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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Spridlington, Lincolnshire
Anglian Water Sewerage Pipeline across land
in and to the south of Spridlington

Archaeological Watching Brief

LCNCC Accn N°.: 2004.202
Site Code: SPSW04
NGR: TF 0065 8454 (Centre)
0111 8451

Report

for

Anglian Water Services Ltd

by

Richard Pullen MA PIFA

LAS Report N°. 772

February 2005

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Conservation
Services

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Highways & Planning
Directorate

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**Spridlington, Lincolnshire
Archaeological Watching Brief**
LCNCC Accn N^o.: 2004.202
Site Code: SPSW04
NGR: TF 0065 8454 (Centre)

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during open trenching and directional drilling operations along the length of a c.500m sewerage pipeline crossing arable land and continuing through the village of Spridlington.

The work consisted mainly of low impact, subterranean directional drilling interspersed with open cut linkages, manholes and observation pits. Although these open pits and trenches were only a small percentage of the operations undertaken at Spridlington they were satisfactory to give an idea of the character of the areas archaeological potential and the quality of the surviving record within the roadways.

The watching brief concluded that due to the sympathetic structuring of the development, the entire operation had a negligible affect on the upstanding ridge and furrow remains and no archaeological finds or features were noted in the manholes excavated within the roadways of the village itself.

Introduction

In August 2004 Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Anglian Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief in accordance with the general requirements set out in the *Standard Brief for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire* (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, August 1998).

Site Location and Description

The village of Spridlington is situated approximately 25km north-west of Lincoln off the A15. The study area is located on the western edge of Spridlington. The village itself is centred at around 18.50m A.O.D.

The development consists of a new sewage pumping station and a c.500m long pipeline crossing roughly level arable farmland and continuing through the village of Spridlington with machine dug manholes and linkages along its length (Pl. 5). Upstanding earthworks forming a surviving medieval ridge and furrow farming system were noted in the pasture field crossed by the drilled pipeline.

Planning Background

An archaeological desk-based assessment (LAS April 2003) was requested by Anglian Water as part of their best practice policy. With the exception of the construction of a pumping station, the proposed scheme is not subject to the normal planning processes.

Archaeological Background

The area lies to the west of earthworks thought to be medieval and post medieval in date. An archaeological evaluation carried out in 1998 by Archaeological Project Services revealed refuse pits, a buried soil and stone structures dating to the 15th to the 18th century.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of the watching brief were to identify, characterise and record any archaeological remains that may have been disturbed by the groundworks phase of the development.

Method

The majority of the work undertaken at the site at Spridlington consisted of low intrusion below ground, directional drilling. Pits and trenches were excavated at intervals along the length of the pipeline in order to install manholes or to locate and link up with existing services/properties (Fig. 2). All open excavation was undertaken by tracked 360^o machines equipped with either a 0.60m wide toothed bucket or a 1.60m smooth bladed dyking bucket depending on the conditions and application. All machining was monitored by LAS Archaeological Project Officer Richard Pullen MA PIFA. Work began on the 6th September 2003⁴ and was completed four months later on the 10th December 2004. A full photographic record was maintained during the work.

Results

In order to create a contractors compound, an area of agricultural land c.50m by 60m was stripped of topsoil to the south-west of Faldingworth Road. The topsoil was 0.20m in depth and consisted of a dark grey/brown silty clay. No discernable subsoil layer was noted beneath the topsoil, probably as a result of long term deep ploughing. The natural geology occurred at a depth of 0.20m below the present ground surface and was a mid orange brown silty sand and grey clay mix. No archaeological finds or features were noted during these works. A second area of similar dimensions and depth was stripped c.130m to the south prior to the creation of a small self contained pumping station (Fig. 2). The first phase of the Spridlington sewage installation scheme entailed the drilling a 0.20m diameter polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) sewage pipeline from the site of the pumping station across known medieval ridge and furrow fields to the east (Pl. 1). The manhole pits along this section of the pipeline were machine excavated 3.00m by 3.00m in plan. The topsoil and subsoil was removed to a depth of c.0.20m from the present ground surface to reveal a mid red/brown clay silt natural. The natural geology continued undisturbed beyond the final formation depth. No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the 10 manhole pits (Pl. 3).

The drilling operations were undertaken using a horizontal drilling or moling machine that minimised general disruption and damage to the road surface. The PTFE main-pipe having been installed, the connection linkages to the main were open excavated using a tracked 360^o machine. The excavations and connections were completed by a maximum of two teams of three ground-workers and took the

linkages from the main-pipe to the boundary of each property along the line of the works, it was then the decision of the individual property holders as to whether they would be connected to the mains at a later date. An archaeological presence was maintained at Spridlington for all groundworks in the ridge and furrow fields and for the manhole excavations in Faldingworth Road adjacent to the church. *chapel* With the exception of the known ridge and furrow no archaeological finds or features were noted at any point during the works.

Conclusion

No archaeological features, pottery or structural remains were encountered. There is little or no evidence for any pre-19th century human activity within the roadway running through Spridlington. No archaeological activity other than the known ridge and furrow fields was noted along the section of pipeline that runs to the south-west of the village.

Acknowledgements

Lindsey Archaeological Services is grateful for the full and continued help and co-operation given by all of the contractors and individuals who assisted in the completion of the works, particularly Anglian Water Services Ltd, AMEC and John Martin Hoyes Ltd. The illustrations were prepared by the author.

Richard Pullen M.A. PIFA
Lindsey Archaeological Services
15th February 2005

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Colour Photographs from LAS film N^o. 04/122
Correspondence
Developer's site plan

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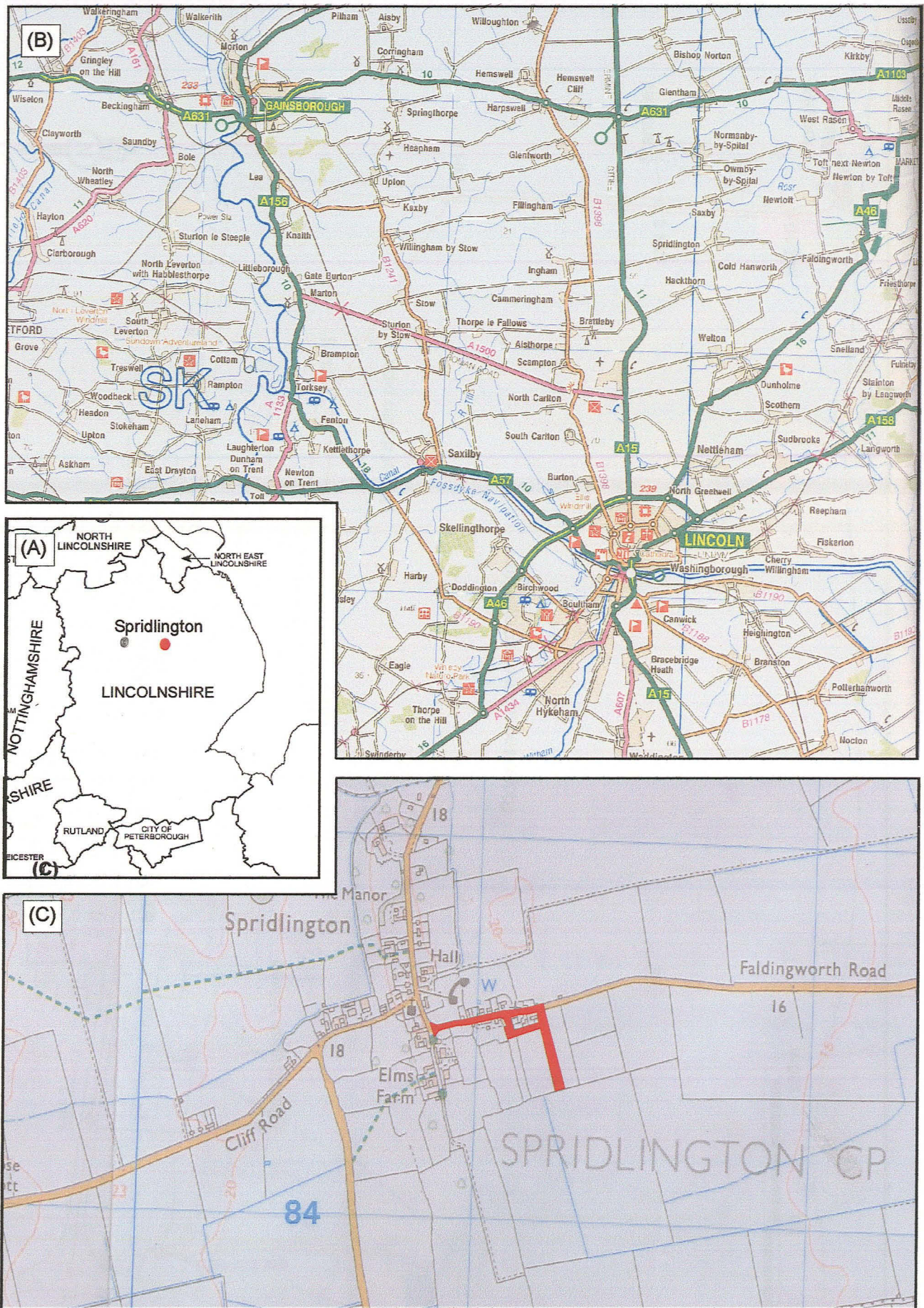


Fig. 1 Location of Spridlington (C based on the 2000 1:25 000 Ordnance Survey map, Explorer 272, Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

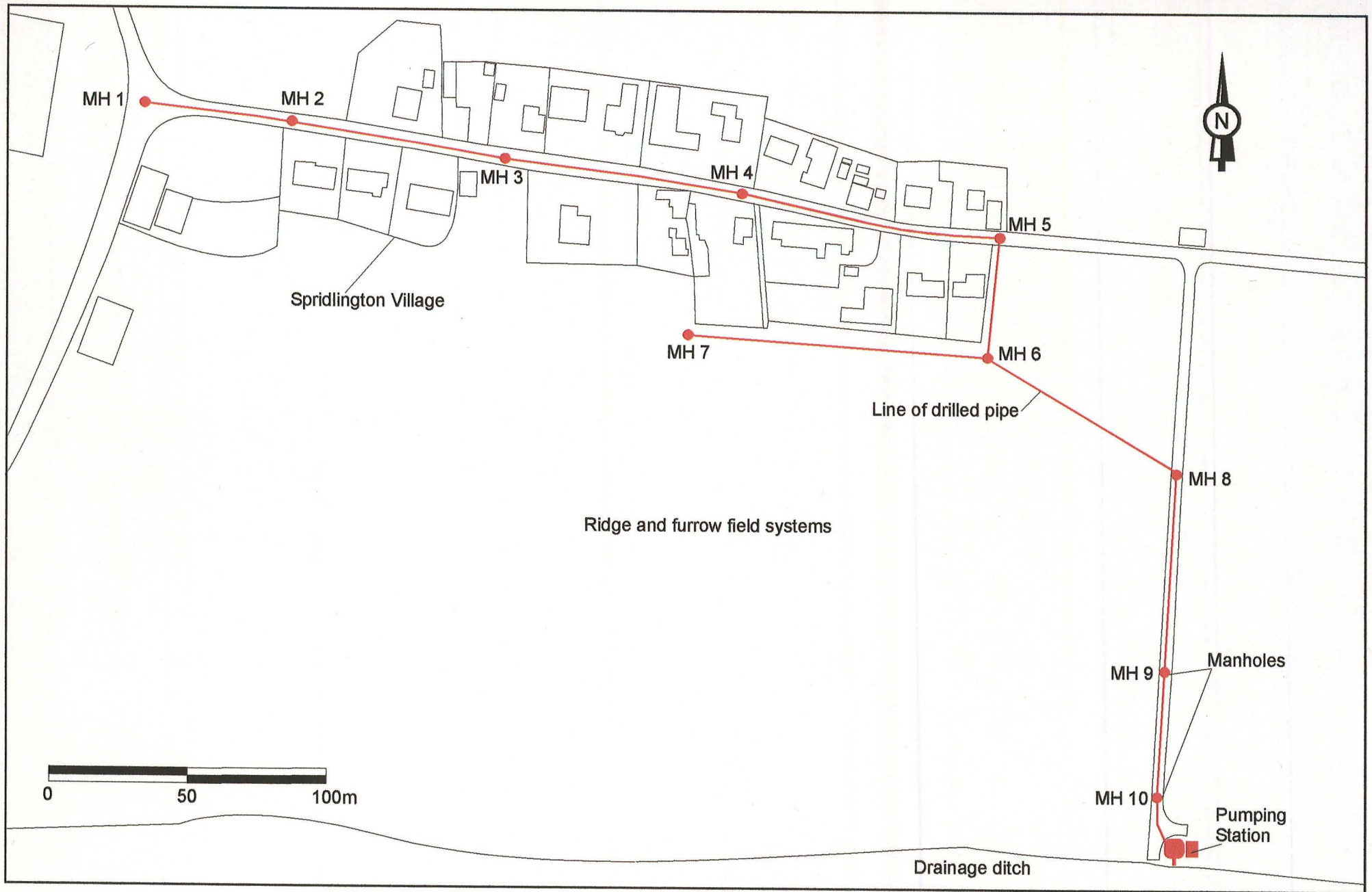


Fig. 2 Plan of Spridlington village showing the line of the present works (based on a plan supplied by the developer)

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Pl. 2 Stratigraphy of manhole 6 with sectioned ridge and furrow to the south



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