

Anglian Water WAT06992

Land off Park Lane, Minningsby, Lincolnshire:

Report on Archaeological Monitoring



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Non-Technical Summary

- Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Anglian Water to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring along the proposed route of intrusive groundworks associated with the insertion of a new water mains pipeline on land to the east of Park Lane, Minningsby, Lincolnshire. Work took place along a 500m stretch of land centred on TF 32457 63787.
- The site is located along a 500m stretch of agricultural land to the east of Park Lane, Minningsby, Lincolnshire, PE22 7NJ (centred on National Grid Reference TF 32457 63787).
- The site is bounded to the north by Chapel Lane, to the east by Park Lane, to the south by agricultural land beyond a 19th century farmstead, and to the west by Minningsby Beck watercourse.
- Groundworks comprised the monitored excavation of a 500m x 15m stretch of land to the east of Park Lane, which revealed no finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance.
- The results of the watching brief suggest that the stripped area lies within an as yet undeveloped region. Crop marks visible in satellite imagery suggest that archaeological features may remain in-situ further east and north of the current site boundary, possibly closer in line with the Minningsby Beck river.
- Monitoring of the water mains replacement took place between 26th September 2018 and 27th September 2018.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are extended to Anglian Water for commissioning the work, and for facilitating monitoring of groundworks and continued site access. Further thanks are extended to Louise Jennings, Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council, who oversaw the work.

The project was managed by Tom Hooley (Assistant Project Manager), and undertaken by Carmen Dahlke (Project Supervisor). Illustrations have been compiled by Norma Oldfield (TPA).

Contents

Non-Technical Summary.....	4
Acknowledgements	5
Contents	6
List of Plates.....	7
List of Figures.....	7
1 Introduction	8
2 Topography and Geology.....	8
3 Archaeological and Historical Background	9
4 Relevant Legislation and Guidance.....	9
5 Aims and Objectives	10
6 Regional Research Objectives.....	10
7 Methodology	11
8 Results	12
9 Discussion & Conclusion	12
10 Bibliography.....	13
11 Context Register	14
12 Plates	15
13 Figures	18
Appendix 1: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition	19
Appendix 2: OASIS Data Collection Form	20

List of Plates

Plate 1: General site view, pre-excavation. No scale.

Plate 2: General site view of topsoil strip, no scale.

Plate 3: General site view of topsoil strip, looking west. Scale 1m x 1m.

Plate 4: General site view of excavation to natural geology (103). No scale.

Plate 5: Representative section of stripped area, showing topsoil (101), subsoil (102) and natural (103). Looking north. Scale 1m.

List of Figures

Figure 1: Location map

1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology were commissioned by Anglian Water to carry out a scheme of archaeological monitoring along the proposed route of intrusive groundworks associated with the insertion of a new water mains pipeline on land to the east of Park Lane, Minningsby, Lincolnshire. Work took place along a 500m stretch of land centred on TF 32457 63787.
- 1.1.2 The site is located within an area of archaeological interest, which had the potential to interact with remains of early medieval or medieval date, which relate to a series of cropmarks and earthworks identified as probable deserted or shrunken medieval villages.
- 1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance* (2014b), utilising the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Collins and Hooley 2018). The work was overseen by Louise Jennings, Principle Planning Archaeologist for Lincolnshire County Council (LCC).

2 Topography and Geology

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The site of the proposed new enforcement water main is located at Land off Park Lane, Minningsby, Lincolnshire, PE22 7NJ (centred on National Grid Reference TF 32457 63787). The site is bounded to the north by Chapel Lane, to the east by Park Lane, to the south by agricultural land beyond a 19th century farmstead, and to the west by Minningsby Beck watercourse.

2.2 Geology and Topography

- 2.2.1 The 1:50,000 British Geological Mapping shows that the proposed route is situated on bedrock geology of Kimmeridge Clay Formation, a mudstone sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 152 to 157 million years ago in the Jurassic Period in an environment previously dominated by shallow seas. This is overlain by superficial deposits of till, Mid Pleistocene – Diamicton, which formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).
- 2.2.2 The overlying superficial soils comprise Lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. (www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes).
- 2.2.3 The site is located at a height of 54m AoD.

3 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 The following archaeological and historical background is summarised from the approved WSI (Collins and Hooley 2019).
- 3.2 Miningsby was mentioned in Domesday book under the name 'Melangesby' as a town with a very large population of 48 households comprising eight villagers, 4 smallholders and 36 freemen. The Lord of the Manor in 1066 was Stori of Bolingbroke. In 1086, the Lord and Tenant-in-Chief was Ivo Tallboys.
- 3.3 In 1870-72, John Marius Wilson's Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales described Miningsby as a parish with a village in the Horncastle district of Lincolnshire on an affluent of the river Pain. Mingsby had a population of 477 within 93 households. The manor belonged to Sir John Smith.
- 3.4 Evidence of prehistoric activity within the immediate vicinity of the site is limited to a single findspot of Neolithic flint implements recovered from land to the east of Park Lane.
- 3.5 Similarly, the only evidence of Romano-British occupation within a 1km radius of the site is limited to a single findspot of fragments of a ceramic vessel, recovered from the south-east of the site, nearby St. Nicholas Church.
- 3.6 To the north-west off the site, off Chapel Lane, is the site of the no longer extant St. Andrews Church. Originating in the Norman period, the church was built in the 12th century with significant alterations made in the 13th century. An extensive phase of rebuilding was undertaken by James Fowler in 1878. The church became redundant in the 20th century and was subsequently demolished in 1980. An Historic Building Record and archaeological excavation were conducted prior to the demolition.
- 3.7 A reused Anglo-Saxon sculptural grave slab was recovered from the building fabric of St. Andrew's Church. The face of the slab had been carved with a figure of eight knotwork pattern. The stone had formerly been used as a threshold stone, but was moved to the north wall of the chancel during the rebuilding phase of 1878. Following the demolition of the church, the grave slab was moved to the City and County Museum.
- 3.8 Two probable medieval sunken villages are thought to exist immediately north and approximately 1.3km south-east of the site, both off of Chapel Lane. The former villages, comprising tofts, crofts, buildings and ridge and furrow, were identified through cropmarks and earthworks.
- 3.9 Two evolutionary 19th century farmsteads, Manor Farm and Miningsby House Farm, are located to the west and north of the site respectively.

4 Relevant Legislation and Guidance

4.1 Planning Context

- 4.1.1 The program of archaeological mitigation undertaken on land to the east of Park Lane, Miningsby was underpinned by the national legislation and local policies described below.
- 4.1.2 This document has been produced in accordance with the guidelines laid out in the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance CIfA 2014a) and Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014b).

4.2 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 4.2.1 Developments of this nature, and their impact upon the historic environment, are addressed by the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published by the Department for Communities and Local

Government (DCLG), and the NPPF Planning Practice Guide Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG 2014).

4.2.2 Section 12 of NPPF, paragraph 128, states that:

Planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and where necessary a field evaluation.

4.3 The Lincolnshire Structure Plan

4.3.1 The Lincolnshire Structure Plan (2006) Policy BE4 – Archaeological Heritage states:

Where development proposals will affect sites of archaeological significance or potential significance, the results of an archaeological evaluation will be required to accompany an application for planning permission.

Where development is permitted and the physical preservation in situ of the archaeological remains is not warranted or desirable, taking into consideration the importance of the remains and other material considerations, the excavation and recording of archaeological remains will be required along with the appropriate publication of results.

5 Aims and Objectives

5.1.1 The Aims and objectives of the watching brief were as follows:

- To identify the presence of any archaeological remains to be affected by any intrusive aspects of the development and to achieve an appropriate level of preservation by record.
- Where practical (within the constraints of the watching brief and development, this would include an assessment of the overall extent, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains.

6 Regional Research Objectives

- 6.1 The programme of archaeological mitigation proposed herein may reveal evidence that allows research priorities highlighted by regional research frameworks.
- 6.2 The *East Midlands Historic Environment Research Framework (EMHERF) Interactive Digital Resource* (<http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/researchframeworks/eastmidlands/wiki/>) hosts a digitised version of Knight, D., Vyner, B. and Allen, C.'s (2012) *East Midlands Heritage and Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*.
- 6.3 Any evidence uncovered by the investigations should be considered with the guidance provided by the framework in mind. If the evidence significantly contributes to a research question raised by the

framework, this should be stated in the final report and the website may, at the appropriate time, be used to feed this information back via the interactive commenting facility. This allows for the research framework to develop over time and remain relevant.

6.4 The following research questions are of particular significance to this project:

Early Medieval (c. AD 410-1066)
<i>6.4 Rural Settlement Patterns</i>
4. What factors may underlie the progression from dispersed to nucleated settlement and the growth of settlement hierarchies?
High Medieval (1066 - 1485)
<i>7.2 Rural settlement</i>
1. How can we elucidate the development of nucleated villages and in particular the contribution of the Danelaw to changes in village morphology?

7 Methodology

- 7.1 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014b) and the *Code of Conduct* (2014a). The work followed the Written Scheme of Investigation (Collins and Hooley 2018), and was carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist selected from Trent and Peak's supervisory staff.
- 7.2 Intrusive groundworks were carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Where mechanical plant was used this was fitted with a toothless bucket where appropriate.
- 7.3 Below-ground stratigraphy was recorded, photographed and interpreted, even where no archaeological finds or features were present, in accordance with ClfA *guidelines* (2014c).
- 7.4 Recording was carried out on pro-forma context sheets and standardised drawing methods where appropriate. Spot heights were recorded relative to an Ordnance Datum.
- 7.5 All excavations were recorded at an appropriate scale by photography. Site photography was undertaken with the use of a high resolution colour DSLR camera, which include general site shots, shots of individual features, and groups of features.

8 Results

- 8.1 Groundworks comprised the monitored excavation of a 500m x 15m stretch of land to the east of Park Lane, Minningsby. Excavation revealed a consistent stratigraphic sequence of natural geology, formed of mid-light yellow sand and till (103) at a depth of c 0.3m below ground level (B.G.L), which was sealed by an intermitted c 0.05-0.1m thick deposit of mid orangish brown subsoil (102) and dark brownish grey agricultural topsoil (101) with an approximate thickness of 0.1-0.2m, which was the same across the site.
- 8.2 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified during the course of the watching brief. Evidence of diagonal scoring within the topsoil, identified as the result of modern agricultural disturbance, were identified across the site (Plate 2). Modern circular ceramic field drains were noted at regular intervals aligned approximately north to south, at a depth of 0.3m b.g.l across the length of the stripped area, but were not investigated. Descriptions of the stratigraphic sequences recorded are included in Section 11.

9 Discussion & Conclusion

- 9.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the course of the watching brief.
- 9.2 The stratigraphic sequence observed across the pipeline cut comprised of natural geology (103), subsoil (102) and topsoil (101).
- 9.3 The results of the watching brief suggest that the stripped area lies within an as yet undeveloped region. Crop marks visible in satellite imagery suggest that archaeological features may remain *in-situ* further east and north of the current site boundary, possibly closer in line with the Minningsby Beck river.

10 Bibliography

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11 Context Register

Context	Category	Description	Date
101	Layer	Topsoil	Modern
102	Layer	Subsoil	Modern
103	Layer	Natural geology	Modern

12 Plates



Plate 1: General site view, pre-excitation. No scale.



Plate 2: General site view of topsoil strip, no scale.



Plate 3: General site view of topsoil strip, looking west. Scale 1m x 1m.



Plate 4: General site view of excavation to natural geology (103). No scale.



Plate 5: Representative section of stripped area, showing topsoil (101), subsoil (102) and natural (103). Looking north. Scale 1m.

13 Figures

Appendix 1: Index of Archive and Arrangements for Deposition

<i>Field Records</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Watching Brief Sheets	Record of daily attendance	2
Context sheets	Record of features and deposits	3
Photo record sheet	Record of photographs taken	1
Digital photographs	All views	43
Site drawings	Plan of site	0
<i>Documents</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Written scheme of investigation	Statement of the aims, objectives and methodology for the project.	1
Health & Safety	Safe working statement & risk assessment	1
Report to client	Report of findings of the watching brief.	1
<i>Find</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>
Artefacts and ecofacts	Nil	Nil

The site archive is currently held at the offices of Trent & Peak Archaeology, Unit 1, Holly Lane, Chilwell, Nottingham, NG9 4AB. It will be deposited with The Collection Museum, Lincolnshire under museums accession code LCNCC : 2018.160 within 6 months of the completion of the report.

Appendix 2: OASIS Data Collection Form

