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# Report to Anglian Water Services Limited

July 1998

### Prepared by

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### WATERMAINS REPLACEMENT: DIGBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

By K Wragg

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 346

## **WATERMAINS REPLACEMENT:** DIGBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

### Archaeological Watching Brief

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Clock 9 July
Fullack 10 July

## WATERMAINS REPLACEMENT: DIGBY, LINCS.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit was approached by Anglian Water Services Limited, during November 1997, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a watermain replacement scheme, in the village of Digby, in the district of North Kesteven, Lincolnshire (see Fig.1).

The scheme involved the installation of approximately 400m of 180mm diameter MDPE watermain in the western part of the village, approximately 18km to the south-east of Lincoln (see Fig.2).

All trenches were to be machine-excavated, with depths expected to be in the order of 1m, and all trenching would be contained in the carriageway of the road.

In view of the presence of a scheduled ancient monument along the route of the proposed pipeline (see 2.0, below), it was recommended (by Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section) that groundworks in the vicinity of the monument should be monitored archaeologically.

As a result an intermittent watching brief on this part of the scheme was carried out on the site between the 8<sup>th</sup> of January and the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 1998.

Ultimately, however, given that the scheduled ancient monument was not directly effected by the trenching, the probability of discovering substantial archaeological remains during this project was somewhat low.

This was ultimately borne out by the results, which revealed only deposits of either

natural/geological origin, or of obviously modern date.

## WATERMAINS REPLACEMENT: DIGBY, LINCS.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit (C.L.A.U.) was approached by Anglian Water Services Limited (A.W.S.L.), during November 1997, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on a watermain replacement scheme, in the above village, in the district of North Kesteven (see Fig.1).

The scheme involved the installation of approximately 400m of 180mm diameter MDPE watermain in the western part of the village of Digby, approximately 18km southeast of Lincoln (see Fig.2).

All trenches were to be machine-excavated, with depths expected to be in the order of 1m, and all trenching would be contained in the carriageway of the road.

In view of the presence of a scheduled ancient monument along the route of the proposed pipeline (see 2.0, below), it was recommended (by Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section) that groundworks in the vicinity of the monument should be monitored archaeologically.

As a result an intermittent watching brief on this part of the scheme was carried out on the site between the 8<sup>th</sup> of January and the 16<sup>th</sup> March 1998.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. The Unit, its members and employees cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the terms of the Unit's Articles of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field

Archaeologists, and *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage, 1991).

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In order to determine any potential archaeological implications of this scheme, the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section was consulted by A.W.S.L. in advance of the commencement of the project.

The Archaeology Section highlighted one area along the route as a point of archaeological interest, namely the remains of a medieval village cross at the junction of Church Street and North Street.

This feature is a scheduled ancient monument (monument number 22637), and as such is protected by law. Although A.W.S.L. did not propose to excavate in close proximity to the monument (or even close to the 1m 'exclusion zone' around the monument), it was considered (by the Archaeology Section) that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained during groundworks in the vicinity of the monument.

#### 3.0 RESULTS

In addition to the area immediately adjacent to the village cross, casual observation was also carried on trenching further to the west, adjacent to the St Thomas a' Becket parish church. The church, which on architectural grounds, dates back at least to the 11th century (Pevsner et al, 1989), lies to the north of the road, and would have originally been close to the centre of the medieval village. Additionally, in the same area, but to the south of the road, a stone-built 'beehive'-shaped well-head is also present (again possibly with medieval origins), which has apparently also been used in the past as a village lock-up.

The trench itself measured c.400mm wide x c.1m deep, and was located along the northern edge of the existing carriageway, crossing to the south side of the road to the east of the village cross.

A total of only four different deposits was recorded during the trenchside observations. The stratigraphic sequence was as follows (see also Fig.3):

The earliest deposit recorded was [103], a moderate-well compacted mid orange sand and gravel. This layer was c.650mm thick to the limit of excavation (L.O.E.), and appeared to be the prevailing natural (i.e., geological) deposit for this area.

[103] was present throughout the trench, and was sealed by [104], which comprised up to two courses of machine-made red bricks, bonded with lime mortar. [104] was aligned with the western edge of the previously mentioned well-head feature, and possibly formed part of a late drain/culvert discharging into the disused well.

[104] was then sealed by [102], the limestone hardcore bedding, and [101] the tarmac surface of the existing road carriageway.

## 4.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Given that the scheduled ancient monument was not directly effected by the trenching (and also given the fact that very little of the original cross actually remains in situ), the probability of discovering substantial archaeological remains during this project was somewhat low.

This was ultimately borne out by the results, which revealed only deposits of either natural/geological origin, or of obviously modern date.

#### 5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit would like to thank the following for their assistance during this project: Anglian Water Services Limited, Networks, Saltersford WTW, Spitalgate level, Saltersford, Lincs., NG31 7UL, for their funding and support during this project; Mr D.Waterfield, (A.W.S.L. Project Engineer); Mr P.Holdich (A.W.S.L. Project Supervisor); and all on-site staff of ALH Co. Total Pipe Technology (main trenching contractors).

#### 6.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, Digby Village Watermain Replacement: SMR Appraisal, 14<sup>th</sup> November 1997

Pevsner, N, Harris, J & Antram, N (eds) 1989 *Lincolnshire*, The Buildings of England, Penguin Books, London

Whitwell, J B 1992 Roman Lincolnshire - Revised Edition, History of Lincolnshire 2, Lincolnshire Local Hist Soc, Lincoln

# 7.0 LHA NOTE/ARCHIVE DETAILS

#### 7.1 LHA NOTE DETAILS

CLAU CODE: DIW97

PLANNING APPLICATION NO.: n/a

FIELD OFFICER: K. Wragg

NGR: TF 0800/5480

CIVIL PARISH: Digby

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 08/01/98 - 16/03/98

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Watching Brief

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Anglian Water Services Limited, Networks, Saltersford WTW, Spitalgate level, Saltersford, Lincs., NG31 7UL.

### 7.2 ARCHIVE DETAILS

PRESENT LOCATION: City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, LN1 3BL.

FINAL LOCATION: The City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln.

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: 285.97

ACCESSION DATE:

# APPENDIX A - ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive consists of:

No. Description

1 Site diary

1 Report

5 Context records

3 Scale drawings

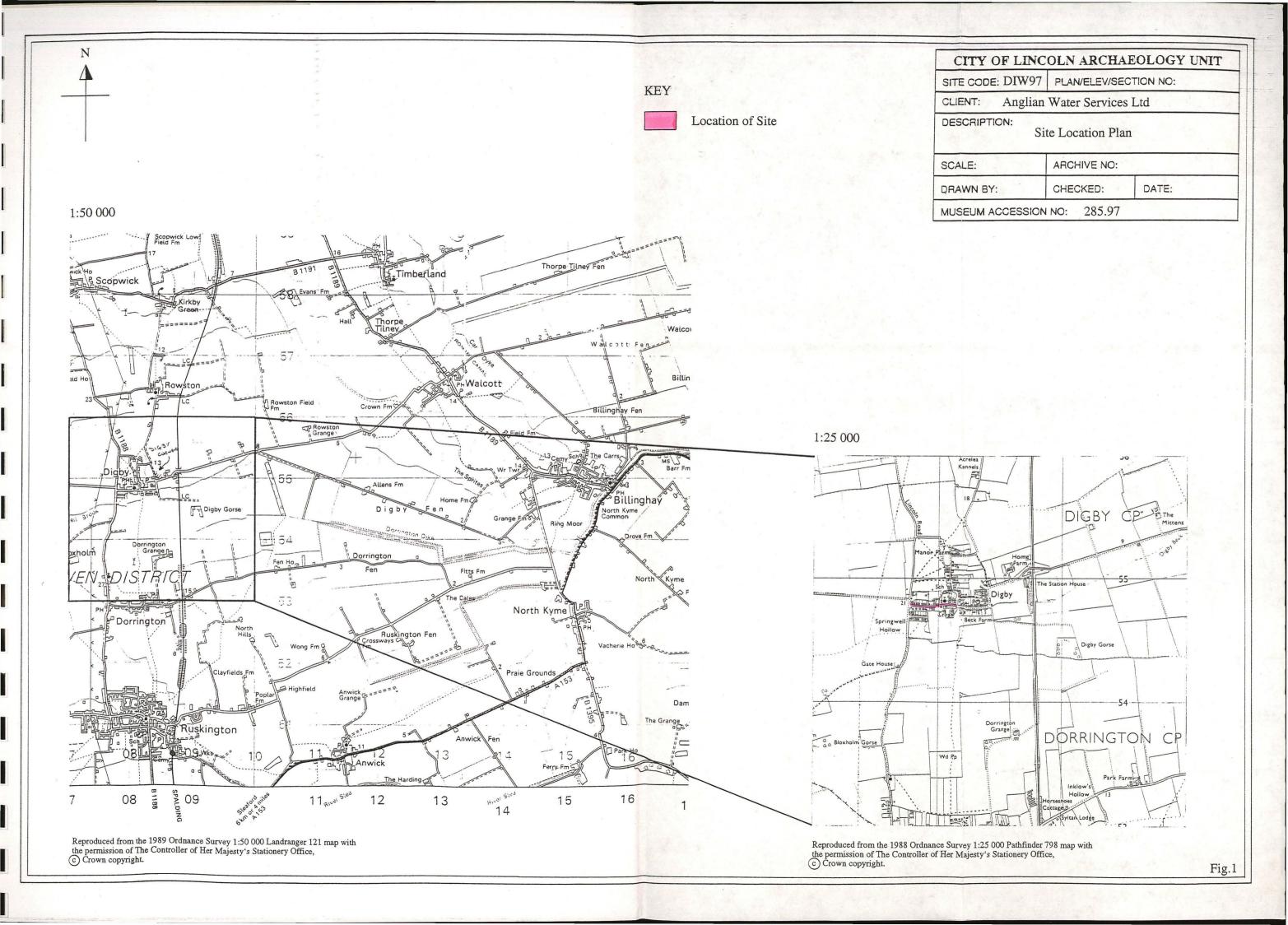
1 set Photographic records - Colour slides

1 Stratigraphic matrix

The primary archive material, as detailed above, is currently held by :

The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, Charlotte House, The Lawn, Union Road, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LNI 3BL.

It is intended that transfer to the City and County Museum, Friars Lane, Lincoln, in accordance with current published requirements, under Museum Accession Number 285.97, will be undertaken following completion of this project.





### KEY

Route of Pipeline

Area of Specific Archaeological Interest

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: DIW97 PLAN/ELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd

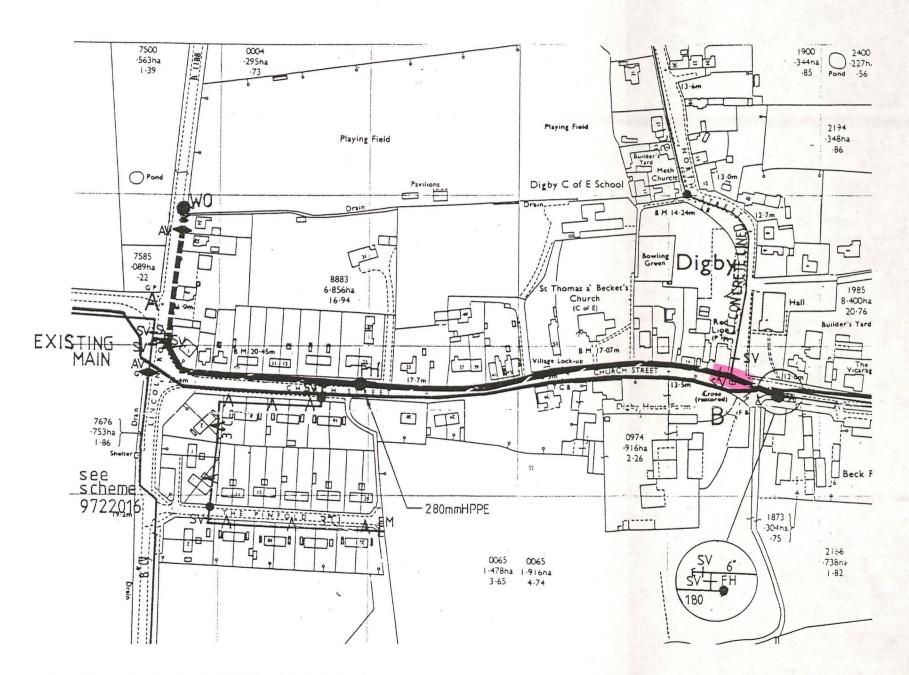
DESCRIPTION:

Plan of Pipeline Route

SCALE: 1:2500 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: CHECKED: DATE:

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 285.97



Reproduced from Anglian Water Services Ltd drawing No. 9722017/1 Rev A

CITY OF LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

SITE CODE: DIW97 PLANELEV/SECTION NO:

CLIENT: Anglian Water Services Ltd

DESCRIPTION:

South-Facing Section 1

SCALE: 1:10 ARCHIVE NO:

DRAWN BY: K.W. CHECKED: DATE: 09/01/98

MUSEUM ACCESSION NO: 285.97

KEY

Sand

Limestone

