ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT SAXILBY TO STURTON BY STOW PIPELINE PROJECT

Site code = SSPP96 LCNCC Acc. No. 60.96 Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section 12 Friers Lane LINCOLN LN2 5AL TEL. 0522 575292 FAX: 0522 830724



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Report prepared for Anglian Water Services Ltd. by Simon Johnson of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

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Summary

- * An archaeological recording brief took place during water mains replacement along the B 1241 through the deserted medieval villages of North and South Ingleby, Lincolnshire. (Fig. 1)
- * No archaeological artifacts were recovered and only one deposit of archaeological significance (an undated trackway) was exposed as a result of the works.

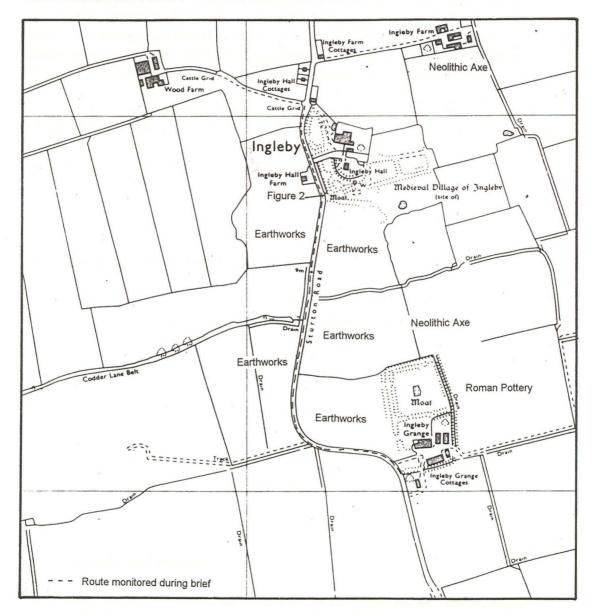


Fig. 1: Site location incorporating principal entries from the County Sites & Monuments Record (1:10,000)

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1.0 Introduction

Anglian Water Services Ltd have been undertaking widespread water main replacement schemes throughout the region; working under the terms vested in the Water Act of 1989. In consideration of the impacts to archaeological resources which can and do take place as a result of such developments, Anglian Water routinely fund archaeological works, as defined by their own conservation policy.

Entries within the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire (SMR) indicate that the route chosen for a new main between Saxilby and Sturton by Stow was to cut through two deserted medieval villages: North and South Ingleby. The clients agreed, therefore, to fund a programme or monitoring and recording to preserve by record any remains disturbed or exposed during groundworks.

A copy of this report will be deposited at the County SMR, and a short text will be submitted to the editor of the county archaeological journal, *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*; effectively placing the information in the public domain. Reports will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, accompanied with the project archive.

2.0 Location and description

The deserted medieval villages of North and South Ingleby lie both sides of the B1241 between Saxilby and Sturton by Stow, approximately 8 km. north-west of Lincoln. The sites are within a the clay vale between the River Trent and the limestone uplands, and rest over a geology comprising Liassic clays beneath glacial deposits (principally, boulder clay). The ground surface is at an altitude approximately 10 m. OD.

The two sites are separated by a stream cut through a shallow valley. Both sites are currently under pasture: extant remains comprise a complex of earthworks which include holloways, fish ponds, building platforms, moats and a possible church. Part of North Ingleby receives statutory protection under the Ancient Monuments And Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 (SAM 163).

3.0 Purpose and methods

The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) contains entries which indicate the potential for the recovery of important archaeological remains on aspects of the chosen replacement route. The level of recording considered to be appropriate on this occasion was an archaeological watching brief. This may be broadly defined as follows:

`An archaeological watching brief is defined as a programme of observation and investigation conducted during the destruction of archaeological deposits, resulting

in the preparation of a report and ordered archive' (Institute of Field Archaeologists draft on Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs, 1993.)

Monitoring consisted of observation during topsoil and subsoil stripping, followed by the inspection and cleaning of exposed soil surfaces. The site contractors were able to excavate long sections of the route at any one time (up to 100m), and a time-lag between excavation and pipeline construction allowed adequate archaeological coverage on an intermittent basis.

Recording was undertaken using standard context record sheets (incorporating physical description, interpretation, and stratigraphic relationships). Features were drawn to scale (1:20) in section. Comprehensive photographic recording was undertaken and some prints are reproduced in this report. Artefacts (pottery, animal bone etc.) were not recovered on this occasion.

Observation points were plotted on 1:2500 development plans which were provided by the clients. These, and the rest of the paper record, will form the backbone of a long-term project archive.

4.0 Archaeological and Historic Background

The earliest recorded evidence of human activity in the site vicinity dates to the Neolithic, or 'New Stone Age' (*circa* 4000-2500 BC). The SMR contains details on the finding of two polished stone axes of this period; from Ingleby Grange and Ingleby Farm. The three-dimensional context of these finds is not understood, though it is well established that stone axes were widely used by Neolithic communities for clearing trees and other vegetation in advance of conversion to agriculture.

A small assemblage of Romano-British pottery has been recovered from Ingleby Hall farm but has not been quantified.

Most of the information available for the area not surprisingly relates to the two deserted villages. Both have been extensively surveyed by the Royal Commission and are fully discussed in Everson 1992: in summary, the two settlements are separated as North and South in documents of the C14-C15th, but are grouped as one in the Domesday Survey of 1086 under *Englebi*; being Old Scandinavian for 'Farmstead or village of the Englishmen'. (Mills 1993, 187).

North Ingleby (Scheduled Ancient Monument 163) comprises a moated enclosure and typical deserted village earthworks consisting of building platforms, holloways (tracks), fish ponds and extant ridge and furrow. The foundation of a stone building has been located and may be a church or chapel, as a stone Holy Water stoup (set in the wall of Ingleby Hall) was apparently retrieved from the site. There are no records detailing payment of poll tax and this suggests that the village was deserted in the C14th.

South Ingleby is dominated by a large moated enclosure and property plots with paddocks and a possible rabbit warren. Its extensive remains, which are less complex than those at North Ingleby, still suggests re-alignment and imposed planning in the later medieval period.

Tenure of one manor in North Ingleby has been identified from 1086 (when held by the Bishop of Bayeux) through to the early C14th. Perhaps the most important lords were Robert of Ingleby and his descendants who may have been responsible for the creation of the moated site and imposition of regular planning. During the C14-C15th. North and South Ingleby were held by the Daubney family who would seem responsible for the alterations which are still evident within the ground plan of both settlements. (Everson *et al* 1991, 159-162).

To the west of these settlements lies a further moated enclosure which was excavated in 1966. The principal buildings investigated comprised an aisled hall with solar, kitchen and garderobe tower. Originally viewed as an attempt to create a new manor, it is now thought to represent a possible grange of the Gilbertine House at Catley. (Whitwell, 1969, 129-143; *ob. sit.*)

ep.cit. ??

5.0 Results

The water main replacement was conducted by the 'open cut' method with trench dimensions of 0.5 m. wide x 1.2 m. deep located along the edge of the B1241 against the verge. The main contractors (MP Burke plc.) were extremely co-operative and allowed more than adequate time for the sections to be properly inspected.

Modern disturbance characterised the entire route monitored, and this disturbance was attributable to road construction and a communication duct within the verge. Previous road construction involved earth removal and grading to the natural underlying clays. The general stratigraphy may be summarised as follows:-

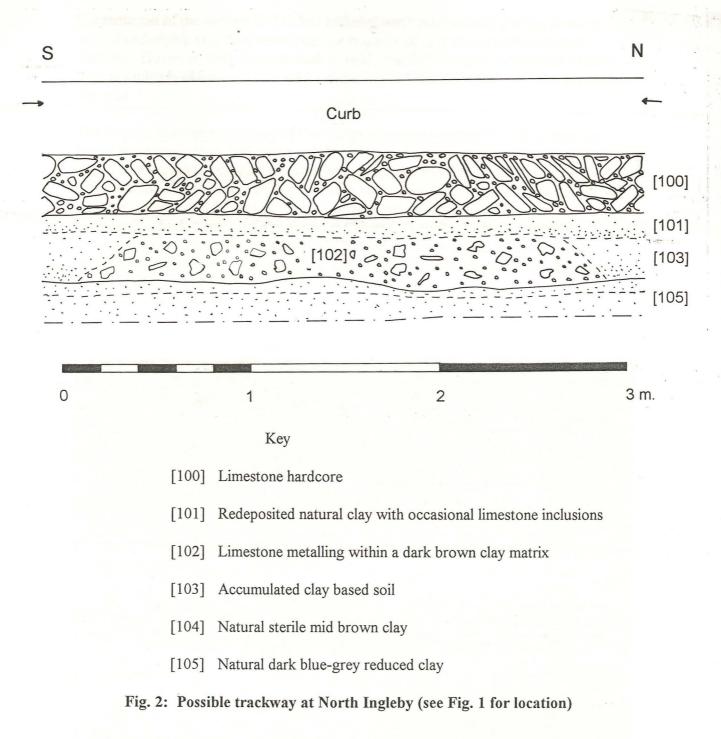
Tarmac road surface depth 14-38 cm.

Limestone block hardcore depth 36-40 cm.

Natural mid brown clay depth > 68 cm.

Resurfacing road deposits were intermittently exposed in the form of successive buried tarmac surfaces.

One possible archaeological feature was exposed in line with a Holloway at North Ingleby (Figs. 1 and 2). This feature had been truncated by road construction but survived as a discreet limestone metalling within a plastic clay matrix. The context was not associated with any datable material and any definitive interpretation is thus difficult. However, the feature may have been the remains of a track associated with the Holloway.



6.0 Discussion

The watching brief did not identify any significant archaeological deposits, excluding an undated metalled track. The negative result is a little surprising, given the proximity of extensive earthworks which show the replacement route to be within the heart of the medieval settlements of North and South Ingleby.

Construction of the current B1241 had included earth removal and grading down to natural underlying clay thus destroying the majority of any *in situ* archaeological deposits. However, deep features such as field boundaries or pits are unlikely to have been completely obliterated by road construction and therefore may not have existed in this area.

The Royal Commission's survey of the settlements shows earthworks respecting the line of the current road: holloways butt the route and do not apparently cross over as extant earthworks to the west are predominantly ridge and furrow. This leads to the interpretation that the route of the current B 1241 is centred on a pre-existing medieval track/road which would explain the lack of deep cut settlement features (its construction having removed the previous (?metalled) surface). Such a view is supported by Everson who cites cartographic and survey evidence from the C17th which show the present route already in existence as *Ingleby Lane* and *South Green Lane* (p161).



Colour Plate of metalled track [102]

6.1 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) express their sincere thanks to Anglian Water Services Ltd. for this commission; in particular, Ms K Gilliatt. Thanks also to Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy (County SMR) for access to the parish file.

7.0 Appendices:

7.1 Site archive

The site archive consists of:

Paper Element:

- x 1 Project Brief
- x 1 Project Specification
- x 3 General account sheet
- x 3 Context record sheets
- x 1 Site drawings
- x 1 Development plan
- x Colour print film

Object Element:

No artefacts were recovered

Primary records are currently with PCA (Lincoln). An ordered archive of both paper and object elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the City and County Museum, Lincoln, within six months.

7.2 References

Everson, PL et al 1991	1991	Change and Continuity: Rural Settlement in North-West
		Lincolnshire (HMSO)

Mills, AD 1993 English Place-Names (Oxford)

Whitwell, JB

1969 'Excavations on the site of a moated medieval manor-house in the parish of Saxilby, Lincolnshire' in *Journal*of the Archaeological Association third series XXXII
1969