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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Heydour to Aisby Water Mains Replacement

Site Code:	HAP 96
LCNCC Acc. No.	95.97

Lincolnshire County Council
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Report prepared for Anglian Water Services Limited by James Albone
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Summary

- * *An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during water mains replacement through the hamlets of Heydour and Aisby, Lincolnshire. (Fig. 1)*
- * *The majority of the main in the areas of interest was replaced by thrust-boring and monitoring was thus restricted to seven small access pits in Heydour and three in Aisby.*
- * *No significant archaeological artefacts were recovered; however, a deposit in one of the pits may be part of the collapsed outer earthworks of Heydour Castle.*



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 the archaeological resource which take place as a result of such developments, the clients routinely fund archaeological work, as defined in their own conservation policy.

Entries within the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire (SMR) indicate that the route of the new main through Heydour and Aisby would pass close to earthworks and cropmarks (showing former settlement remains). In addition the route would also pass the important earthwork site of Heydour Castle, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

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 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 an ordered project archive.

2.0 Location and description

The hamlets of Heydour and Aisby are located approximately 10 km. east-north-east of Grantham. Both lie within Heydour parish along with Oasby, which is now the principal settlement. The centres of the settlements lie between 70 m. and 80 m. OD. They lie on Middle Jurassic sands and clays of the Upper Estuarine and oolitic limestones. In places the solid geology is masked by glacial boulder clays. The central national grid reference for Heydour is TF 009 396; and for Aisby TF 012 388.

3.0 Purpose and methods

The County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) contains entries which indicate the potential for the disturbance of important archaeological remains within the chosen replacement route. The level of recording considered to be appropriate on this occasion was an archaeological watching brief. This has been 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' (IFA, 1994 Standard Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs)

A decision to employ a thrust-bore technique, rather than an open cut method, resulted in reduced excavation and therefore a smaller impact to the archaeology. Monitoring consisted of observation during topsoil and subsoil stripping in ten access pits, followed by the inspection and cleaning of exposed soil surfaces. The contractors

were co-operative and made suitable provisions within their own timescale for the archaeological element.

Recording was undertaken using standard context record sheets (incorporating physical descriptions, interpretations, and stratigraphic relationships). Sections were drawn to scale (1:20), and comprehensive photographic recording was undertaken (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 basis for a long-term project archive.

The watching brief was undertaken by Mr C Palmer-Brown and the writer.

4.0 Archaeological and Historic Background

The place-name Heydour, also spelled Haydour, has an Old English origin meaning 'the high door' and is a reference to the pass in the high ground to the west of the hamlet (Ekwall 1989, 228). The Domesday Survey of 1086 records Heydour (*Heidure*) as a jurisdiction of Osbournby belonging to Guy of Craon, and that it had a priest and church (Morris 1986, 57,21). The present church, of Saint Michael and All Angels, has an Early English chancel and the tower and spire are in the Decorated style. There is also some surviving medieval stained glass in the north aisle windows (Pevsner & Harris 1995, 380 - 381).

The ring and bailey earthworks of Heydour Castle lie on the western edge of the settlement. They mark the site of a defensible manor house dating from the twelfth century. The site was probably out of use by the mid-fourteenth century, with the manor house having moved to Oasby (Healey & Roffe Unpubl., 58-60). A fourteenth century stone figure of a musician which stands above the door of Church Lees House is said to be from the castle (Pevsner & Harris 1995, 381).

Cropmarks showing former settlement remains have been noted in the field to the south of the road, opposite the castle. A large amount of limestone was noticed in this area of the field during the watching brief. It was, however, not possible to determine whether this was building debris or fieldstone.

Aisby (*Asebi* in 1086) is an Old Scandinavian place-name meaning 'Asi's village or homestead' (Ekwall 1989, 4).

5.0 Results

Ten access pits were monitored in the two settlements. Pits 1 to 7 were in Heydour and pits 8 to 10 were in Aisby , and are located on Figures 2. and 3. respectively. In

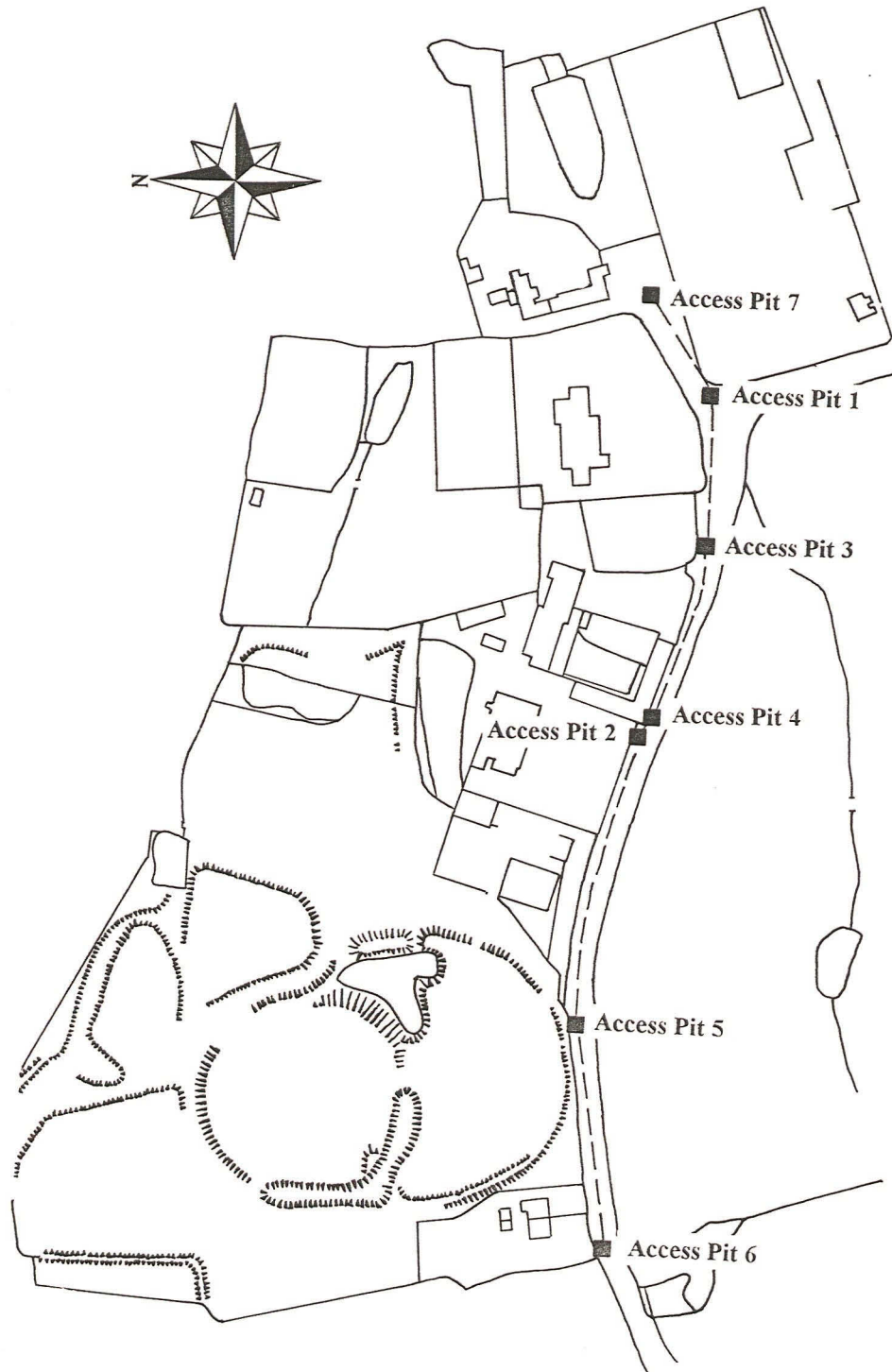


Fig. 2: Pipeline route in Heydour showing position of Access Pits 1 - 7. (1:2500)

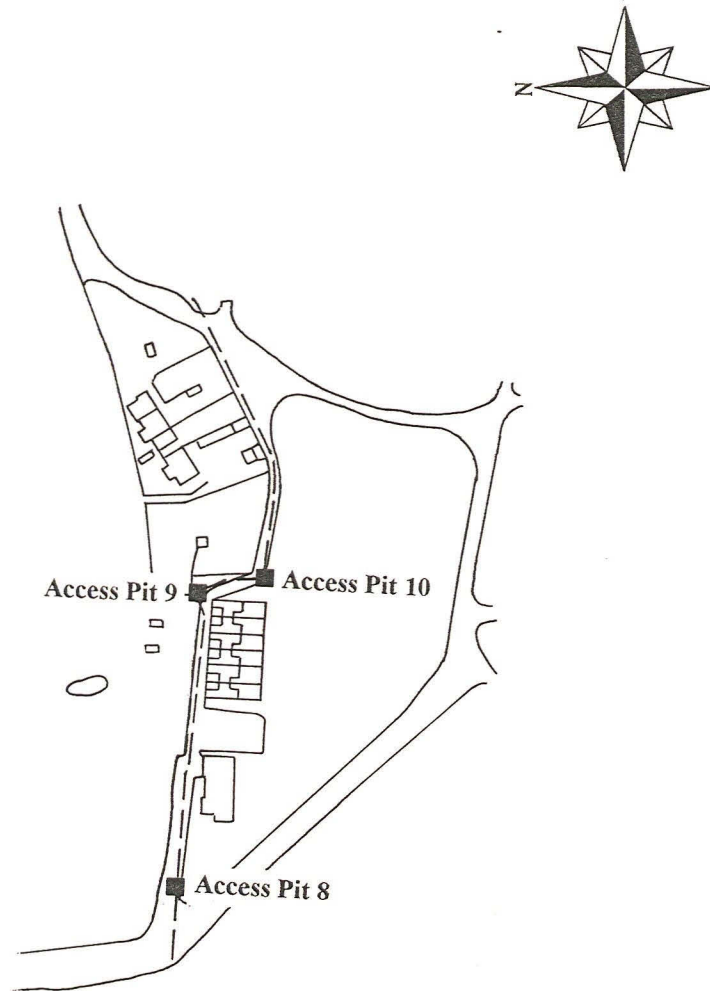


Fig. 3: Pipeline route in Aisby showing position of Access Pits 8 -10. (1:2500)

general the pits measured 2.0 x 0.75 m. and were between 1.1 and 1.5 m. deep. All pits were excavated in, or at the edge of, the road. As a result, modern road surface and make up deposits were common to all pits. Only one deposit of archaeological significance was encountered (in pit 5.) and no artefacts were recovered. A short section of the water main, between pits 9 and 10 in Aisby, was replaced using an open cut. This section had been backfilled and was not monitored. however, inspection of the soil on the top of the backfill produced nothing other than modern finds.

5.1 Access Pit 1

A T-shaped pit which measured 1.8 x 2.3 m. and approximately 1.1 m. deep. Beneath the modern road deposits were two natural layers; a clayey sand containing rubble limestone and a soft silty sand with occasional limestone fragments.

5.2 Access Pit 2

On the northern side of this pit the road surface and make up layers are replaced by a layer of concrete rubble forming the gateway to Heydour Farm. Underlying the modern deposits were two natural clays containing limestone fragments.

5.3 Access Pit 3

Beneath the modern road deposits this pit contained a series of natural clays within which, at a depth of 1.0 m., was a layer of limestone which had broken into blocks. A modern pipe was present running through the upper clay, the absence of a visible cut for this would suggest that it was backfilled with the same material.

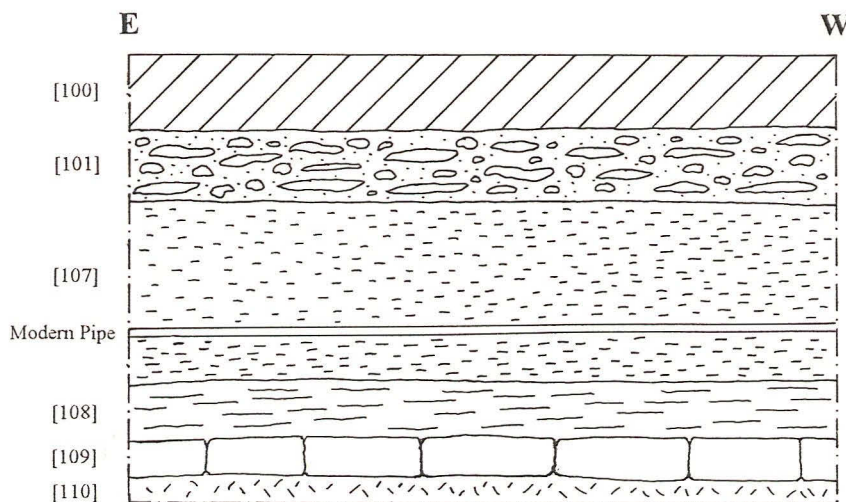


Fig. 4: Section of Access Pit 3 showing natural clays, layer of limestone [109] and modern pipe, scale 1:20.

5.4 Access Pit 4

This pit was flooded. However, the road layers were observed to overlie the same natural clay that was present in pit 2.

5.5 Access Pit 5

Sealed beneath the modern road deposits in this pit was a layer of rubble [111] with a mixed grey and yellow brown sandy clay matrix. It is possible that this deposit consists of material from the collapsed outer earthworks of the castle, which are situated c.10 m. to the north. However, in the absence of dateable material the association can only be tentative. Underlying this layer was a natural clay.

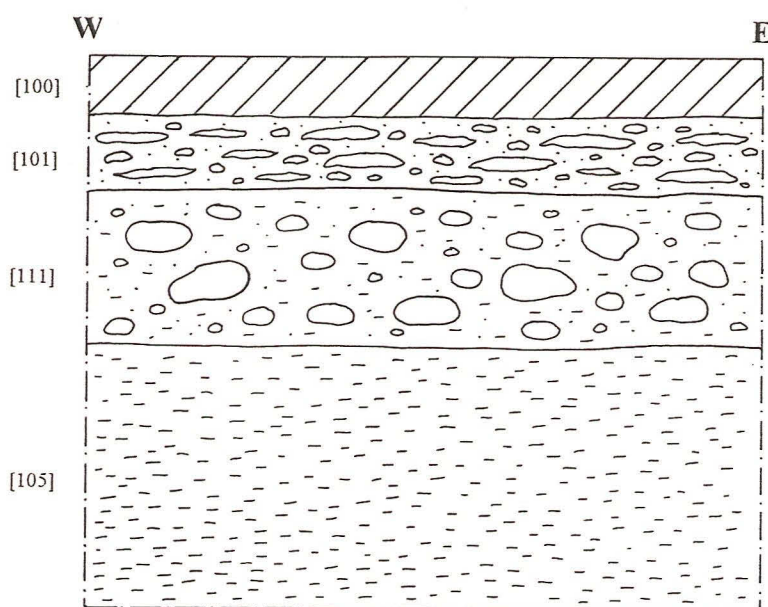


Fig. 5: Section of Access Pit 5 showing rubble layer possibly from the castle earthworks [111], scale 1:20

5.6 Access Pit 6

Between the usual modern road deposits and the natural clay in this pit was a layer of degraded limestone [112]. This may be part of the modern, or an earlier, road make up layer.

5.7 Access Pit 7

This pit showed a natural grey clay underlying the modern road deposits. A modern water pipe ran through this pit, the cut for which was backfilled with ashy material and rubble.

5.8 Access Pit 8

The southern side of this pit showed a natural sandy clay overlain by a thick deposit of topsoil, which contained modern finds throughout. The northern side showed a clay and rubble layer between the road deposits and the natural clay. The absence of this layer on the south side would appear to suggest it is a thick layer of earlier road make up.

5.9 Access Pit 9

This pit was the only one which was excavated solely in the grass verge. It showed a thick, possibly dumped, deposit of topsoil with modern finds, overlying the sandy clay.

5.10 Access Pit 10

The south side of this pit showed topsoil overlying a natural silty clay. On the north side a layer of disturbed clay was observed between the present road make up and the natural clay. As with pit 8, the absence of this layer on the southern side of the pit would point to it being part of an earlier road make up.

6.0 Discussion

The development has had a minimal impact on the archaeological resource. The small size and wide distribution of the access pits has resulted in a certain amount of stratigraphic discontinuity, making interpretation difficult. In the absence of dateable material the rubble layer in pit 5. can only be tentatively associated with the castle earthworks.

7.0 Acknowledgements

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

8.3 List of Contexts

8.3.1 Heydour

Context	Description
100	Modern road surface
101	Road foundation
102	Layer of clayey sand with limestone rubble
103	Layer of silty sand
104	Modern concrete rubble make up
105	Natural clay
106	Natural clay with abundant limestone fragments
107	Natural clay (?same as 105)
108	Natural clay
109	Natural layer of limestone blocks
110	Natural clay
111	Layer of rubble with a sandy clay matrix (? material from earthwork collapse)
112	Layer of degraded limestone
113	Natural clay

8.3.2 Aisby

Context	Description
200	Modern road surface
201	Road foundation
202	Layer of rubble with clay matrix (? road foundation)
203	Topsoil
204	Natural clay

- 205 Natural clay
- 206 Layer of disturbed clay (? road foundation)

8.3 Colour photographs



P1. General view showing location of Pit 1, looking north



P2. Pit 7, looking south-east (note small size of trench, making close-up photography difficult)