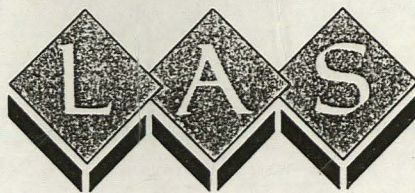


ELI 601

SLI 3507

43083 43084 93/5
43418 43419



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

FRANCIS HOUSE SILVER BIRCH PARK GREAT NORTHERN TERRACE LINCOLN LN5 8LG

TELEPHONE : (0522) 544554

SOUTH THORESBY
HAUGH LANE QUARRY EXTENSION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

April 1993

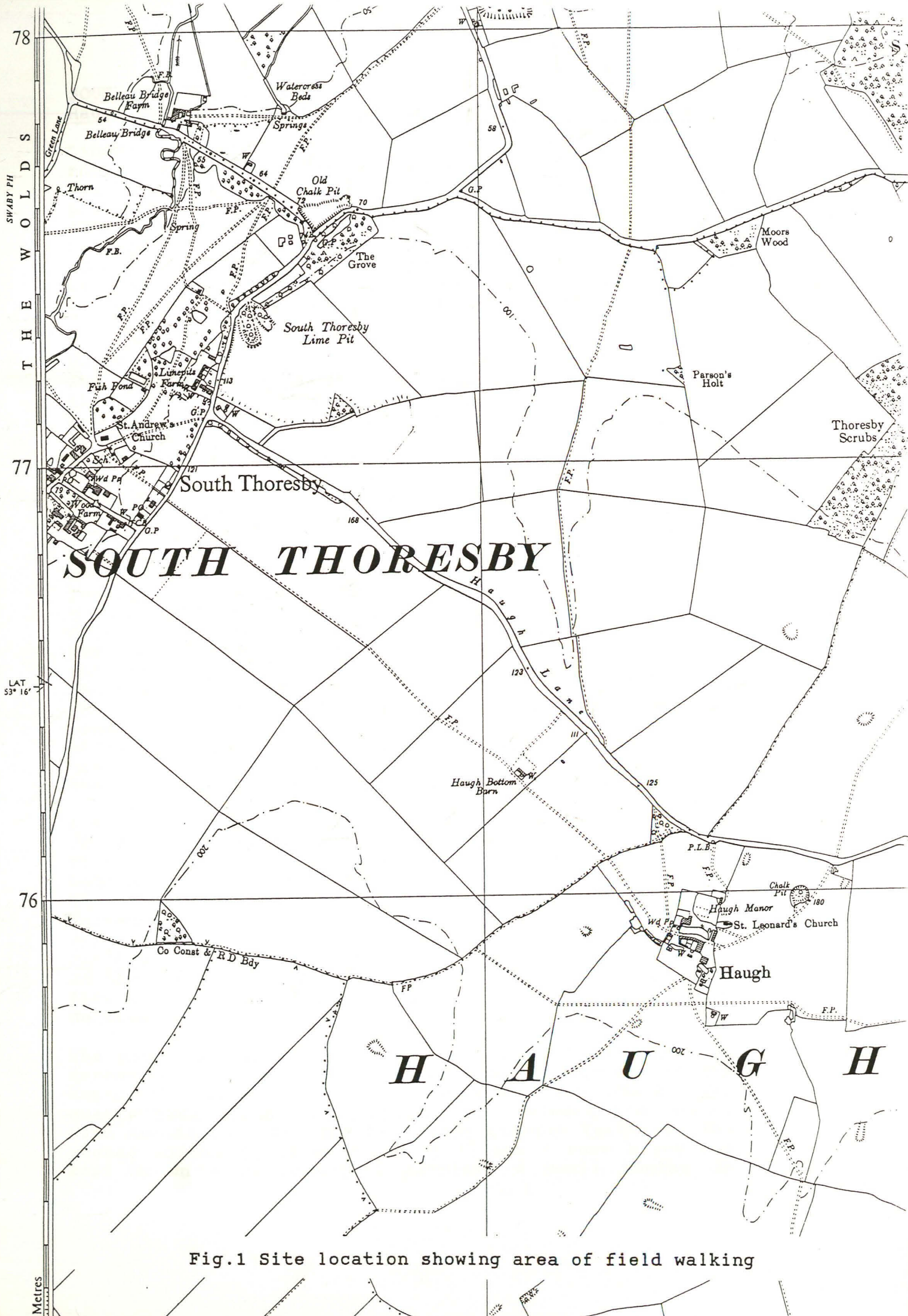


Fig.1 Site location showing area of field walking

SOUTH THORESBY QUARRY

Haugh Lane Quarry Extension: Archaeological Evaluation

Lindsey Archaeological Services were commissioned by Montagu Evans to conduct a fieldwalking survey of land in South Thoresby where their client Singleton Birch Ltd proposes to extend their existing chalk quarry (NGR. TF 4065 7700) (Pl.1). The work was designed to fulfil the requirements of Planning permission E163/418/92 (Condition 4) and the project brief was set by the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Officer, Mr. S. Catney. Fieldwork was completed on 29.3.93.

Background

The present South Thoresby village is located mostly to the SW of St. Andrew's Church but earthworks of the medieval village, including fishponds, survive to the N of the church. The road network has declined, abandoning the lane between Haugh Lane and the church which is now a deep hollow within grassland. Medieval farming traces have been recorded on air photographs at the SW edge of the village.

Previous archaeological finds from South Thoresby have not been well recorded and are now lost. In 1947 the remains of a large clay-lined pit, apparently containing a flued structure incorporating bricks, were found near Calceby Beck Houses at the parish limit. Butchered red deer antlers and other animal bones were found but no pottery was seen. A Roman urn was noted from South Thoresby by the local Ordnance Survey archaeologist, C.W. Phillips (undated record, but before 1932), but in 1964 Lincoln Museum had no information about the find. Lindsey Archaeological Services recorded the structure of an upstanding 'mud and stud' cottage in Haugh Lane close to the quarry in advance of alterations in 1991.

Site Location and Conditions

The proposed quarry extension is planned to cover an area of 4.8 ha., located to the SE of the present workings and bounded on the S and W sides by Haugh Road. The land area is no longer sub-divided by field boundaries but is farmed in several distinct blocks with crops at different stages of growth. The fieldwalking included land under visible crop, where the soil was a coarse tilth, but most of the field had been ploughed, rolled and drilled to a fine tilth, particularly on the W side of the slope where no crop had yet sprouted (Pls.2-4).

The field surface was uneven and soil-marks of grey or darker brown were thought to represent variations in the depth of boulder-clay over the underlying chalk. The quarry face shows an uneven horizon between the layers with anomalies which may be filled glacial features. The stones on the field were mostly flints - some black but most brown - or sandstone pebbles. A small number of

larger boulders were seen, and examined, but none had signs of human use.

The copse was excluded from the fieldwalking survey as unsuitable. The mature trees are surrounded by thin undergrowth and virtually no soil is available for inspection. It is unlikely that archaeological remains other than those found elsewhere in the field survive in that area; no finds of any date are recorded from the adjacent quarry face.

Method

Fieldwalking took place on 29.3.1993; the ground surface was very dry and conditions fluctuated from cloudy to moderate sunshine. Fieldwalking was parallel to the direction of drilling and at 10m intervals. Findspots were accurately plotted using a theodolite (Pl.5). Each spot was assigned a number which, in the majority of cases, represents an individual find. Sometimes two or three finds were in close proximity and were plotted together as a single find spot. (Numbers 32 -40 inclusive were not used and finds from spots 21,22,47,56,73 and 105 were found to be non-archaeological and excluded from further analysis).

Results

The Worked Flint (Fig.2)

54 prehistoric worked flints were recovered from the survey, most of which appear to be late Neolithic/early Bronze Age in type (Appendix 1). The majority of the pieces (44) comprised flakes of flint struck from varying qualities of brown and black material, and discarded as waste. (Two of these flakes had been additionally worked, no. 12, which had a notch on one side and no. 15 which had evidence of retouch). In addition there were three cores (nos. 51, 63 and 98), two blades (nos. 14 and 59) and five scrapers (nos. 12,69, 80, 84 and 97).

The density was greatest on the top of the slope, particularly in the E part of the area; few were recovered from identical conditions to the W or from the land under crop N of the copse. The low number of tools present (only seven) together with their random distribution across the field means that the probability of there being an associated settlement is low. No prehistoric pottery fragments were found.

The Pottery and Other Later Finds

The pottery was examined and identified by Jane Young at the City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit and a Table is appended (Appendix 2). The distribution of medieval pottery sherds is shown on Fig.3, the post-medieval pottery and other materials are not figured.

27 sherds of medieval pottery and a further 25 post-medieval fragments were found. (It should be noted that

whilst not every piece of obviously late pottery was picked up, the density of material over the field was low). Many sherds were very abraded and sherd size was small. Six pieces were so badly worn that no identification was possible beyond their medieval date (nos. 23,45,46,50, 91 and 94).

The majority of the medieval pieces were in a local sandy fabric, probably dating to the mid 13th-15th centuries. (nos.41,42,43,58,71,75,79 and 99). A larger sherd, 79 was from a pipkin or jar. No. 66 was in a similar fabric but slightly later in date. A further six medieval sherds were noted. There were three pieces which were not local, whose source is unidentified (74,82,85), one each of Lincoln sandy ware types 2 (72) and 3 (54) and a single sherd from Nottingham (92).

In summary, none of the pottery picked up was dated to the pre-conquest period, a few pieces may have been as early as the late 12th century but the majority fell within the date range 13th-15th centuries.

Of the 25 later pottery sherds the majority had green glaze decoration and ranged in date from the 16th -18th centuries (nos. 3,48,60,66,67,68,70,78,93 and 104). The only piece of note was no.60 which may be a Dutch import. There was one piece of Cistercian Ware (93) of a similar date. There was a piece of a 19th century stoneware bottle (83).

In addition to the pottery there was a scattering of clay pipe stems and modern bottle glass (which was not picked up). The small size of the pottery sherds, their abraded condition and their random distribution across the field suggests that the material was deposited as a result of manuring, a common practice which occurred throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods. Domestic refuse was often mixed up with animal manure which was removed from the farmyard for deposition on surrounding fields.

Conclusion

The survey found some evidence of prehistoric human activity in the survey area. The Lincolnshire Wolds were a favoured area for settlement during the Neolithic and Bronze Ages and similar concentrations of flint artefacts are quite common from parishes where more intensive fieldwork has been carried out, such as Somersby or Salmonby. No contemporary pottery was recovered and the flint assemblage was too restricted to predict the likelihood of surviving settlement features such as pits, ditches or dwellings on the site. No Roman finds were identified; the reported find of an urn from South Thoresby remains unconfirmed but it is unlikely to have come from the vicinity of this survey.

The medieval and later material represents the common level of finds introduced to arable land by contemporary manuring practices. There is no reason to suspect the remains of any building on the site.

The retrieved finds are not considered to warrant intensive investigation by means of further fieldwalking or geophysical survey. Further information about the nature of prehistoric activity here might be obtained from archaeological monitoring of mechanical topsoil clearance on the site in advance of any extension of the quarry area. In the event that this produces evidence of archaeological features of significance, the opportunity to record these would be required.

Acknowledgement

The fieldwalking survey was directed by M. Clark, who also plotted the archaeological finds.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
31.3.1993

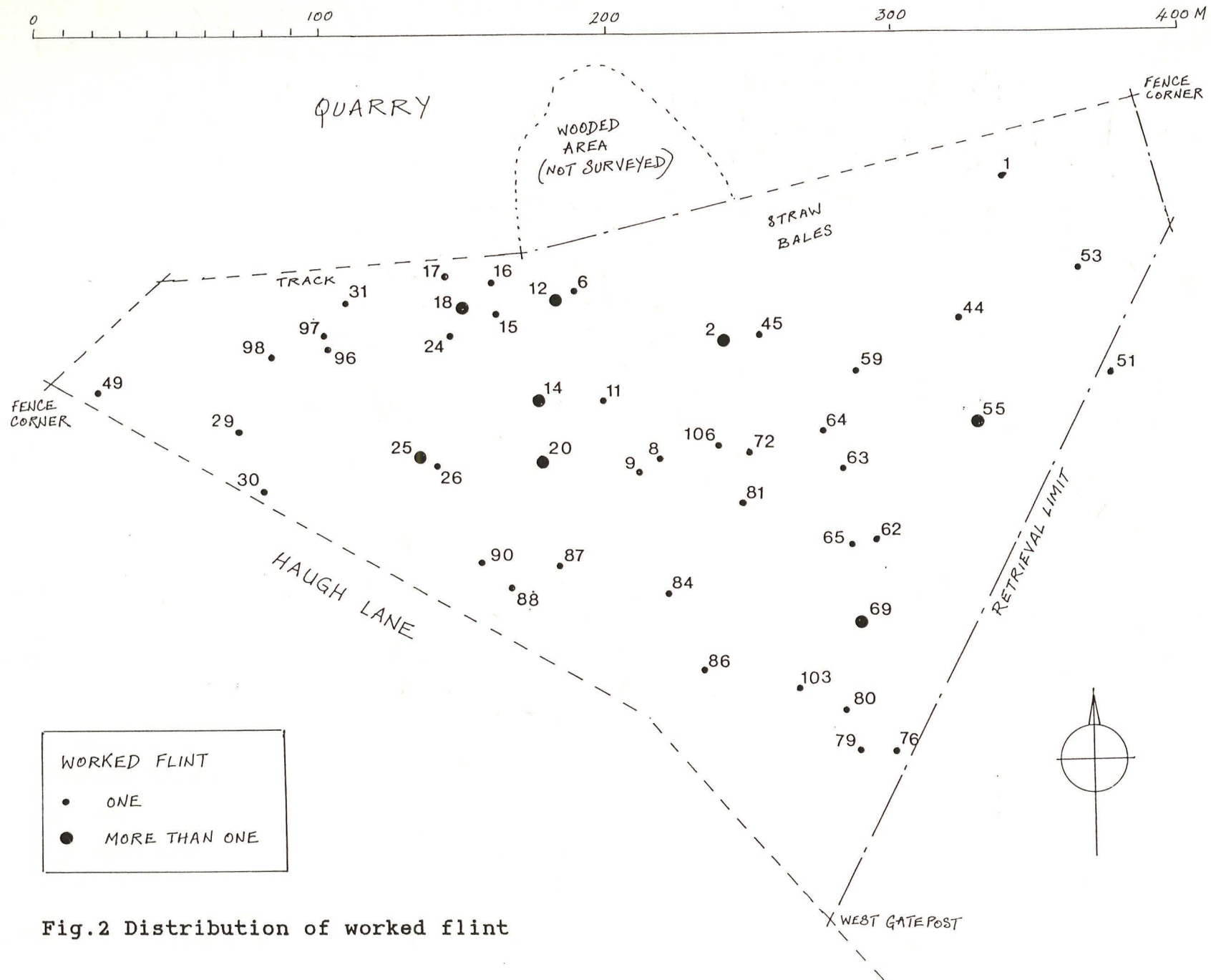


Fig.2 Distribution of worked flint

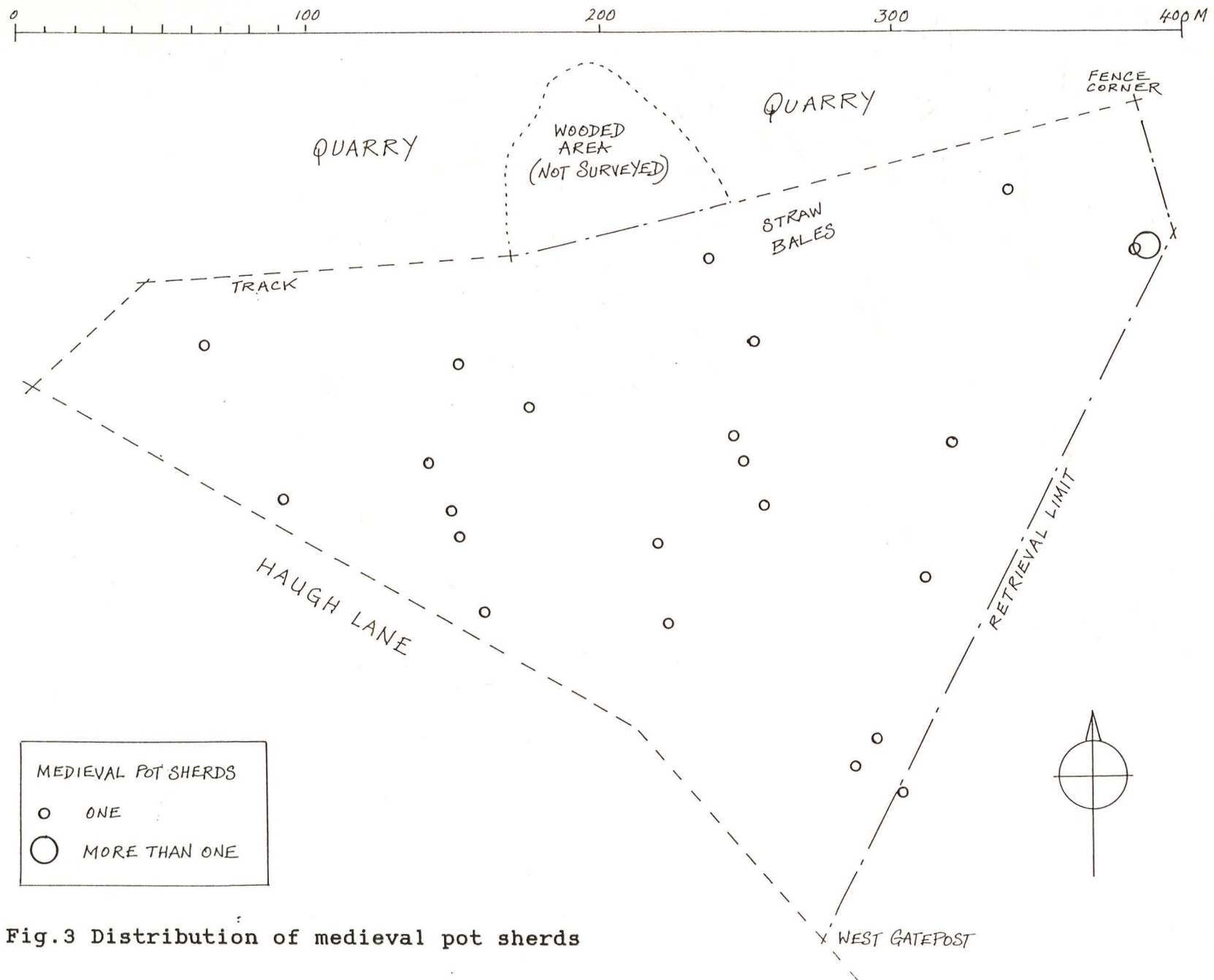


Fig.3 Distribution of medieval pot sherds

APPENDIX
THE FLINT FINDS

1 1 flake
2 2 flakes
6 1 flake
8 1 flake
9 1 flake
11 1 flake
12 1 scraper, 1 notched flake
14 1 blade, 1 flake
15 1 flake with retouch
16 1 flake
17 1 flake
* 18 2 flakes
20 3 flakes
24 1 flake
25 2 flakes
26 1 flake
29 1 flake
30 1 flake
44 1 flake
45 1 flake
49 1 flake
51 1 core
53 1 flake
55 2 flakes
59 1 blade (broken)
62 1 flake
63 1 core
64 1 flake
65 1 flake
69 1 scraper 1 flake
72 1 flake
76 1 flake
79 1 flake
80 1 scraper
81 1 flake
84 1 scraper
86 1 flake
87 1 flake
88 1 flake
90 1 flake
96 1 flake
97 1 scraper
98 1 core
103 1 flake
106 1 flake

TOTAL 54 flakes
5 scrapers
3 cores
2 blades

APPENDIX 2
THE MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

| POTTERY TYPE | DATE (CENTURY) | FIND NUMBERS |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| MEDIEVAL NON-LOCAL | L12-14 | 74 82 85 |
| MEDIEVAL LOCAL | M13-15 | 41 42 43 58 66 71 75 79 99 |
| LINCOLN SANDY GLAZED (2 | M13-14 | 72 |
| LINCOLN SANDY GLAZED (3) | 14-15 | 54 |
| NOTTG'HAM GREEN GLAZE | M13-14 | 92 |
| BOURNE | 16-17 | 23 |
| TOYNTON/BOLINGBROKE | 16-18 | 42 |
| GLAZED RED EARTHENWARE | 16-18 | 3 48 60 66 67 68 70 78 93 104 |
| SLIPWARE | 16-18 | 52 |
| CISTERCIAN | 16-18 | 93 |
| FRECHEN (import) | 16-18 | 57 |
| WESTERWALD (import) | E17-18 | 98 |
| BLACK GLAZE | 17-18 | 13 61 99 102 |
| LATE STONEWARE | 18-19 | 95 |
| LATE POST-MED STONEWARE | 19 | 83 |
| BROWN STONEWARE (NOTTS) | 18-20 | 10 14 |
| MISC (unidentifiable) | - | 45 46 50 77 91 |



Pl. 1 South Thoresby present quarry



Pl.2 South Thoresby proposed quarry extension, looking west



Pl.3 South Thoresby, ground conditions



Pl. 4 South Thoresby, ground conditions



Pl. 5 South Thoresby, archaeological survey in progress