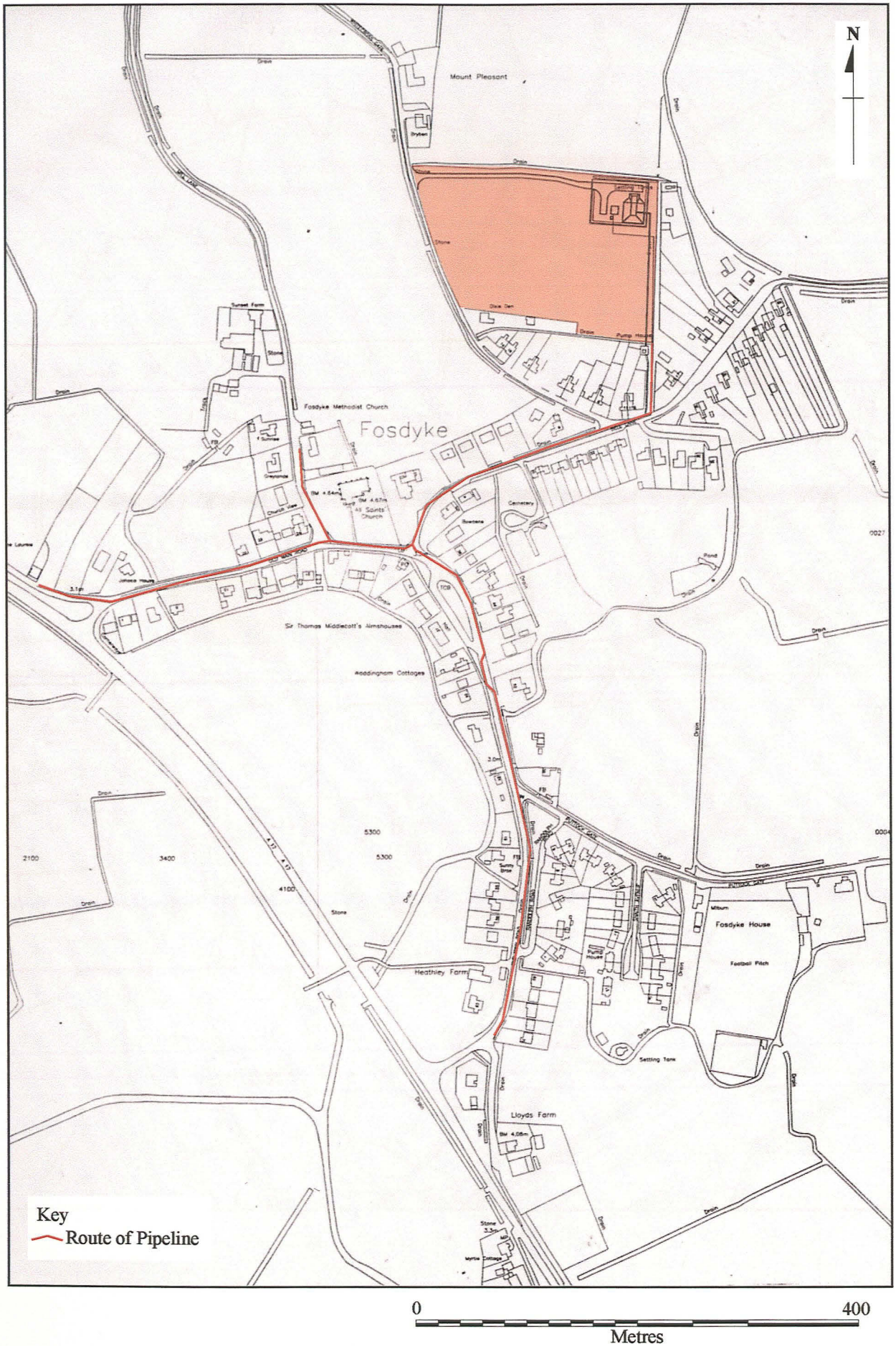


Fig. 2 The Pipeline route and site of the proposed new treatment works (based on a reduced scale copy of WS Atkins dwg. no. AK2998/WA/F/41D. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

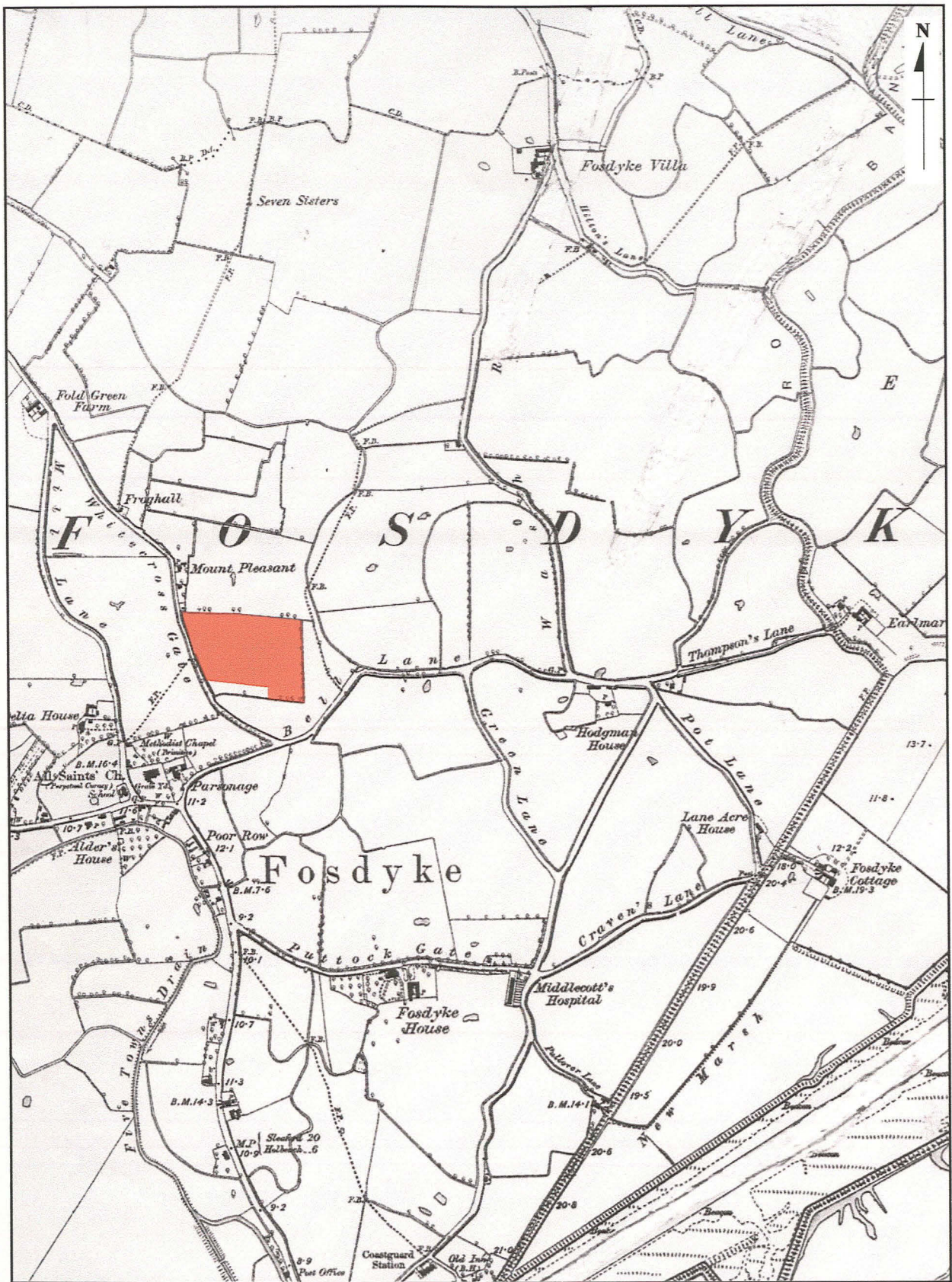


Fig. 3 Extract from the 1890 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map, Sheet Lincs. 127 NW.

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Panoramic view of the proposed Treatment Works site (viewed from Whitecross Gate).