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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Lincolnshire Section 101A Sewerage Schemes:

Old Bolingbroke Village

NGR: TF 350 650

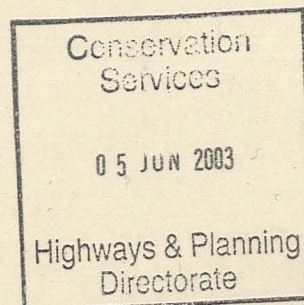
Site Code OBVS 03

LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 2003.107

Archaeological Desk-Based Appraisal

Report prepared for Anglian Water Services Ltd

By G. Tann



LAS Report No. 662

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Lincolnshire Section 101A Sewerage Schemes: Old Bolingbroke Archaeological Desk-Based Appraisal

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief in 1996, during excavation of shallow trenches in the roads and roadside verges, produced 950 sherds of post-medieval pottery, including concentrations of up to 200 sherds. Most of this material derived from the village's pottery industry and part of it was waste material from disturbed kilns. Trenching for a replacement sewer around parts of the village will encounter further remains of these previously identified sites, and may reveal others at greater depths. The collection of representative assemblages of pottery from kiln sites provides detail about the potters working in Old Bolingbroke, and enables the better identification of wares found within the wide trading range of these kilns. Sustained archaeological monitoring will be needed to ensure new kiln sites are identified and recorded; there is no practical way of predicting the position of them, and no helpful mitigation options. Processing, recording and publishing of the kiln products will be a significant element of the cost of this monitoring.

Two pumping station sites have been proposed for this scheme. Each coincides with topographical features which may reflect medieval or later land use, and further investigation may be needed in advance of groundworks.

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 Old Bolingbroke, Lincs. (Fig. 1).

The purpose of the desk-based assessment is to identify the archaeological potential of the proposed scheme 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 Old Bolingbroke, and will be installed using open trenching methods. A new sewage treatment works and pumping station is planned for land SE of a poultry farm off Back Lane, and a second pumping station may be located east of Hagnaby Beck on West Keal Road.

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.

Methods and Sources

A desk-based appraisal of the pumping station sites 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 15th 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)

Archaeological Background (Fig. 2)

Old Bolingbroke village nestles in a hollow virtually at the southern end of the Lincolnshire Wolds, immediately before the flat lowlands of the Fen area. It was well placed to exploit the two very different regions as a market town and was sited in an area of sandstone for use as a building material. The castle represents the village's most visible archaeological monument, occupying a large area of land between the two distinct foci of the village; modern development has extended the size of the settlement and linked the two areas. The village includes vacant plots, a small number of properties that appear to have developed from mud-and-stud dwellings, and a few old sandstone buildings. These seem to reflect an economy that has fluctuated between vibrancy and stagnation since the medieval period.

Medieval castle

The castle was constructed in the 13th century, and extensively repaired in the 14th and 16th centuries. It continued to deteriorate and during the Civil War the castle was slighted; by the late 19th century little upstanding masonry was visible. Excavations during the twentieth century located and exposed the foundations, surviving in places to considerable height; the structure and grounds are now a Scheduled Ancient Monument, part of which is open to the public. A broad moat remains visible around part of the castle, fed by a stream on the NE corner. The stream also serves a watermill just outside the present castle grounds. Earthworks extend to Hagnaby Road, and fill the area to Back Lane.

Medieval settlement

The retinue housed in the castle and its grounds supported a thriving market town in Old Bolingbroke, which is well positioned close to the edge of the Wolds and the Fens. Traces of both organic and planned elements of the medieval settlement can be identified from the various land blocks which survive today, and air photographs record lost plot boundaries and areas of ridge and furrow cultivation. Part of the complex road layout reflects the positions of small watercourses, and in places the streets may mark paths across unenclosed land to potters' premises.

Post-medieval pottery industry

A pottery industry is thought to have developed in Old Bolingbroke after the mid-fifteenth century, and to have continued probably until the nineteenth century. Definition of the Bolingbroke products has been difficult as the closely neighbouring village of Toynton All Saints produced very similar wares from an earlier date; potters may have moved from Toynton to Old Bolingbroke (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 409). The trading range of the pottery seems to have been restricted to about 24km from the village, apart from a number of vessels found in Lincoln.

A group of 15th-16th century kilns was identified in the 1960s and at least one kiln was excavated (SMR 41768). This was a five-flue kiln, 9ft (2.7m) diameter. Green-glazed pottery wasters were recovered from the vicinity. A small amount of documentary evidence for the pottery industry in the village has been located. The families of Burton, Owesman and Stanney are mentioned before 1600, but they are linked with the pottery industry only after that date (Wilson and Hurst 1967, 316). Robert Stanney (died 1691) left £2 of pots; several sherds stamped by someone of the same name have been found and his kiln may survive at SMR 42099 near Castle View (White 1982, 30).

LAS has conducted previous archaeological investigations at Old Bolingbroke, on premises off Main Road and off Back Lane. These located pottery (including wasters) and a yard surface, but no structural remains. A watching brief was maintained in 1996 during shallow trenching for laying electricity cables under the roads and roadside verges around the village. This revealed evidence for post-medieval pottery kilns, and associated waster dumps, in several areas of the village. The replacement sewer will be laid in most of the same locations.

West Keal Road

Alluvium has been identified immediately to the west of the stream. Opposite Bolingbroke House, and as far NW as Ramsden Hall, traces of a nearby pottery kiln (SMR 43448) were observed in 1996. Indistinct earthworks survive in the pasture field SE of Ramsden Hall, which could be cultivation remains or the sites of medieval features such as house platforms.

Beneath the road at SMR 43451 are deposits of red ash and charcoal. On the northern side the crushed remains of a pottery kiln were found. Laid blocks of sandstone, possibly the foundation of a roadside wall, have been recorded immediately to the east.

Yellow running sand has been recorded to the east of the road junction with Main Street, extending 35m towards Southlands. It was suspected that this indicated a nearby spring or diverted natural watercourse.

A plan of the village, produced in 1718-9 by Jared Hill, shows houses extending as far east as a precursor of Rectory Lane, with Mr Robert Stapleton's house (on the site of Holly Cottage) being the

last. The stream (Hagnaby Beck) appears to have followed its present course to the west of 'Horse Close' on the southern side of the road, flowing east-west, but some abrupt angles in its course suggest that its natural course had already become altered. One possibility is that the stream had sufficient power to serve a mill beside West Keal Road, and that the existing channels may be mill leats. A mill building might be sited on either side of the road, at either side of the Holly Cottage enclosure. There is therefore a slight chance of medieval or post-medieval features on the proposed site of the pumping station to the south of the stream (Pls. 1-3).

Duke's Head Lane

In front of Lancaster House, a large number of pottery sherds with adhering green soil were recovered from the surface of a backfilled trench in 1996 (SMR 43450). This seems to represent another waster area close to a kiln. NW of Bay Cottage, a few pottery fragments were found in a pit or ditch.

East of The Row

Wasters from the kiln at the junction with West Keal Road (SMR 43451) have been found below the road beside The Row. Considerable quantities of pottery have been collected during gardening to the west and SW of this row of houses; the great density indicates the very close proximity of a waster spread and at least one kiln (SMR 41767).

Back Lane

A spread of pottery and wasters from a kiln located close to 4 The Row extends to the junction of The Row with Back Lane, but it seems unlikely that pottery kilns were sited further to the south.

A site to the SE of the poultry farm has been identified for the proposed sewage treatment works and pumping station (Pl. 4). The site is at present rough grassland in the corner of a field. Air photographs show cropmarks in the field to the north of the poultry sheds, apparently representing property divisions extending south from the Back Lane frontage. Late nineteenth century maps show two footpaths from the NE and NW, possibly marking abandoned lanes, meeting close to the site of the proposed treatment works (OS 1890). The field boundaries show an anomalous deflection in this corner, and this may mark the site of an unidentified feature.

Mill Lane / Moat Lane

The bank of the deep-cut stream to the east of the road has a marked change of direction in front of the entrance to Nutwood Cottage. At this point, a thick deposit of bright orange sand has been recorded below the road, as if an earlier course, coinciding with a line across the road and through the gateway, had been deflected. Interpretation of this feature is difficult, but there seems to have been major redirection of the stream. It apparently once flowed from the western side of Old Bolingbroke Hall directly to the SE corner of the embanked grounds of the castle, west of Greenbank. The original course may survive as far south as Castleside, but both of the channels beyond that may be artificial. The existing channel deflects abruptly and follows the side of the road past the castle moat. It may be

that here the stream course was altered to feed the moat, but later dammed to allow a road around this side of the castle. A watching brief in 2000 identified alluvium at a depth of 1m beside Nutwood Cottage, supporting the suggestion of a natural watercourse west of that house (Trimble 2000).

The modern stream flows through a sluice, under the road and through a waterwheel serving the mill. To the south of the sluice, this could have been the natural course, but earthworks suggest that an artificial cut took at least some of the flow from east of Castleside to the stream position near Nutwood Cottage. This was probably an overflow channel associated with use of the watermill. Today, the overflow channel rejoins the ?natural course west of The Cottage (on Back Lane), but the archaeological evidence hints at a more northerly return closer to the mill.

Church Lane

The stream serving the watermill crosses beneath Church Lane, to the west of Old Bolingbroke Hall. A small number of pottery waster sherds have been found here (SMR 42096), and a kiln site may be in the close vicinity. Ash has been recorded below the road to the west of Linwold, although no waster sherds or fired clay were seen. There may be another kiln site beside this junction.

Track past Dale Cottage

Lower levels of this track have been constructed using tile and pottery wasters. A pasture field to the NE has slight traces of earthworks and these may have been related to a nearby kiln site

War Memorial - Castleside

A backfilled ditch or stream channel has been identified below the southern roadside verge, possibly culverted below the road junction. A possible kiln site has been recorded to the south of Sheffield House (SMR 43453).

Hagnaby Road

Slight traces of a north-south aligned ditch have been recorded as far north as Castle View. This could mark an external boundary ditch alongside the castle boundary bank, which survives almost as north as this. A pottery kiln is suspected in this vicinity, where small numbers of waster sherds have been found (SMR 43454, 42099).

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

The nearest scheduled site is the Grade I listed site of Bolingbroke Castle, between Moat Lane and Hagnaby Road. The scheduled area does not include the road or roadside verge, and the re sewerage scheme should have no impact on this monument or on listed buildings in the village.

Hedgerows

No hedgerows are known to be affected by the proposed scheme.

Archaeological Potential of the Assessed Scheme

This scheme has very high potential for encountering later medieval and post-medieval remains in most parts of the village. Other periods are less likely to be represented here. Exceptionally, archaeological remains are known to be present and identifiable below the modern roads. There are topographical reasons for suspecting medieval or later features close to the site of both proposed pumping stations, but no finds or features are known at either location.

Potential Archaeological Impact of the Proposed Scheme

Construction of the proposed pumping stations and treatment works are anticipated to involve temporary topsoil stripping, 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 the plant sites. The trench for the new pipelines will remove any archaeological remains along its course, but this will be restricted to a narrow path.

Mitigation

On archaeological grounds, there are no known reasons to alter the proposed scheme. In the absence of practical advance mitigation for the trenching around the village, a sustained watching brief throughout contractors' open-cut trenching operations will be the only way to identify areas of archaeological activity and the concentrations of pottery manufacture or disposal.

The two pumping station sites have some potential for archaeological features. Geophysical survey might be a cost-effective means of assessing this potential, with targeted evaluation trenching to examine any identified features. A watching brief during topsoil stripping would be appropriate in these locations.

Conclusion

The course of the re sewerage scheme around Old Bolingbroke village will replicate the disturbance to archaeological remains caused by underground laying of electricity cables in 1996. Much of that work was monitored by Lindsey Archaeological Services, resulting in the recording of seven certain or probable pottery kiln sites that had not previously been known. The spread of pottery 'wasters', fragments of kiln failures, was much more extensive, and indicates the use of pottery as hardcore and landfill.

Despite the vast quantities already retrieved, research into the products of the Old Bolingbroke pottery industry needs further well-provenanced collections of pottery. Further detail will help separate the wares of the two very similar pot manufacturing traditions of Old Bolingbroke and Toynton All Saints, enabling a refinement of the trading distributions so far established.

The scheme will cause limited damage to numerous buried archaeological deposits and features, and a recording programme will recover information and material to reduce the impact of that damage.

Acknowledgements

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

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
23rd May 2003

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Archive Summary

photographs
correspondence

Summary of Archaeological Sites and Findspots, Old Bolingbroke

(Source: Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record)

PRN	NGR	Description
40760	3467 6370	windmill mound, previously recorded as prehistoric barrow
40899	3560 6410	Middle Bronze Age cinerary urn, found 1915
41766	3505 6483	post-medieval kiln site; adjoining pig sty said to be made from remains of the last pottery kiln building
41767	3522 6483	medieval pottery kiln in garden, 1966; many wasters found during watching brief, 1996
41768	356 648	post-medieval pottery kilns; part of one kiln and two waster pits excavated 1964-7. 15th-16thC wares. Further wasters and the former course of a stream found, 1996, with the remains of a possible outbuilding
42094	34 66	Neolithic? polished stone axe, found in Sow Dales, 1936
42095	3487 6522	post-medieval pottery scatter along sides of lane, including large numbers of wasters. ?kiln. Slight traces of earthworks nearby, which may be associated with the kiln.
42096	3499 6516	17thC pottery waster dump, with clay tobacco pipes, found in pipe trench.
42097	3485 6515	post-medieval pottery, wasters, and features containing ash, seen during trenching in 1996
42098	3484 6504	post-medieval pottery from roadside verge
42099	3480 6501	post-medieval pottery scatter, and remains of kiln in garden; sherd stamped by Robert Stanney.
42100	348 654	medieval earthwork with 12th century occupation; excavated 1965, since ploughed
42101	3494 6513	medieval church: St. Peter and St. Paul's
42104	3393 6420	remains of tower windmill
42105	3504 6645	Neolithic and Bronze Age arrowhead and flint scrapers
42106	3520 6610	Scatter of Romano-British pottery
42107	unlocated	Roman coin, found pre 1954
42108	3510 6525	undated hall
43135	35132 64925	post-medieval pottery, found 1995
43136	3522 6493	16th-18thC pottery, including single waster sherd, found 1995.
43446	3551 6480	Roman pot sherd found in trench, 1996
43447	3551 6480	medieval pottery sherds, 1996
43448	3553 6472	Possible post-medieval kiln site, with waster tile and fired soil at trench base
43449	3552 6447	nineteenth century house and remains of garden wall
43450	3535 6485	Possible post-medieval kiln site, with much pottery. Some features may contain cess
43451	3525 6490	Post-medieval pottery kiln with much pottery, including wasters, found in trench, 1996
43452	3505 6518	Post-medieval waster sherds
43453	3492 6511	Post-medieval pottery and waster sherds
43454	3482 6496	Post-medieval pottery and waster sherds
43534	3476 6496	Scatter of post-medieval pottery and evidence of structures
43535	3476 6496	Scatter of medieval pottery
43574	3490 6500	medieval castle SAM 22623
43677	35132 64925	medieval pottery sherd, 1995
43905	3509 6484	medieval and post-medieval pottery, brick well and gully
44526	3488 6512	post-medieval roadside ditch identified, parallel to Moat Lane

THE FIGURES

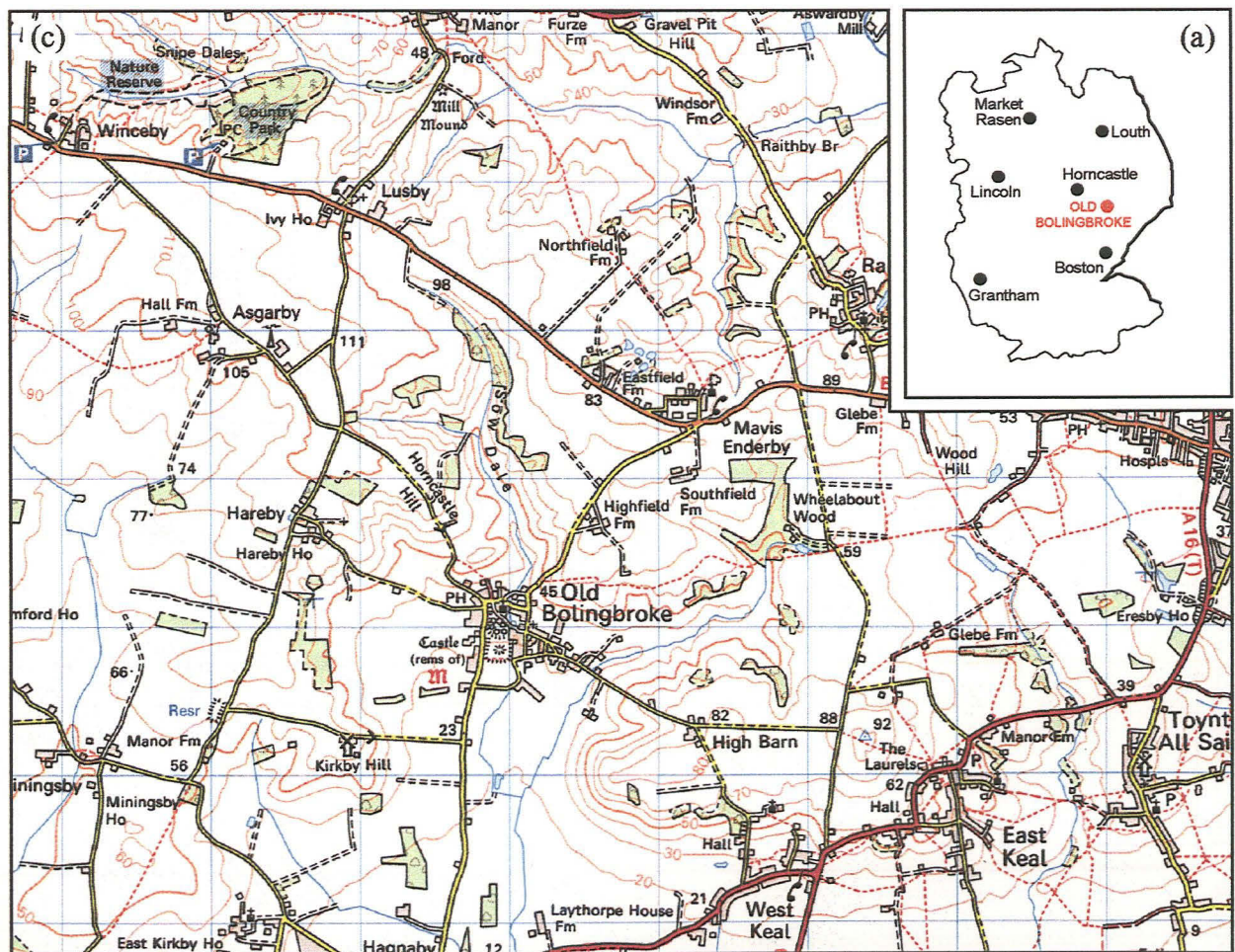


Fig. 1 Location of Old Bolingbroke (© Crown Copyright; c reproduced from the 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. NAL Licence No. BG 27304X3).

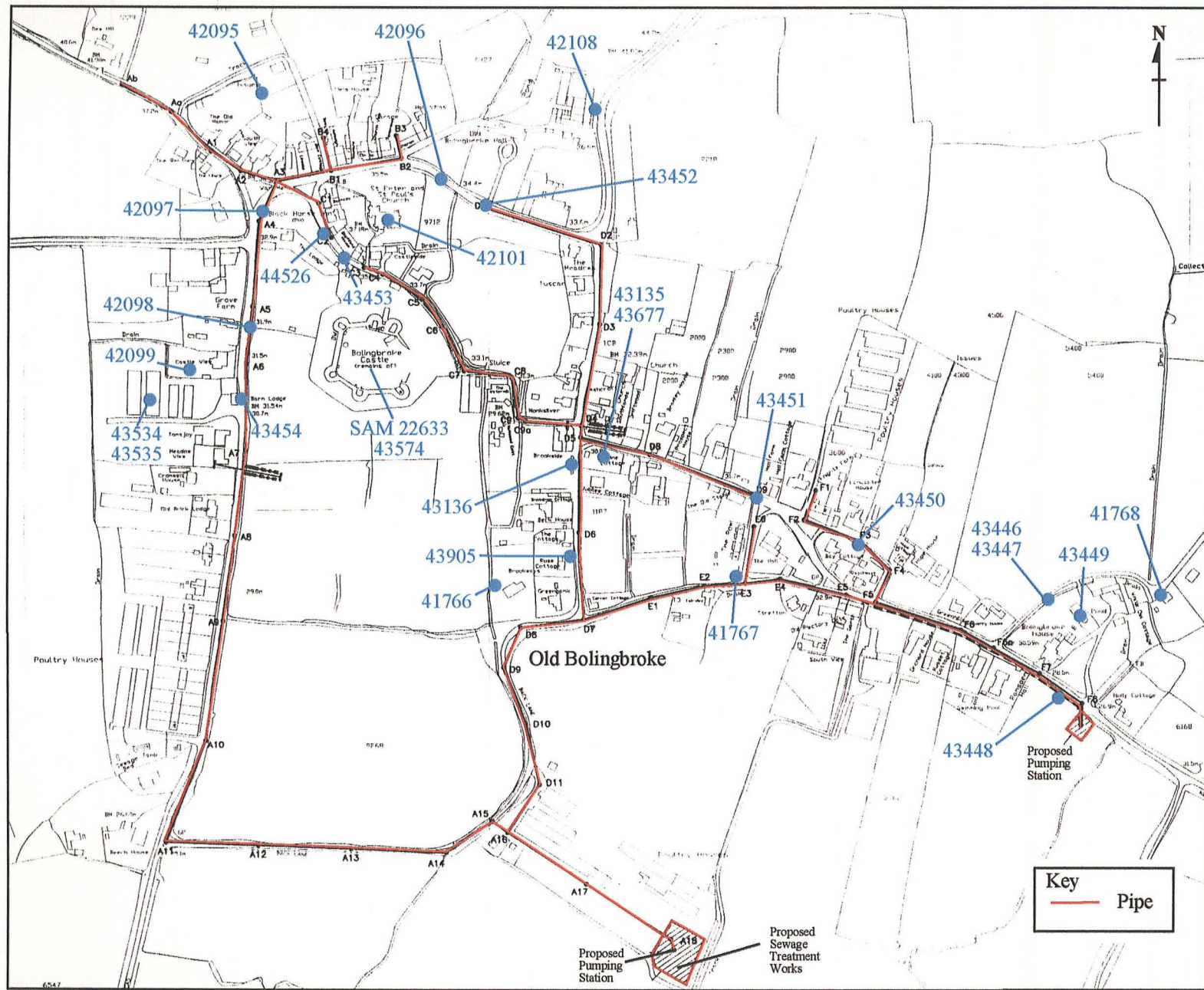


Fig. 2 Location of the proposed new sewer and pumping station sites, plotted in relation to previously reported archaeological finds (based on WS Atkins dwg. no. AK2998/WA/B/61G, reproduced at reduced scale, with superimposed information from Lincolnshire County Site and Monuments Record. SMR Nos. listed in Appendix 1).

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 West Keal Road, beside Hagnaby Beck (looking NW).



Pl. 2 Corner of the roadside field, south of Hagnaby Beck (looking SW).



Pl. 3 NE corner of the field north of Hagnaby Beck (looking SW).



Pl. 4 Location of the proposed Treatment Works, east of Back Lane (looking NW towards the poultry farm).