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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Flood Relief Pipeline, Waddington, Lincs.
North Hykeham DG5 Flooding Scheme**

NGR: NGR: SK 9600 6601
Site Code: FSBR 04
LCNCC Museum Accn. No.: 2004.207

Archaeological Watching Brief

**Report prepared for Atkins Water
(on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd)**

by
G. Tann

**LAS Report No. 800
May 2005**

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negative

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25 MAY 2005

Highways & Planning
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Flood Relief Pipeline, Waddington, Lincs. North Hykeham DG5 Flooding Scheme Archaeological Watching Brief

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief identified no archaeological remains in a pipe trench for a flood relief scheme.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in August 2004 by Atkins Water (on behalf of Anglian Water Services Ltd) to conduct an archaeological watching brief during machine excavation of a pipe trench between the North Hykeham Treatment Works and Brant Road, Waddington (Figs. 1 and 2).

The purpose of the watching brief was to identify any archaeological remains disturbed by the operations, and to preserve those sites by record where possible. Monitoring was undertaken by G. Tann, on eight occasions between October 28th and November 22nd 2004.

Site Location and Description

The sewage treatment works at North Hykeham is located in the Witham valley c.2km south of Lincoln, on the west side of Brant Road, Waddington, and opposite the junction with Valley Road. A programme of new works at the treatment works included re-routing of a sewer pipe below farmland alongside the access track and across the Social Club car park (Pl. 1). The new pipe was placed in a 0.65m wide open cut trench, within a 10m wide easement stripped of topsoil.

The Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Section required an archaeological watching brief during excavation of the new pipe trench, to allow for the identification and recording of any archaeological remains.

Archaeological Background

Archaeological investigations have established that the Witham valley is an exceptionally rich area for archaeological remains, ranging in date from the Neolithic to medieval periods.

The area within the compound of the existing sewage treatment works is assumed to have been disturbed by past programmes of construction, and no archaeological monitoring took place.

The Watching Brief

Machine movements disturbed much of the surface of the stripped easement immediately after about 0.35m of topsoil 1 had been removed. To reduce disturbance, only short sections were stripped in advance of trench excavation. Where it was possible to see the stripped surface, no archaeological features were visible. A scatter of fragmentary fired clay recorded at Observation 2 was not associated with any dating evidence and could not be explained (Fig. 2).

The sequence of deposits in the trench face varied considerably between the treatment works compound and Brant Road. At Observation 1, about 100m south of the compound, the topsoil covered 0.35m of yellow sandy clay 2, above a 0.4m thick band of light grey clay 3 (Figs. 2 and 3a; Pl. 2). The colour of this layer indicated the decomposition of organic material, probably vegetation, in waterlogged conditions. Beneath it was 0.15m of yellow sandy clay 4, above a layer of brown sandy clay 5 with horizontally laid twigs and other organic traces. Layer 5, at least 0.35m thick, was interpreted as material deposited by a river or stream, and the deposits above it seemed to be the results of different episodes of alluvium. Further south, red clay 6 was exposed below 5 at the base of the trench in places, but did not form a continuous layer.

Immediately north of the Social Club, there was no trace of red clay, but dark grey firm lias clay 15 was visible at about 2.5m below the ground surface (at a depth of about 4.6m OD). Above the clay were several layers of sands and gravels, with a yellow clay 8 and an underlying grey clay 9 probably representing the flood alluvium seen in the trench to the north (Figs. 2 and 3b).

Conclusion

This scheme revealed no archaeological sites or artefacts. Various naturally laid deposits of sands and clays were seen in the trench face, associated with past courses and channels of the River Witham (which now flows 200m west of the monitored trench). A 0.53m thick clay deposit, about 0.8m below modern ground level, was interpreted as alluvium deposited by a sustained flood episode. The local dark grey lias clay was found about 1.2m below that material.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Mick White (Anglian Water Services) and the contractors for their help during the watching brief. Illustrations were prepared by Sophie Claxton; the report was collated and produced by Naomi Field.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
May 17th 2005

Archive Summary

Correspondence

Developer's plans

Digital photographs: LAS jpegs 1499-1508; 1618; 1732-5; 1827; 1934; 1971

THE FIGURES

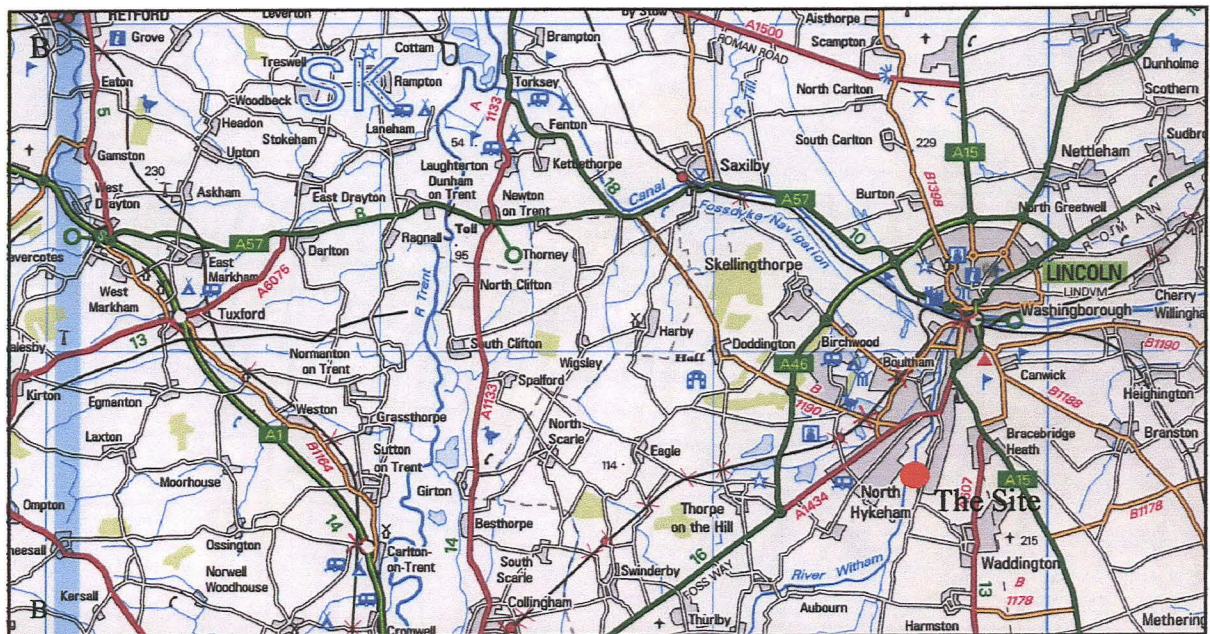


Fig. 1 Location of Waddington and North Hykeham (© based on the 2000 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey Explorer map, Sheet 272. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

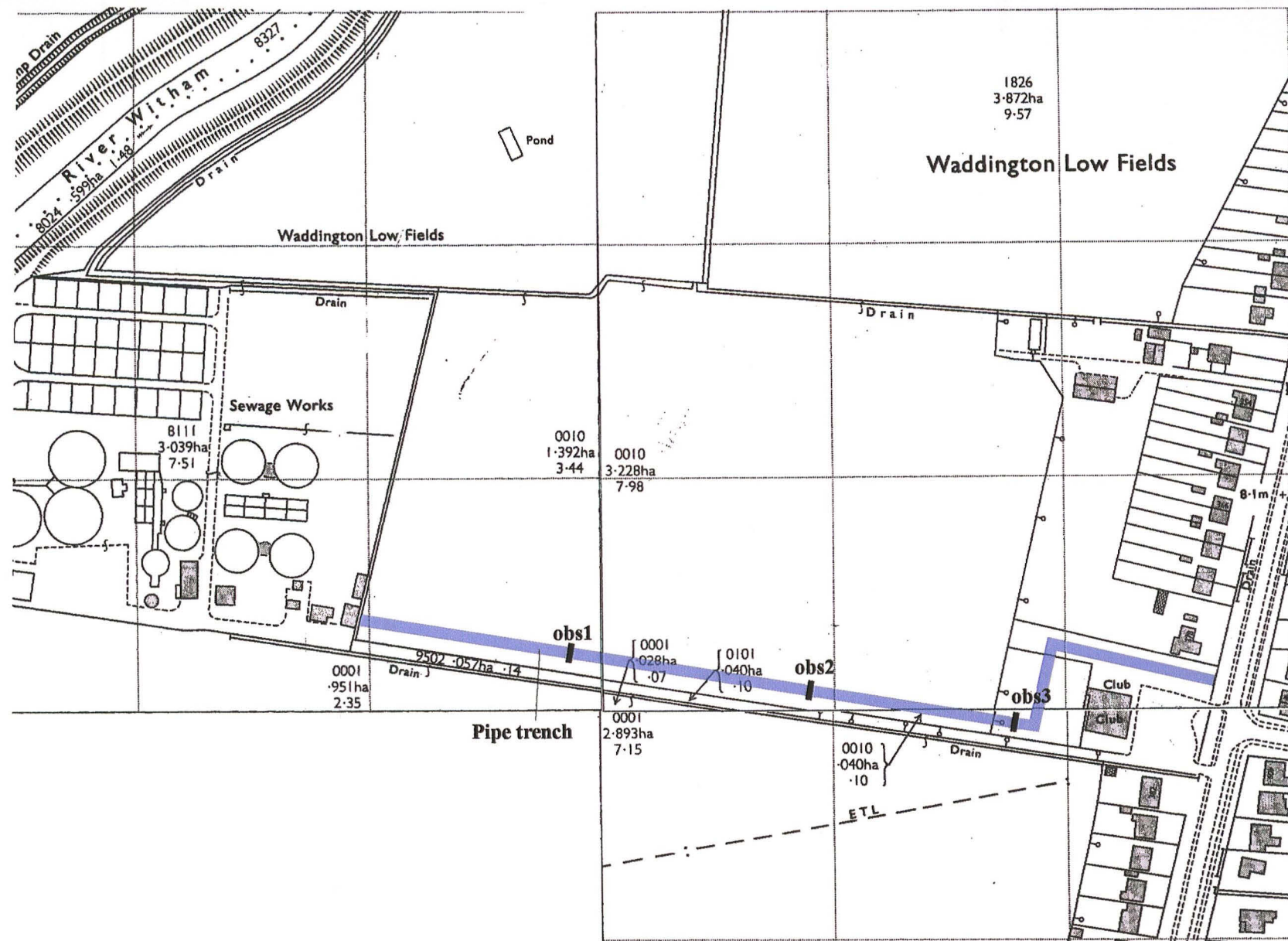
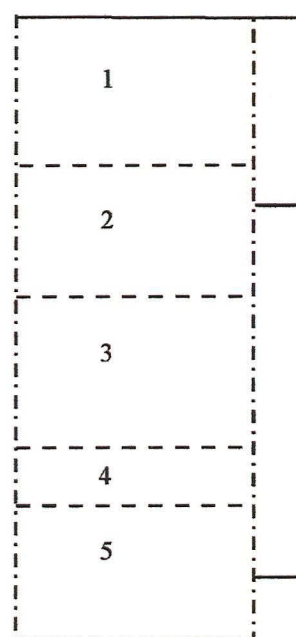


Fig. 2 The pipeline route (based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map, Sheets SK 9466-9566, 9666-9676, and 9646-9666. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).

a) Observation 1



7m

6.50m OD

6m

5m

b) Observation 3

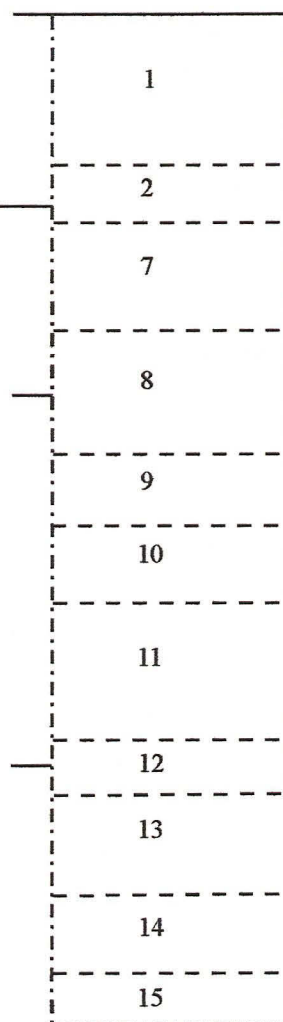


Fig. 3 a) Deposits observed 100m south of the Treatment Works; b) deposits observed near Brant Road.

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Pl. 1 The pipeline route (looking east towards Brant road).



Pl. 2 Deposits visible in the trench face beside the access road.



Pl. 3 Deposits visible in the trench face north of the Social Club building.