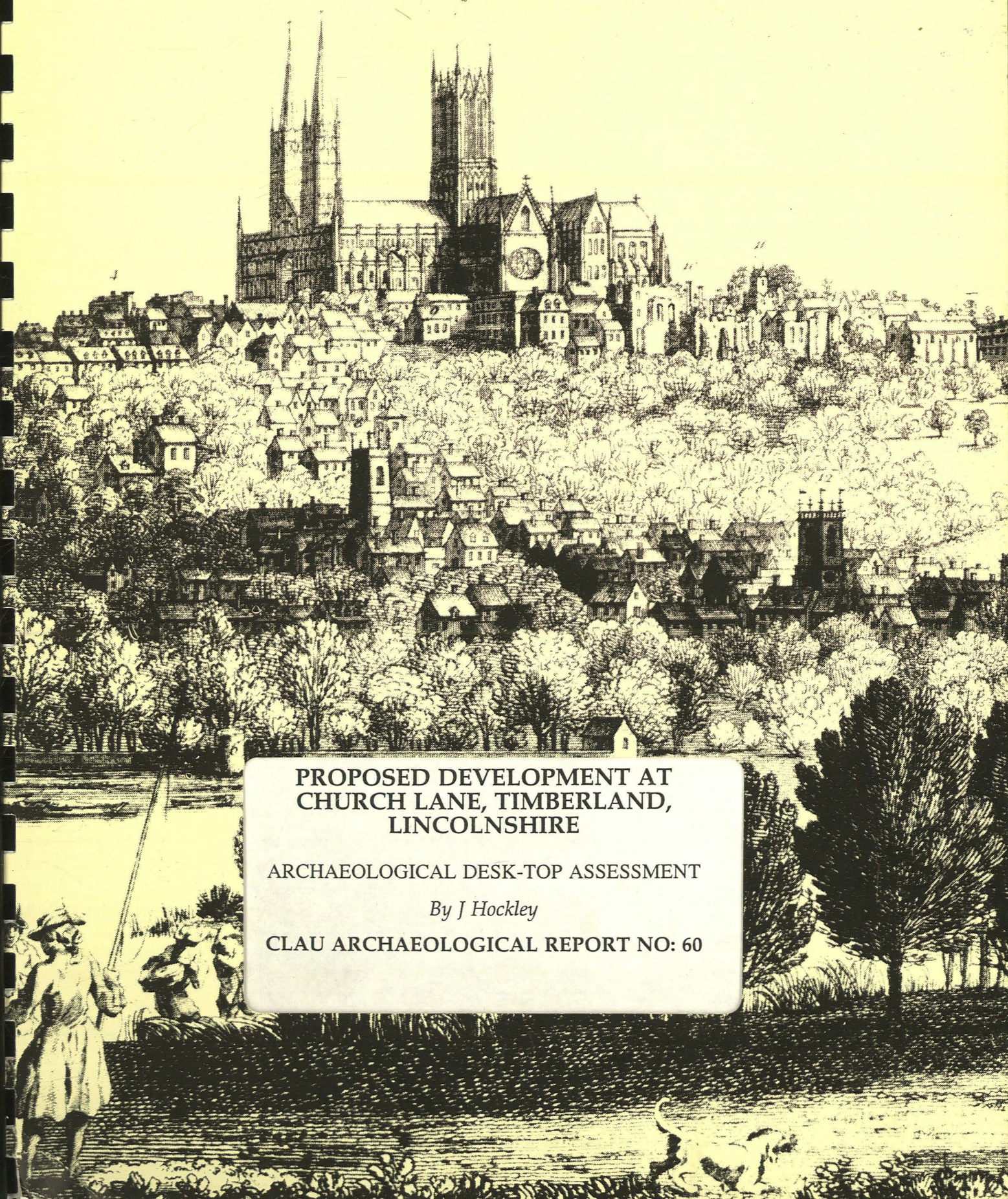


=====CITY OF=====
◇ LINCOLN ARCHAEOLOGY ◇
=====UNIT=====



**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT
CHURCH LANE, TIMBERLAND,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT

By J Hockley

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 60

**A Report to Land and Buildings Consultancy
(on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council)**

September 1993

Prepared by

*The City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit
Charlotte House
The Lawn
Union Road
Lincoln
LN1 3BL*

*Tel: Lincoln (0522) 545326
Fax: Lincoln (0522) 548089*

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT
CHURCH LANE, TIMBERLAND,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT

By J Hockley

CLAU ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT NO: 60

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT CHURCH LANE, TIMBERLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 SCOPE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL RESEARCH	2
3.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY	2
4.0 SYNTHESIS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE	3
5.0 CONCLUSIONS	4
6.0 REFERENCES	4

Illustrations

Map showing location of the Site	Fig. 1
Map showing location of casual finds, etc.....	Fig. 2
Site Plan with plot of crop marks	Fig. 3

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT CHURCH LANE, TIMBERLAND, LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT

1.0 Introduction

This document has been prepared by the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit for Land and Buildings Consultancy on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council. The Unit was commissioned to draw together and assess all available information of archaeological and historical significance for the area of proposed development (hereafter 'the Site').

In accordance with the terms of project brief set out by the District Archaeological Officer the assessment was designed to:

- i) aid any subsequent field investigation and
- ii) highlight any research priorities which might be addressed by any further archaeological work which might be carried out on this project.

It would also provide guidance to all interested parties, and form the basis for assessing the possible archaeological implications of particular development proposals, and for discussing further action in conjunction with the requirements of the local planning authority, North Kesteven District Council.

The study document provides a synthesis of current archaeological and historical knowledge of the area concerned and addresses the requirement for evaluation of the Site in terms of the specification previously submitted.

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 the terms of the Unit's Articles of Association, the Code of Conduct of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), Management of Archaeology Projects (English Heritage, 1991) and the IFA Standard & Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments.

2.0 Scope of Archaeological and Historical Research

As no previous archaeological excavation has been carried out on or in immediate proximity to the Site the evidence contained in this study is derived from the examination of historical records and other documentary sources. The locations of recorded features and casual finds, etc, have been plotted on the 1:25000 scale plan (Fig.2) included in this report.

In compiling this study the following principal sources have been consulted:

Sites and Monument Record (SMR)

The Lincolnshire SMR was searched for records of all archaeological sites, casual finds and aerial photographic information on or in close proximity to the Site. Details of entries are described in the text.

Archive and other Documentary Sources

In compiling this report reference has also been made to cartographic and other material held in the Lincolnshire Archives Office, Lincoln Central Library (Local History Collection) and relevant archives and historical/archaeological books and journals.

Land Use Survey

The Site was visually examined to record current use and any surviving ancient features. The findings are described within the text.

3.0 Location, Topography & Geology

Timberland is situated approximately 5km north west of Billingham and 8km east of Scopwick in the Lincolnshire District of North Kesteven.

Located at NGR TF 1200 5810, the Site covers approximately 1.43 hectares and lies at the southern extremity of the village, approximately 120m east of the parish church of St Andrew (Fig.1). The village itself lies approximately 0.5km west of the Car Dyke which for most of its course forms the boundary between the Witham peat and silt fens to the east and the clay upland and area of limestone heath in the west.

Approximately one third of the Site, fronting Church Lane, is taken up with farm buildings and a surrounding area of hardstanding and vehicular access. The remainder of the Site consists of a single, gently sloping field, rising in the west to an height of c.10m OD. It is believed that the field has been under arable cultivation for many years. At the time of inspection it had been recently rough ploughed and did not contain

any prominent topographical features to indicate ancient occupation or land-use.

The Site is situated in an area having solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay, found throughout the Witham Valley, which is overlain with Boulder Clay and localised overlying older river sand and gravel.

4.0 Synthesis of Archaeological and Historical Knowledge

The evidence is largely based on historical records and casual finds which indicate human activity in the area dating from the Bronze Age to the recent past. This information is supplemented by the interpretation of aerial photographs which have recorded physical remains in the form of crop or soil marks.

4.1 Pre-Roman (1st century BC and earlier)

Although the record of finds from the wider region demonstrates an important degree of cultural continuity and settlement during the period of prehistory, few sites have been investigated in any detail and evidence of occupation in proximity to the Site is sparse.

A stone axe dated to the Bronze Age is recorded as having been found "near the old Roman drain at Timberland" (SMR Ref: Y). The parish record lodged at the Lincolnshire Sites and Monument Record contains a note which refers to a possible barrow, or burial mound, located in a wood approximately 0.5km west of the village.

4.2 Romano-British period (1st - 4th centuries AD)

The Roman road known as Ermine Street, which lies approximately 12km west of the Site, was one of the main land routes of the province throughout the Roman period.

A further line of penetration into Lincolnshire was along the eastern edge of the limestone escarpment, skirting the fens. This route known in part as King Street, might have made use of existing pre-historic tracks leading to an established crossing of the Witham valley at its narrowest point near Washingborough. The Site is c. 8km east of the line of King Street.

Although roads were clearly of importance to the Romans, they also made extensive use of water transport. The Car Dyke which connects the Nene east of Peterborough with the Witham east of Lincoln is generally accepted as being of Roman construction, but its purpose is uncertain. Its use as a canal for the transport of goods remains unproven and it is possible that it was constructed primarily for land drainage. Two sections of the Car Dyke at Timberland are protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (County Monument Nos. 298 & 315).

While this part of Lincolnshire contains a significant number of sites of Romano-British occupation, settlement and land-use, particularly to the west along King Street, there is no record of such activity in immediate proximity to the Site.

The only casual find of this period consists of a hoard of Roman bronze coins found at Timberland "near the Car Dyke in 1808" (SMR Ref:A/Hoard Index(33)). The coins of the early imperial emperors Augustus, Tiberius and Claudius cover a date range of 27BC to AD54 and it has been suggested they were concealed at the time of early military penetration or early construction work on the Car Dyke. Unfortunately the precise find spot is not recorded and although indicative of Roman activity in the vicinity of Timberland the hoard is inconclusive in terms of Roman occupation or settlement on or near the Site.

4.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval period (5th - 16th centuries AD)

The origins of many modern place-names in the vicinity, recorded by the Domesday survey of AD1086, indicate a broad spread of Anglo-Saxon and Danish settlement.

According to Domesday, the village of Timberlunt or Timbrelund (Timberland) was held by Earl Hugh; Walter d'Aincourt; Norman d'Arci; Heppo the Arblaster and Simund from him with the hamlet of Walecote (Walcott) 2km to the south being the land of the Archbishop of York and Walter d'Aincourt.

Further afield the village of Belingei (Billinghay) which contained three sites of fisheries was also held by the Archbishop of York together with Walchelin and two sons of Swen from him. With a church and six and a half mills Scape(e)uinc or Scapewic (Scopwick) was probably the largest settlement in the area. Walter d'Aincourt was the main landholder with other parcels of land held by Norman d'Arci and Heppo the Arblaster.

The parish church of St Andrew at Timberland still contains evidence of its medieval origins but with the exception of the west tower the majority of the structure reflects the extensive restoration carried out in the 19th century.

The Site is visible in one of a series of aerial photographs taken by the RAF in 1947 (CPE/UK/2009 16 April 1947 RAF Print No.1462). Although not taken for the purpose of archaeological interpretation and of poor quality the photograph shows patterns of crop/soil marks consisting of an east-west linear feature bisecting the field, the southern half of which has visible marks probably representing residual ridge and furrow (see Fig.3).

4.4 Post-Medieval to present (16th to 20th century)

The late 14th to 17th centuries were a period of mixed fortunes for the county. This was due mainly to

economic changes and to the ravages of the Black Death but change was also brought about by silting of the river Witham, extensive flooding of the fen land, the migration of the cloth industry to the countryside and increased competition from goods produced on the continent. This led to the abandonment of some settlements and while the effect of these changes on Timberland is uncertain, the absence of any prominent earthworks suggests that the present village largely respects its pre-existing medieval arrangement.

A number of properties in the immediate vicinity, including Thorpe Tilney Hall 0.75 km to the south-west and Evans Farm 1.4km west of the site date from the late 18th century. The origins of Priory Farm and the significance of its name are unknown although there are a number of monastic granges in the wider region.

The present buildings on the Site have been constructed in the last 35 years as they do not appear on the 1956 OS map of the area.

5.0 Conclusions

Archaeological remains and casual finds reflect intense activity in the wider region during the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods particularly over the upland area in proximity to the line of King Street. The village of Timberland is pre-conquest in origin, but with the exception of the aerial photographic evidence for ridge and furrow and notwithstanding its proximity to the church the study has not produced any documentary record of ancient occupation on the Site. Part of the Site has been disturbed by the construction of farm buildings and the lack of any visible signs of ridge and furrow or other earthwork evidence over the remainder of the area reflects the long term arable use and the possible effect of subsoiling or deep ploughing on the land.

This information secured by this study suggests that although the Site probably contains some evidence of the relict landscape the prospects of finding significant undisturbed archaeological remains are believed to be low.

We are therefore of the opinion that the specifications for evaluation as previously submitted will adequately fulfill the requirements of the brief prepared by the District Archaeological Officer.

6.0 References

- DoE Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 - Archaeology and Planning, (PPG16), London, HMSO.
- May, J, *Prehistoric Lincolnshire*, (History of Lincolnshire, Vol I), . The History of Lincolnshire Committee, Lincoln, 1976.
- Owen, D M *Church and Society in Medieval Lincolnshire*, (History of Lincolnshire, Vol. V, Lincolnshire Local History Society).1981.
- Pevsner, N, *Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*, revised edition 1989
- Simmons, B B, *The Lincolnshire Car Dyke*, *Britannia*
- Todd, M, *A Large Hoard of Early Imperial Bronze from Lincolnshire*, *Numismatics Chronicle*, 7th Series, Vol VI, 1966.
- Whitwell, J B, *Roman Lincolnshire*, (History of Lincolnshire, Vol. II, Lincolnshire Local History Society, 1970; new edition 1992)

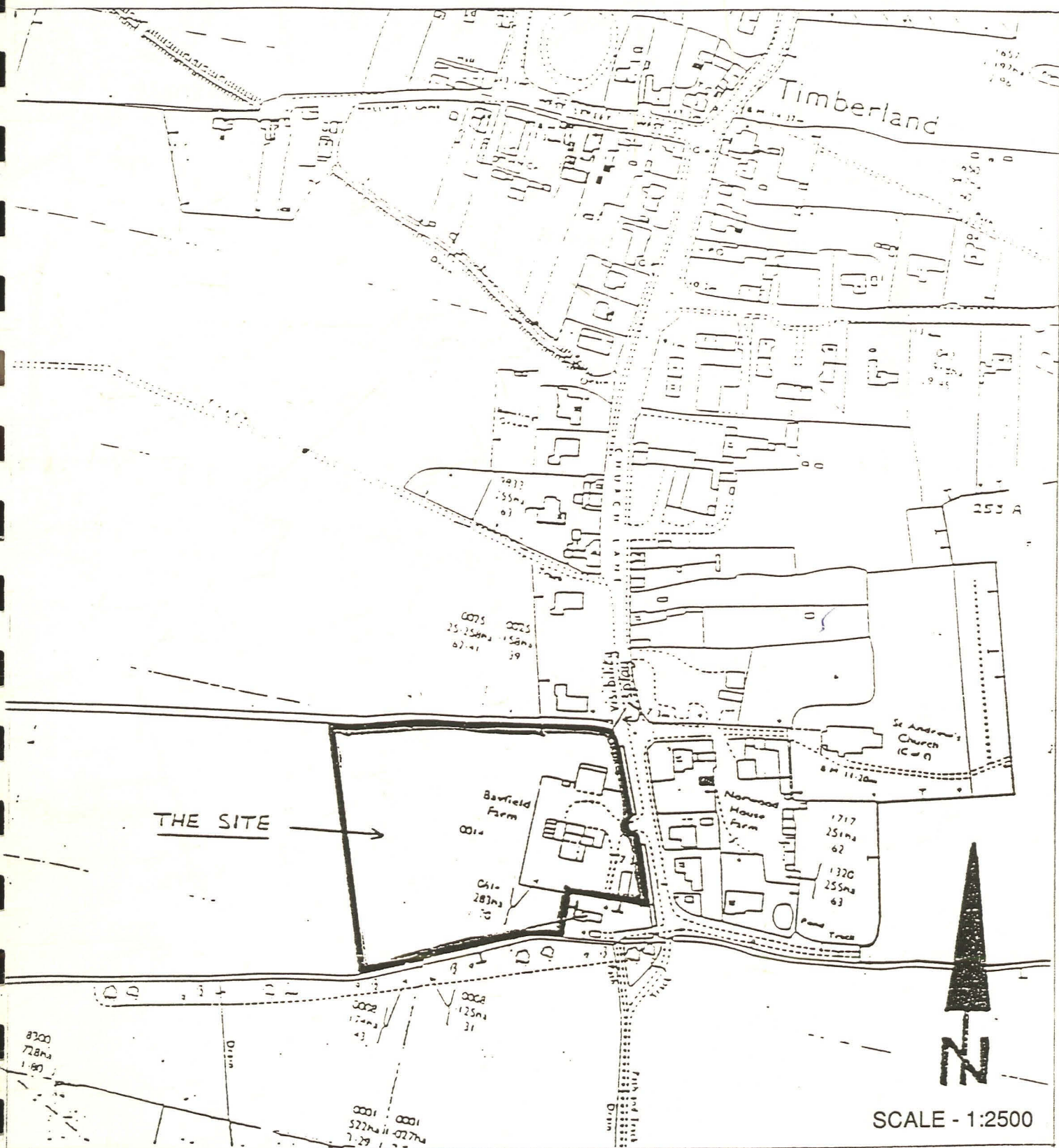


Fig.1 - Map showing location of the Site

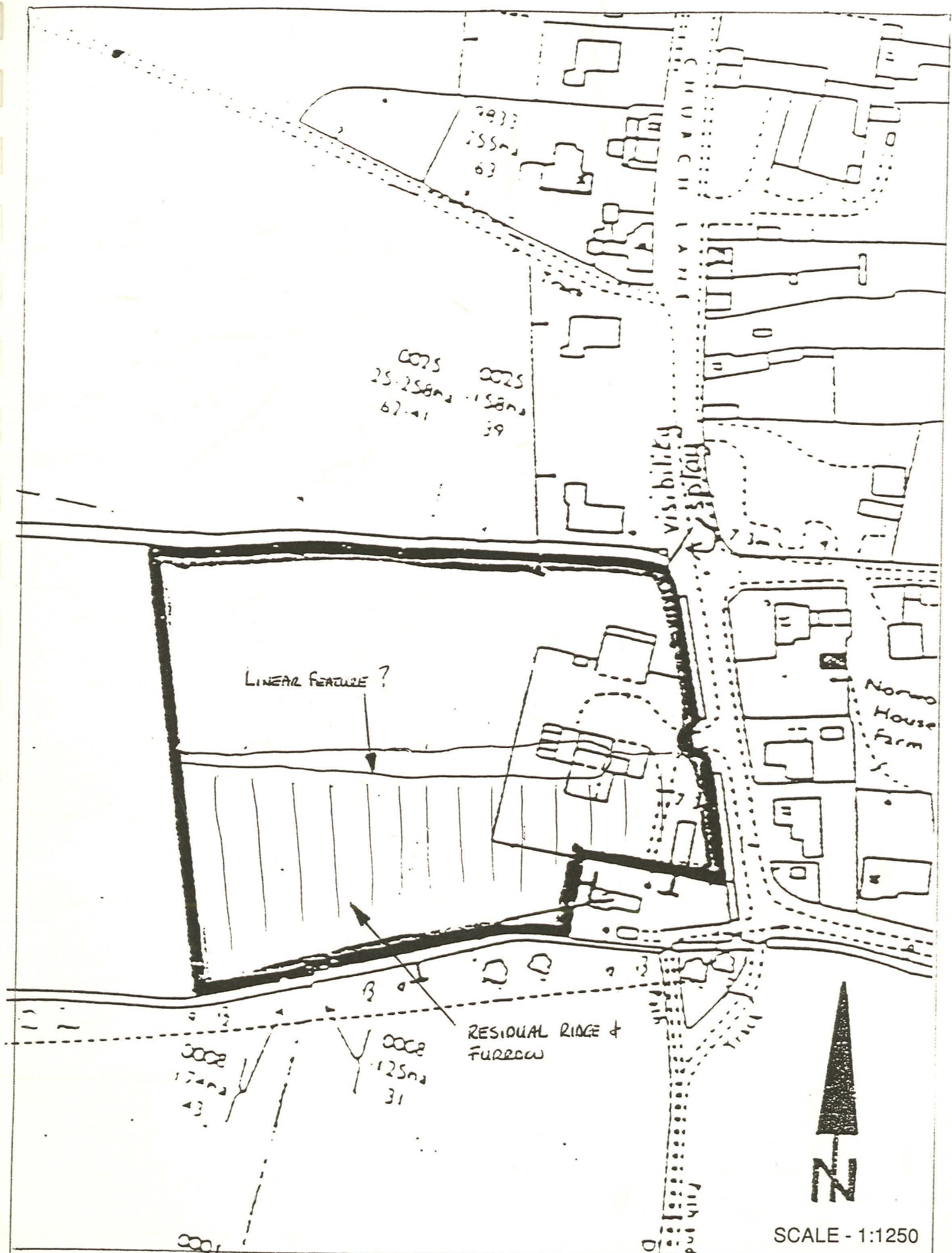


Fig.3 - Site Plan with plot of crop marks