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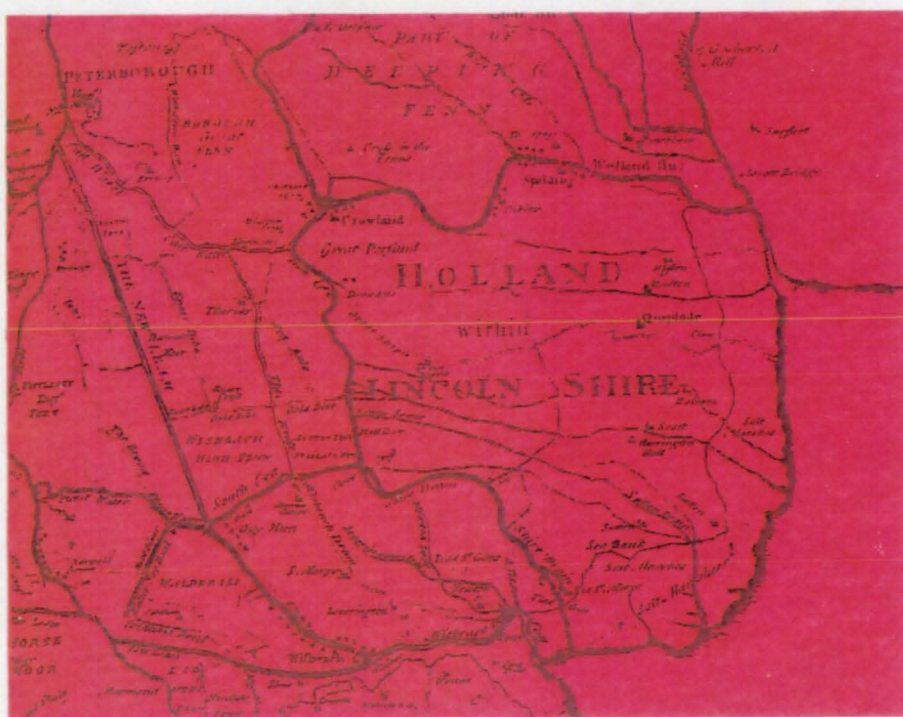
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HORSEGATE, DEEPING ST JAMES LINCOLNSHIRE



ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

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**Horsegate, Deeping St James
Lincolnshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

for

Anglian Water Services Ltd.

by

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Front Cover: William Hayward's 'A Plan and description of the Fenns' 1604,
(Darby, Fig 32)

Fig 1 Location Map.....at rear

Fig 2 Site Plan.....at rear

Plate 1 Boundary Wall at no. 33 Horsegate.....at rear

1. SUMMARY

An intermittent archaeological watching brief was maintained during a water main replacement in Horsegate, Deeping St James. A total of 27 visits took place between 10 October and 6 December 1994 and on each occasion no important archaeological remains were recorded. Some of the trench had been excavated through reinforced concrete and, as such, was particularly difficult to deal with in archaeological terms. Monitoring of the archaeology was also often hampered by heavy rain culminating in the flooding of the trench. On occasions, and for a variety of reasons, some journeys to the pipe trench were unproductive because the trench was not available for inspection.

Nevertheless, and in spite of the difficulties, the strata beneath the road and its foundation were noted. Although this pipe laying scheme was, in essence, a continuation of the one in Littleworth Drove, Deeping St Nicholas, there were considerable differences between the two. In the main, the peats of Littleworth Drove gave way to the much heavier clays of Horsegate. There were, inevitably, variations to this generalisation. Sometimes peats were encountered in Horsegate, not often and always deeper than those in Littleworth Drove but, nevertheless, they were there. In one or two places yellow sand mixed with gravel was noted but, unlike Littleworth Drove, this occurred at the base of the trench. These variations were not seen to be significant but to represent the usual local variations in any sequence of soils and subsoils.

2. INTRODUCTION

Pre-Construct Archaeology was invited by Anglian Water Services Limited to conduct a watching brief on the new pipeline which was to be installed in Horsegate, Deeping St James. As is mentioned above, the construction of the water main lasted from about the beginning of October 1994 until its completion on 6 December. The entire length of the pipe trench was monitored as far as possible and within the constraints of the problems noted in 1. Summary above.

3. LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

(see figs 1 & 2)

TF 1455 0980 - TF 1564 1023

Anglian Water's replacement of the water main in Horsegate, Deeping St James was intended to connect the existing main on Broadgate Lane with the one at the junction of Bridge Street. The trench kept to the north side of the road until a position opposite 35 Horsegate was encountered when it moved to the south side of the road. The trench was maintained at a depth of 1m, more or less, with the width being usually about 40cm throughout.

4. REASONS FOR THE WATCHING BRIEF

4.1. The Planning Background

4.1.1. South Kesteven District Council's local plan contains statements relevant to the watching brief for the water main replacement in Horsegate, Deeping St James (South Kesteven District Local Plan, 1992, 79 & 80).

4.1.1i. There are various Acts and guidelines which are helpful to developers and, in particular, appropriate to Anglian Water's replacement water main in Horsegate, Deeping St James. Chief among these documents are: *The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1970*; *The National Heritage Act 1983*; *The General Development Order 1988*; and *Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG 16) on Archaeology and Planning 1990*. The latter, especially, is most useful in its application to the planning background.

5. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY OF THE IMMEDIATE AREA

(by D. R. Robson)

Deeping St James is at the south-east corner of an extensive tract of Fen Gravel (the 1st Terrace Gravels). These deposits are of Devensian age and consist of pebbly sand and gravel containing limestone stones and flints. North of the village the soils have loamy or sandy upper layers over calcareous gravelly sand. The lower-lying soils before drainage were liable to seasonal waterlogging due to fluctuating groundwater.

An extensive area of clayey river alluvium over loamy and sandy Terrace Gravels occurs west, east and south of the village and here clayey Fladbury and clayey over coarse loamy Stixwold soils occur. A distinct change occurs to the east at approximately 4 m (12 ft) contour. This coincides with the presence of grey estuarine deposits which formerly had a peat cover. Possibly, the upstanding peat determined the extent and shape of the river alluvial deposits. The estuarine alluvium of the Borroway Drove Beds (Fen Clay) was deposited after the formation of woody and reed peat (Lower Peat) over the low areas of Terrace Gravels or thin loamy material derived from them. This peat probably dates from about 3600 BP. The Barroway Drove Beds have an intricate dendritic pattern of silty creek deposits. When the sea level fell, an upper or Nordelph Peat extended eastwards. The oldest date for this is 3000-2000 BP in Bourne Fen to the north. The Barroway Drove Beds thinned towards the west and in places the Nordelph Peat directly overlies the Lower Peat. Wastage of peat through drainage, cultivation and wind erosion means that deep peat soils of the Adventurers' series are uncommon and confined to low places near the fen margin. The main soils are humose clayey Downholland series and similar but very acid Tydd series, the latter developing through oxidation of sulphides after drainage and containing the straw-coloured mineral jarosite. The creek ridges have calcareous humose silty Chatteris soils.

The later marine Terrington Beds do not appear to have penetrated to the fen margins probably because the upstanding peat formed a barrier at the time. Low-lying washlands bordering the river Welland have clayey over peaty Midelney soils and the youngest alluvium has calcareous clayey over peaty Windrush soils often containing freshwater shells.

6. BACKGROUND

Sites of Known Archaeological Significance.

Deeping St James is one of the complex of once separate settlements in this southern part of Lincolnshire. The place-name common to all of them, Deeping, means 'deep fen' (Ekwall, 141) and is first recorded in Domesday, 1086/7 AD, as East or West Deeping (Foster & Longley, 128, 173, 174 & 225). The suffix 'St James' is first found in an Episcopal Register for the years 1209-35.

Although the written record for Deeping St James is rather later than would have been expected, the archaeological record begins in the remote past. There are several instances of the finding of neolithic artefacts - arrowheads, scrapers and the like - which lead into the bronze age where a cinerary urn is noted, together with the possibility of an unrelated barrow. Perhaps some of the flint tools and weapons also belong to this period. The Iron Age is represented by a gold coin and probably a dugout boat found in c1830.

Nevertheless, it is the Roman period which has produced the spectacular finds in Deeping St James. A Roman priestly crown, with fragments of other crowns, have been discovered by chance. These are indeed rare objects for Roman Britain and have led to speculation about the proximity of a Roman temple hereabouts. The speculation has been fuelled by other finds perhaps associated with the crowns: 2 coin hoards and other coins, pottery, 2 swords, 2 daggers and an iron frame of a *vexillum*, maybe suggesting a military presence, and so on. Roman buildings are known, too, from the parish, one containing the remains of a corn drying kiln.

In the middle ages a Benedictine priory was built (Pevsner & Harris give a date of 1139 for its foundation - p 247) and a church of more or less the same date. The church, however, has seen many alterations since, the most recent major change being the rebuilding of the tower in 1717. The priory, which was dissolved in 1539, has been subsequently excavated (in 1968, but unpublished) and it was to this priory which the present church owed its

genesis for it was originally the priory church. Other finds of a medieval nature from Deeping St James include an ornamental tile louvre, Lyveden pottery and a hoard of Elizabethan silver coins. There was also a substantial tythe barn associated with the parish. Notwithstanding any of these discussions, it might be as well to note what H.E. Hallam says of the foundation of Deeping St James (Hallam, 1965, 117): 'I am inclined...to see...a real creation of Deeping St James some years before 1130....' The modern Deeping St James perhaps should place its origins in the immediate post Conquest period rather than to any previous age.

Taking all else into account, Deeping St James gives the impression of having been a place of some importance throughout the past 3 millenia, but having experienced a variety of cultural influences throughout this long time.

7. OBJECTIVES OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

In general terms, all archaeological remains should be seen as finite, and a non-renewable source (PPG 16; see also The Planning Background 4.1. above). Ideally, it is necessary for archaeologists to be able to discuss projects with potential developers before any earthmoving work commences. The policy which Anglian Water Services Limited has adopted with regard to conservation is laudable, and particularly so when much of the work is outside the control of Planning Acts. With this well founded policy it is possible to formulate a practical programme of archaeological investigation before the start of any groundwork.

8. REQUIREMENTS FOR WORK

8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology, as the chosen archaeological contractors for the work, undertook to comply with the requirements of PPG 16, and to observe the standards suggested by the Institute of Field Archaeologists with regard to watching briefs. The work included the examination of the subsoil for archaeological features together with their recording, and the observation of natural deposits, again recording details wherever necessary. Nevertheless, as mentioned in 1 above, time did not always allow for this criterion to be resolved to the ultimate.

8.2 After completion of the fieldwork, Pre-Construct Archaeology arranged with the City and County Museum, Lincoln for the long term storage of all artifacts, and the deposition of the site archive, as well as a copy of the report commissioned by Anglian Water Services Limited.

8.3 The site code used by Pre-Construct Archaeology is DJH 94 and the Archive Number for reference at the City and County Museum Lincoln is 125.94.

9. RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

Unlike the fairly regular strata observed in the excavations of the pipe trench in Littleworth Drove, Deeping St Nicholas (see Report for Anglian Water DNLD/94, Archive Number 124.94), those in Horsegate, Deeping St James varied throughout the entire length of the pipe trench. If there is a norm to report it would conclude that there were far more clays in Horsegate than in Littleworth Drove, although the two roads are, in reality, the same road, the A16 Spalding to Stamford main road. As has been noted in 6. Background - Sites of Known Archaeological Significance, Deeping St James is an ancient settlement, much more so than its close neighbour, Deeping St Nicholas. The reasons for this dissimilarity is as much to do with soils, topography and changing weather patterns as with anything else. Without going into the minutiae to support this statement, the evidence for the differences in the settlement patterns can be judged from a comparative study of the two basic soil records accomplished during the excavation of the two pipe trenches, one in Deeping St Nicholas and the other in Deeping St James. This being said, it is unfortunate to relate that very little of an archaeological nature was encountered in Horsegate, Deeping St James although much was expected. The following report summarises the minimal finds:

In general, and as has already been mentioned, the subsoils often were comprised of clays. These clays varied in character from stiff blue/grey clay to brown/mottled clay; where it occurred, the latter was invariably beneath the former and both were below the modern road surface and its foundation (i.e. commencing 50-60cm under the road) and were also about 50-60cm thick before disappearing under the base of the trench.

Opposite no. 73 Horsegate. In this locality heavy blue clay overlaid yellow sand/gravel but this sequence was interrupted by a layer of limestone, each piece measuring approximately 15cm x 12cm x 5cm and the whole occurring immediately above dense peat. It should be noted, however, that the trench was very difficult to record because the concrete comprising the road

hereabouts had been reinforced with heavy wire mesh. After excavating the trench, the wire mesh was left with jagged edges making any attempt to enter the trench extremely hazardous. Photography was impossible.

Opposite no. 51 Horsegate. Only a short length of trench was available for inspection but, nonetheless, limestone was again noted at the base of the trench and above worn limestone.

Opposite no. 47 Horsegate. The ground here (below the road) was disturbed and comprised mainly black clay/small stones and odd pieces of limestone.

Opposite no. 39 Horsegate. A change in stratification took place at this point in the trench. Up to the east side of number 39, the sequence of strata was: tarmac/road foundations 40 cm, above fairly dense dark grey clay with gravel inclusions, above yellow/orange sand & gravel. This sequence gave way to: tarmac/road foundations, above yellow/orange sand & gravel, above fairly dense dark grey clay with gravel inclusions. In other words, an apparent inversion had taken place and for no obvious reason. To complicate this observation further, where the change occurred the trench collapsed within a short time of its being opened, as though a culvert or natural watercourse had once crossed here. Almost immediately after taking the measurements of the layers the trench was flooded thus precluding any more recording.

Opposite no. 33 Horsegate (and also in the immediate vicinity). The remains of a possible buried stone wall (or a stone filled pit) were encountered here at a point about 35cm below the modern road surface. The trench for this feature had been cut through black peat and was about 1m wide and 60cm high although the base of the stone was deeper than the trench. An old stone wall demarcated the boundary between numbers 33 and 35 Horsegate and was almost, but not quite (appearing to be about 1m out of alignment) opposite to the buried stone wall (see Plate 1). NB The conditions here and generally hampered realistic attempts to record accurately any archaeology. The closeness of heavy traffic (within 50cm of the trench) and its speed made recording particularly dangerous, a problem which was

exacerbated by the constant flooding of the trench.

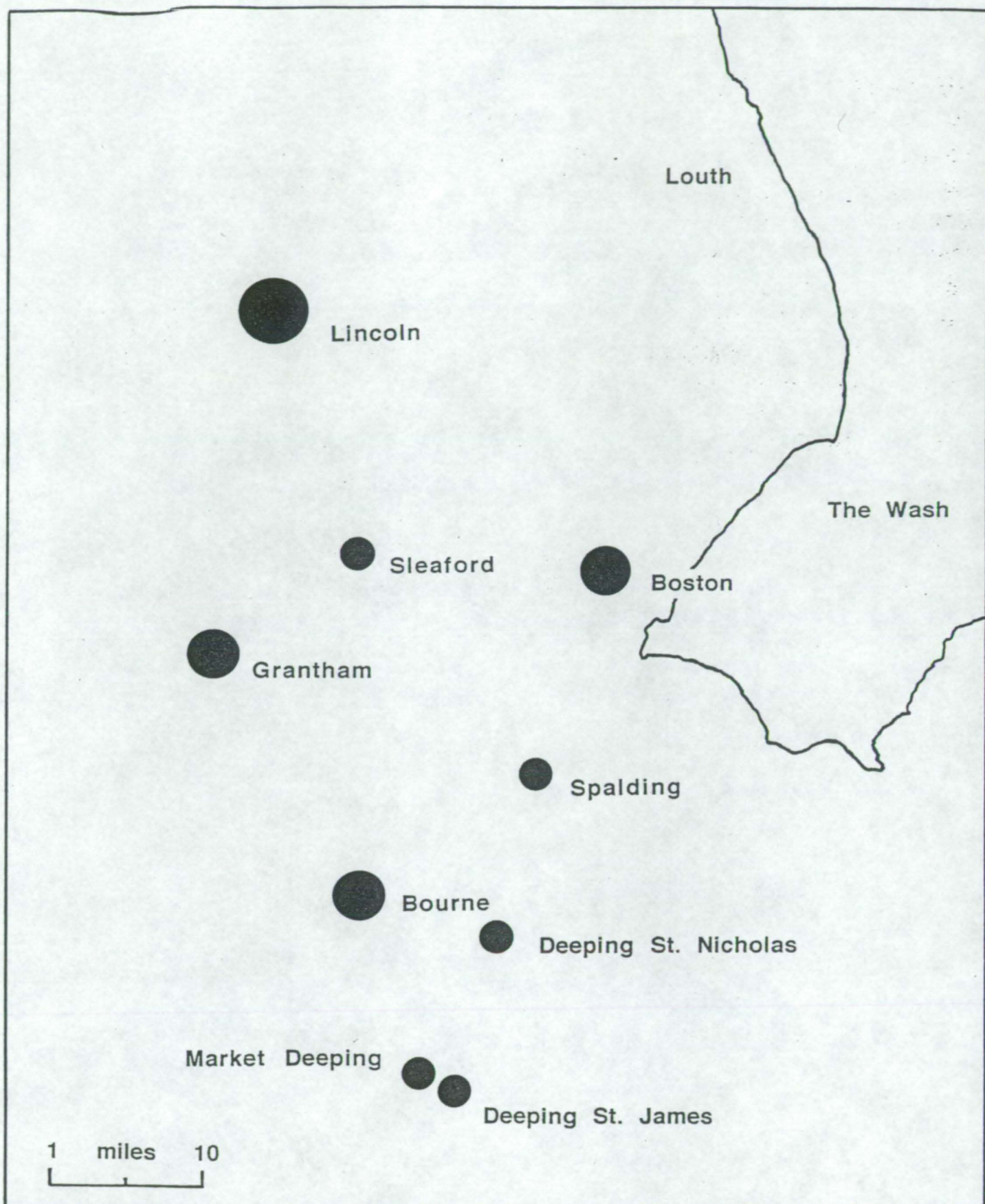
Junction with Bridge Street. From opposite number 7 to the end of Horsegate the foundation to the road's surface was made up with dressed limestone. The limestone appears to be of relatively recent deposition as it seals the trench for telephone cables (the junction for the cables is between numbers 5 & 6 Horsegate). Below the limestone is a heavy gravel/stony sand layer to a depth of c 1.1m.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Anglian Water Services Limited for the opportunity to conduct the watching brief and for taking an interest in the work as it progressed, especially the site engineer involved (Mr P. Holdich). Thanks are also due to the staff of the County and City Museum, Lincoln who gave assistance when required.

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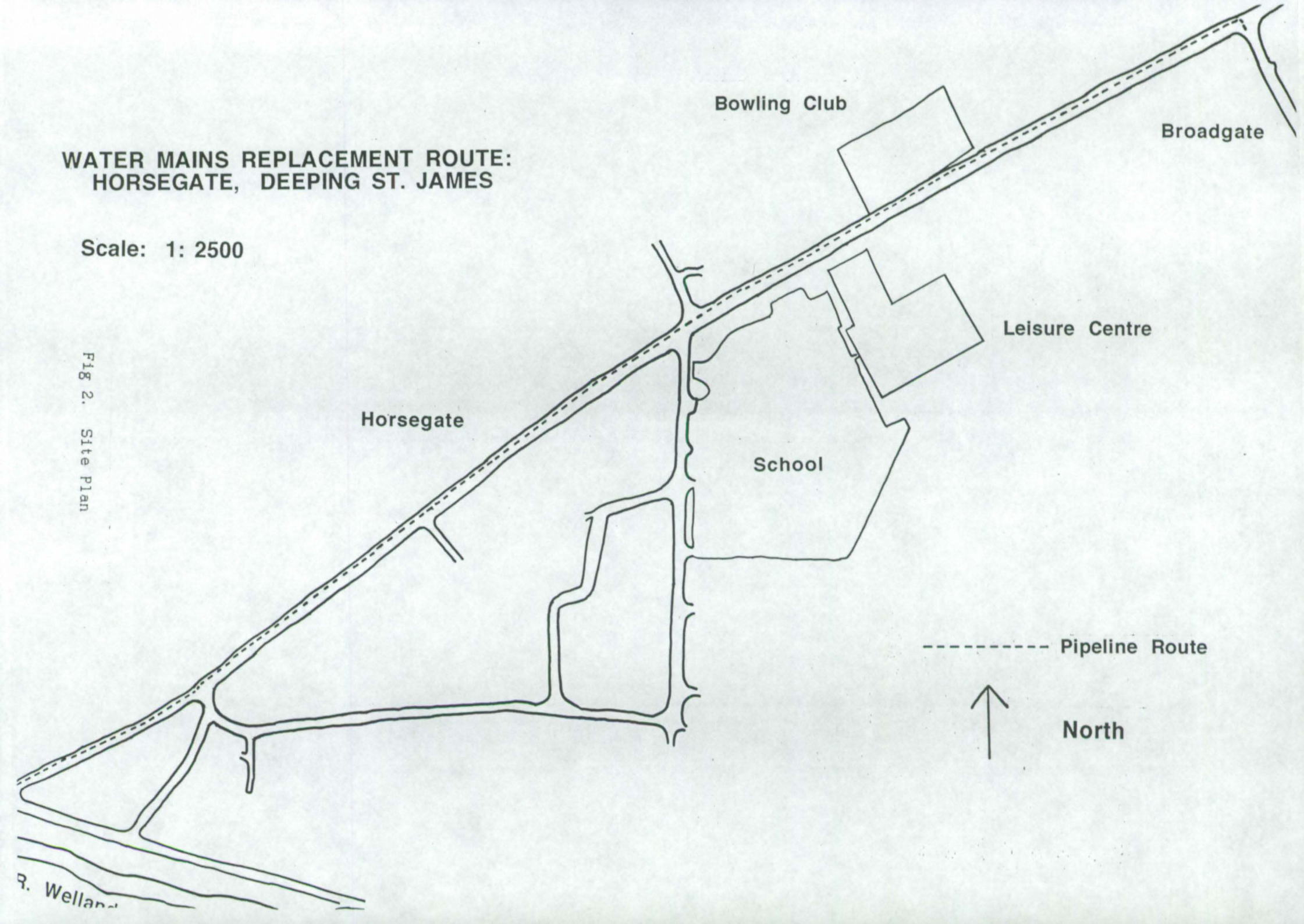


Site Location Map

**WATER MAINS REPLACEMENT ROUTE:
HORSEGATE, DEEPING ST. JAMES**

Scale: 1: 2500

Fig 2. Site Plan



Bowling Club

Broadgate

Horsegate

Leisure Centre

School

--- Pipeline Route

North

R. Welland



PLate 1. Boundary Wall at no. 33 Horsegate