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“Rams and Pumps”

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The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, *Sheetlines*, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.

Rams and pumps



In September 2010 the Industrial archaeology team of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology were invited to survey the water supply system at Grange Farm, Langton-by-Spilsby in Lincolnshire (TF 389 712). The system, which was in place by 1906 when the OS 1:10,560 map was published, was operated by a waterwheel driven pump which itself was powered by the adjacent Langton Beck. The potable water came from a nearby spring. The pump was housed in a partially buried chamber and lifted the water some 65m to The Grange on the hill above.

Rob Wheeler described¹ the evidence for pumps and wells in his home parish of Harmston near Lincoln and how the OS surveyors interpreted their instructions. Although Rob Wheeler notes the OS instruction *care is to be taken* it doesn't seem to have been the case at Langton-by-Spilsby. The site of the water wheel is recorded on the map as a *Hydraulic Ram*. We could give the surveyor the benefit of the doubt as there is a hydraulic ram on the same estate to the south-east of Langton Hall. The remains of the ram also survive in a partially buried chamber but as Rob Wheeler noted, in an e-mail following publication of the Note on the Langton-by-Spilsby pump², the surveyor should have known the difference.

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¹ Rob Wheeler, Pumps and wells at 1:2500, *Sheetlines* 94, 50.

² Chris Lester & Ken Redmore, 'Water supply at Grange Farm, Langton-by-Spilsby', *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, 45 (2012), 33-37.