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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Little Cawthorpe, Louth, Lincolnshire
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Replacement water main
LCNCC Accn N^o.: 2005.157
Site Code: LCW 05
NGR: TF 3580 8388 (Centre)

Report

for

Anglian Water Services Ltd

by

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LAS Report N^o. 868

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Fig.1 Little Cawthorpe location plan (inset C based on the 1:50, 000 Explorer Ordnance Survey map). Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence N°. AL 100002165.

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during open trenching operations along a c.750m long length of replacement water main leading through Little Cawthorpe, Lincolnshire. The work consisted of 0.30m wide machine cut open trenching. Although the trenching was comparatively narrow the excavations were of adequate dimensions to give an idea of the geological stratigraphy and archaeological potential within the roadways.

The results of the watching brief suggest that archaeological disturbance in the observed area of the village has been very slight. No finds or features of an archaeological nature were noted. Although apparently negative, these findings do suggest that the topography of the village has changed little, with the surviving street plan probably echoing that of the medieval period. Archaeological material could still remain undisturbed elsewhere in Little Cawthorpe away from the established roadways.

Introduction

In July 2005, Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Anglian Water Services Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Little Cawthorpe, Lincolnshire 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 parish of Little Cawthorpe lies c.6km south-east of Louth in the Lincolnshire Wolds centred at c.30.00m O.D. (Fig. 1). The works consisted of a c.750m long pipeline running through the village within the tarmaced roadways (Fig. 2).

Planning Background

The proposed scheme is not subject to the normal planning processes, but an archaeological presence was requested by the Lincolnshire County Council Principal Archaeologist Dr. Beryl Lott.

Archaeological Background

Little Cawthorpe is the smallest parish in Lincolnshire. It is not mentioned in the *Domesday Survey* of 1086, the earliest surviving documentary reference being in 1150 when mention is made of a 12th century Cistercian priory. Earthworks relating to the monastic site appear in pasture to the east of Planting Side directly adjacent to the start of the trenching (Fig. 2).

The route of the pipeline enters the village to the north and follows the western perimeter road. The works are some considerable distance from the parish church of St. Helens to the south-west. Therefore, there was potential for the presence of medieval remains in this area was thought to be diminished.

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 work undertaken at Little Cawthorpe consisted of open trenching along the entire length of the pipeline for the installation of a 0.10m diameter polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) water main pipeline running continuously along Planting Side, Pinfold Lane and Top Road. All excavation was undertaken by a wheeled 5CX JCB machine equipped with a 0.30m wide toothed bucket. The excavations were completed by a maximum of two teams of three ground-workers. A daily archaeological presence was maintained at Little Cawthorpe throughout the entire process of installing the new water main. The entire machining operation was monitored by LAS Project Officers Mathew Jordan BA MA, Richard Lee BA MA AIFA and Richard Pullen MA PIFA. Work began on the 27th June 2005 and was completed three months later on the 22nd September 2005. A full photographic record was maintained during the work.

Results

The stratigraphy noted in the opened trenches at Little Cawthorpe was c.0.10m of Tarmac road surface **100** overlying a c.0.20m thick layer of crushed stone road build-up **101**. Layer **101** directly sealed a layer of mid red/brown clay silt **102** that continued to a depth in excess of the developers final formation level of c.1.00m below the present ground surface. This stratigraphy continued throughout the excavations with the only deviation being modern services. No finds or features of an archaeological nature were noted during the works undertaken around the village.

Conclusion

No finds were recovered during the groundworks and no features or structural remains were encountered. Artefact collection by machine in confined excavations dictated that had any material been present, it could only have been recovered from the machine bucket. It was not possible to get into the trenches. A more controlled, archaeologically targeted strategy may still result in the positive identification of archaeological features occurring within the village, probably away from the established roadways.

The findings suggest that the topography of the village has probably changed little, the surviving street plan perhaps echoing that of the medieval period.

Acknowledgements

Lindsey Archaeological Services is grateful for the full and continued co-operation given by all of the contractors and individuals who assisted in the completion of the works at Little Cawthorpe, particularly Anglian Water Services Ltd and the ground workers from Clancy Docwra plc. The illustrations were prepared by the author. The report was edited by Naomi Field.

Richard Pullen M.A. PIFA
Lindsey Archaeological Services
18th October 2005

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Correspondence

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Colour Photographs from LAS film N° 05/67 and 05/91

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Fig.1 Location of Little Cawthorpe (Crown copyright: c reproduced from the 1:50,000 Explorer Ordnance Survey Landranger map 122 with the permission of the Controller of the HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165)

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Looking south along Planting Side prior to any works



Pl. 2 Trenching along Planting Side



Pl. 3 Trenching along Pinfold Lane



Pl. 4 Excavations along Planting Side



Pl. 5 Road build-up and clay subsoil on Pinfold Lane



Pl. 6 Work progressing along Pinfold Lane



Pl. 7 Looking north along Pinfold Lane during excavations



Pl. 8 Road build-up sealing red brown clay along Top Road