

SUTTERTON, Rainwall's Lane  
and Post Office Lane  
Desk-top Assessment  
SP094

94/5



A P S  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

**DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT OF THE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF  
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AT  
RAINWALL'S LANE AND  
POST OFFICE LANE,  
SUTTERTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For  
Savills International Property Consultants

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Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street,  
Heckington,  
SLEAFORD,  
Lincolnshire NG34 9RW

Part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire  
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## 1. SUMMARY

*A desk-top assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at Rainwall's Lane and Post Office Lane, Sutterton, Lincolnshire. Several archaeological sites and findspots are located in the vicinity of the proposed development site. Evidence for prehistoric activity in the area is lacking, though a Romano-British occupation site is located approximately three-quarters of a kilometre southeast of the proposed development site. However, this apparent paucity of early exploitation is probably due to burial of the evidence by alluvium, rather than genuine absence.*

*Located northwest of the village centre, numerous medieval and later sites surround the proposed development site. Findspots of medieval pottery may relate to cropmarks recorded on aerial photographs. These cropmarks have previously been interpreted as indicting the site of Riche, a lost medieval settlement. Remains of medieval date may occur on the Post Office Lane section of the proposed development site. No evidence was obtained for any past occupation or activity on Rainwall's Lane.*

*The desk-top study established that Sutterton House, an early 17th century hall, was located north of Post Office Lane and on the proposed development area. This information corrects both the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist, both of which record Sutterton House on the south side of the lane.*

*Assessed as locally important, the site of the seventeenth century hall may retain evidence of ground plan and the location and arrangement of associated structures and activities. Buried environmental*

*remains of ancient date are known to survive in the area. The whole of the proposed development area has ground conditions considered to be appropriate for geophysical survey.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by Savills International Property Consultants to undertake a desk-top assessment of the area around Post Office Lane and Rainwall's Lane, Sutterton, Lincolnshire. This was to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site, as detailed in planning applications B18/0369/93 and B18/0370/93. This archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with a brief set by the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council.

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Sutterton is situated 8km southwest of Boston, in the civil parish of Sutterton, Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The town is located 8km from the southwest corner of The Wash, and between the Rivers Welland, to the south, and Witham, which lies to the north.

Located at a height of c. 3m OD, the investigation areas are situated on the north side of Post Office Lane and west side of Rainwall's Lane, half a kilometre northwest of the centre of Sutterton village. Centred on National Grid References TF28153695 and TF28083600 respectively, the two proposed development sites cover approximately one hectare (Fig. 2).

Local soils are the Pepperthorpe/Tanvats



Association typical alluvial gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319). These soils, usually found near areas settled in the Anglo-Saxon period, probably represent early reclaimed land (Robson 1990, 30). Immediately adjacent to the Post Office Lane site are Wisbech Association calcareous alluvial gley soils. Both soil types are developed in marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 361). Beneath this marine alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights (Harden 1978, 5). These glacial deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic clays.

### 3. AIMS

The aims of the desk-top assessment were to locate and, if present, evaluate any archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed development area. Such location and assessment of significance would permit the formulation of an appropriate response to integrate the needs of the archaeology with the proposed development programme.

### 4. METHODS

Compilation of the archaeological and historical data relevant to the area of the proposed development site involved examination of all appropriate primary and secondary sources available. These have included:

- historical documents, held in Lincolnshire Archives
- enclosure, tithe, parish and other maps and plans, held in Lincolnshire Archives
- recent and old Ordnance Survey maps
- the County Sites and Monuments

#### Record

- the files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist
- aerial photographs
- archaeological books and journals

Information obtained in the literature and cartographic examination was supplemented by a visit to the proposed construction site. This reconnaissance investigated the present land use and condition; the presence, or otherwise, of dumped materials; and the appropriateness for geophysical survey. Results of the archival and field examinations were committed to scale plans of the area.

## 5. RESULTS

### 5.1 Historical data

Sutterton is not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. However, the same survey recorded ploughland and meadow in Dowdyke, which is in Sutterton (Foster and Longley 1976, 60). Also mentioned in Domesday was the extinct village of Riche, believed to have been partly included in Sutterton. Ploughland and meadow constituted the record for this lost settlement (*ibid.*, lxii; 70). The place-name Riche may derive from the Old English *ric*, meaning 'stream, ditch'. Dowdyke may be 'ditch of the doves', though it is more probable that the first element is the personal name *Duve*. In 1200, Sutterton received its first mention when it was referred to as 'Suterton'. This place-name means 'the shoemaker's homestead/village', from Old English *sutere* or Old Scandinavian *sutari*, and Old English *tun* (Ekwall 1974, 386; 149; 454).

### 5.2 Cartographic Data

Rainwall's Lane and Post Office Lane are situated on the northern side of Sutterton township. Appropriate maps for the



vicinity were examined.

Dating from 1788 and copied in 1851, the plan of Munk's estates in Sutterton and Algarkirk covers the area north of Post Office Lane. At the time the survey was compiled, a field close to the proposed development area was called Mill Hill Green (Fig. 3). However, no structure was recorded in or adjacent to the field and the name may, therefore, relate to the former presence of a mill.

A fold in Bryant's *Map of the County of Lincoln* (1828) partially obscures the area of investigation. However, the representation is clear enough to establish that the area west of Rainwall's Lane was open ground, free of buildings. On the north side of Post Office Lane, opposite The Pools, a loose group of buildings is depicted, though the rest of the area appears as open ground.

Beetham's 1838 survey of Sutterton, copied by Lighton in 1876, records buildings on the north side of Post Office Lane. In particular, a large cruciform structure is depicted opposite the northwest corner of The Pools (Fig. 4).

The Ordnance Survey map of 1906 (Fig. 5) records a complex of buildings and an adjacent orchard on the north side of Post Office Lane, opposite the northwest corner of The Pools. Later Ordnance Survey, up to the 1956 publication, record the same building complex. However, by 1977, all these earlier structures had been removed and replaced by a small sewage pump house.

### 5.3 Aerial Photograph Data

Aerial photographs held in the files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist were examined for evidence of archaeological remains.

Photographs (code numbers: 3101 and 3102) taken by the RAF in 1946 record a building complex on the north side of Post Office Lane. An undated aerial photograph (reference code: PF EAV) also records this group of buildings. These structures are the same as those shown on the 1956 Ordnance Survey plan of the area. Approximately 300m north of these buildings, several faint, dark, cropmarks are evident on the RAF photographs. These cropmarks are equatable with the archaeological records, SMR13072, B/18/009, see Section 5.4, Archaeological Data, below.

No cropmarks, earthworks or buildings are evident on the proposed development site on the west side of Rainwall's Lane.

There are no aerial photographs of the Sutterton area in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record.

### 5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist were consulted. Other, secondary, sources were also examined. Details of archaeological and historical remains falling within three-quarters of a kilometre of the proposed development area are collated here and committed to Fig. 2. (see next page)



County Sites and Monuments Record	Description	Grid Ref.	Boston Community Archaeologist's Files
12510	Site of Sutterton House, built 1609; medieval pottery from field to north	TF283359 (TF28283595)	B18/011; B18/014
12511	Church of St Mary, Norman details, Transitional to Perpendicular; rebuilt 1787	TF285356	B18/013
12512	Roman pottery and clay ball(s)	TF286352	B18/004
12513	Medieval (and Post-Medieval) pottery	TF284360	B18/005
13071	Medieval pottery	TF285352	
13072	Cropmarks, possibly of Riche Deserted Medieval Village; junction of several footpaths	TF286363	B18/009
	Medieval pottery; silver Elizabethan coin (16th century)	TF28633614	B18/003
	Brickworks on Bryant's map, 1828	TF278360	B18/010
	Medieval coffin lid, relaid as stepping stone	TF28413589	B18/012
	Watching Brief, shallow foundation trenches; no archaeology observed	TF28483569	B18/017
	Romano-British pottery and clay balls in spoil from foundation trenches	TF28623538	B18/018
	Sutterton Grange, pilgrim's ampulla; buckles; pottery, Medieval to Georgian	TF278351	B18/019
	Dubious reports of coin of Cunobelin and Romano-British pottery	TF278351	B18/020

this reference.

Mee asserts a church at Sutterton in the Saxon period (1952, 373); however, no supporting evidence has been found for

In 1538, mention is made of the site of the manor of Dow Dyke Hall in Sutterton,

together with a windmill (Hodgett 1975, 48); however, it is probable that the mill was adjacent to Dowdyke Hall and, therefore, some 2.5km southwest of the present investigation area.

Opposite the Recreation Ground, 300m south of the proposed development area, is a thatched, timber-framed cottage of uncertain but possibly 18th century date (Healey 1990; newspaper cuttings in files of Boston District Community Archaeologist).

Observation of a water pipeline at National Grid Reference TF284360 recorded a shell layer at close to 3m depth. Containing cockle, mussel and oyster, this deposit was considered to represent a brackish water environment, probably an estuary. Alluvial sands and silts sealed these estuarine deposits (notes in files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist). This record was made immediately north of the proposed development area on Post Office Lane.

### 5.5 Site Reconnaissance

In mid-February 1994, a site visit of the proposed development area was undertaken. Visibility was good, the area being recently ploughed agricultural land.

Abundant medieval and later pottery was observed across the entire area, but appeared to be concentrated around the present sewage pumping station on the north side of Post Office Lane. A beet crop occupied the southern part of the Rainwall's Lane site and farm machinery was parked in the same area.

It was considered that conditions across the entire area were probably appropriate for magnetometry and resistivity survey, though the farm machinery will affect the magnetometry readings in the vicinity.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Prehistoric activity has not been identified in the area around Sutterton, though this may be due to masking of the evidence by alluvium, rather than a genuine absence of prehistoric exploitation (Tom Lane, pers. comm.). Evidence of (undated) marine transgressions has been recovered immediately north of the present investigation area. Similarly, alluviation may be responsible for the apparently limited Romano-British presence thus far identified. However, a Romano-British site, indicated by a concentration of artefacts, is located approximately 800m southeast of the proposed development area. A second Romano-British site may be located 1km southwest of the investigation area, though there is some doubt over the veracity of the records of discoveries made at this location.

Significantly greater evidence for use of the area in the medieval period is provided by sites, findspots and structures of this date. The present investigation area lies just to the north side of the modern village which is dominated by the Norman church of St Mary. Perhaps surprisingly, this church is not mentioned in Domesday. A medieval grave slab located immediately east of the proposed development site probably derives from the church or churchyard. Concentrations of medieval pottery have been recovered just north of Post Office Lane, on and adjacent to that part of the proposed development area. Additionally, a smaller assemblage of medieval ceramics has been collected from a location c. 350m to the northeast. These may be related to cropmarks and a conjunction of footpaths which, it has been suggested, represent the site of the lost Domesday village of Riche. In the same area, a map of 1788 records a field called Mill Hill Green, though no structure to account for the appellation is depicted.



Such negative evidence implies that the mill which gave rise to the name had been removed before the survey date.

At the beginning of the seventeenth century, Sutterton House, possibly a moderately-sized manorial hall, was erected on Post Office Lane. Both the County Sites and Monuments Record and the parish file of the Boston District Community Archaeologist register the site of this now demolished structure on the south side of the lane. However, cartographic evidence demonstrates that the building was located on the north side; that is, on the site of the proposed development. Other map and aerial photographic data show that the hall became a focus for other construction activity, possibly a complex of farm buildings. No structural remains relating to these buildings were evident during the site visit, though these may survive beneath the ploughsoil.

Due to the low-lying nature of the terrain, buried environmental remains may survive by virtue of waterlogging. Ground conditions that are probably suitable for geophysical survey exist across the entire site.

## 7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the *Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments* has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; see Appendix 1).

### **Period:**

Failed settlements are a characteristic of the Medieval period in Britain and often form a feature of the landscape, either as earthworks or as artefact scatters. Small manor houses or halls, as a symbol of social hierarchy, also characterise the Medieval and Post-Medieval periods

throughout Europe.

### **Rarity:**

Remains of deserted Medieval settlements, as identified in the area of investigation, are not in themselves uncommon, though they may possess rare or unusual features. Small Post-Medieval manor houses or yeomans' halls commonly survive as standing structures. Evidence for vacant sites of such establishments is less common, reconstruction on the same location usually having destroyed the earlier remains.

### **Documentation:**

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the Sutterton area are kept in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Boston Borough Community Archaeologist. The present report provides the first synopsis and synthesis of the historical and archaeological evidence for the area.

### **Group value:**

By virtue of their clustering in this general area, the group value of the Medieval settlement evidence is moderately high. Association with other sites of contemporary date in the vicinity confers moderately high group value on the Post-Medieval hall. This evidence of multi-period exploitation of the landscape enhances the group value still further.

### **Survival/Condition:**

Limited post-medieval development has occurred on the site, consequently buried deposits have suffered little impact from construction. However, it is probable that agricultural use of the area will have caused some degradation of archaeological remains. No previous archaeological intervention has been made into the site to assess the level of deposit survival, though previous surveillance registered alluvial silts below an unrecorded depth of



ploughsoil.

Palaeoenvironmental material is known to survive at depth on the site.

#### **Fragility/Vulnerability:**

As the proposed development will impact the investigation area, possibly into natural strata, any and all archaeological deposits present on the site are extremely vulnerable.

#### **Diversity:**

Moderate period and functional diversity is indicated by the general settlement activity of Medieval date, represented by the artefact scatters and cropmarks, and the higher status domestic establishment of the Post-Medieval period, defined by the site of Sutterton House.

#### **Potential:**

Potential for medieval settlement spreading into the area of proposed development is high, as is evidenced by artefact scatters immediately north of the Post Office Lane site. Very high potential exists for evidence of the post-medieval hall, Sutterton House, surviving in this same area. However, the archaeological potential of the site west of Rainwall's Lane is considered to be low.

There is high potential that palaeoenvironmental material survives at depth.

## **8. CONCLUSIONS**

The concentrations of archaeological finds and observations represent occupation and use of this area of Sutterton in the past.

Prehistoric activity is unknown in the area, though artefacts suggest that a Romano-British settlement is located 800m southeast of the proposed development

site. However, it is probable that burial by alluvium is responsible for these limited indications of early exploitation, rather any real absence of settlement evidence. Although located on the northern edge of the village, the investigation site is situated in an area of numerous discoveries and sites of medieval date. Quantities of artefacts from various locations to the north and northeast of Post Office Lane may relate to cropmarks and a conflux of footpaths which have been considered to indicate the site of the lost medieval village of Riche. Minor place-name evidence suggests that a mill was located in the vicinity, but had been demolished by the late eighteenth century. It is probable that some of this medieval settlement impinged upon the proposed development area.

In 1609, Sutterton House was erected on the area. Both the County records and those of the Boston Borough Archaeologist incorrectly record this building on the south side of Post Office Lane. Shown to have been situated on the north side of the lane, this hall became a focus for a complex of buildings, probably of an agricultural nature. Now demolished, these structures were located in the Post Office Lane part of the proposed development area. No evidence was obtained for any previous occupation on the Rainwall's Lane section of the proposed development site.

Abundant medieval and later artefacts were recognised on the site visit. Ground conditions appropriate for geophysical examination exist across the whole of the proposed development area.

## **9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr R J Hurst of Savills International Property Consultants who commissioned



the assessment. The work was coordinated by Steve Haynes and this report was edited by Dave Start. Denise Buckley produced the illustrations. Tom Lane kindly provided information on alluviation in the area. Jim Bonnor, the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council permitted examination of the relevant files. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was provided by Julia Wise of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

## 10. REFERENCES

All of the following sources were consulted in the data-gathering exercise. However, as some references duplicated information available in others, not all of them have been specifically referred to in the text.

Bryant, A, 1828 *Map of the County of Lincoln*

Clifton, M, 1788 *A Plan of the Estate belonging to Mr Matthew Munk in the Parishes of Sutterton and Algarkirk in the County of Lincoln (copy 1851)*

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Mee, A 1952 *Lincolnshire, The King's England* (London)

Pevsner, N, and Harris, J, 1989 *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England, (2nd ed, revised Antram, N)*

Robson, J D, 1990 *Soils of the Boston and Spalding district, Soil Survey and Land Research Centre*

## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed with 'SMR' are the primary reference numbers used by the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

Numbers prefixed by 'B' are the reference codes used by the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council.

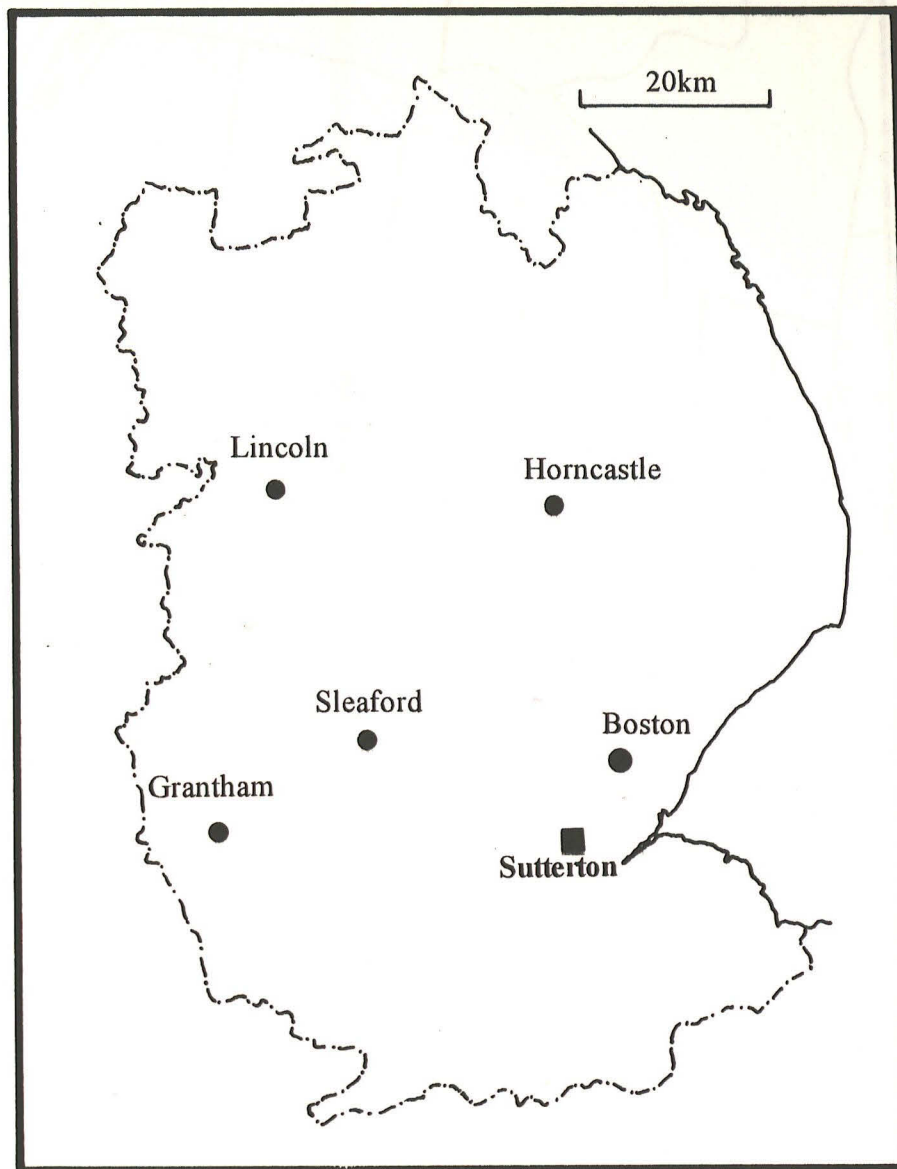
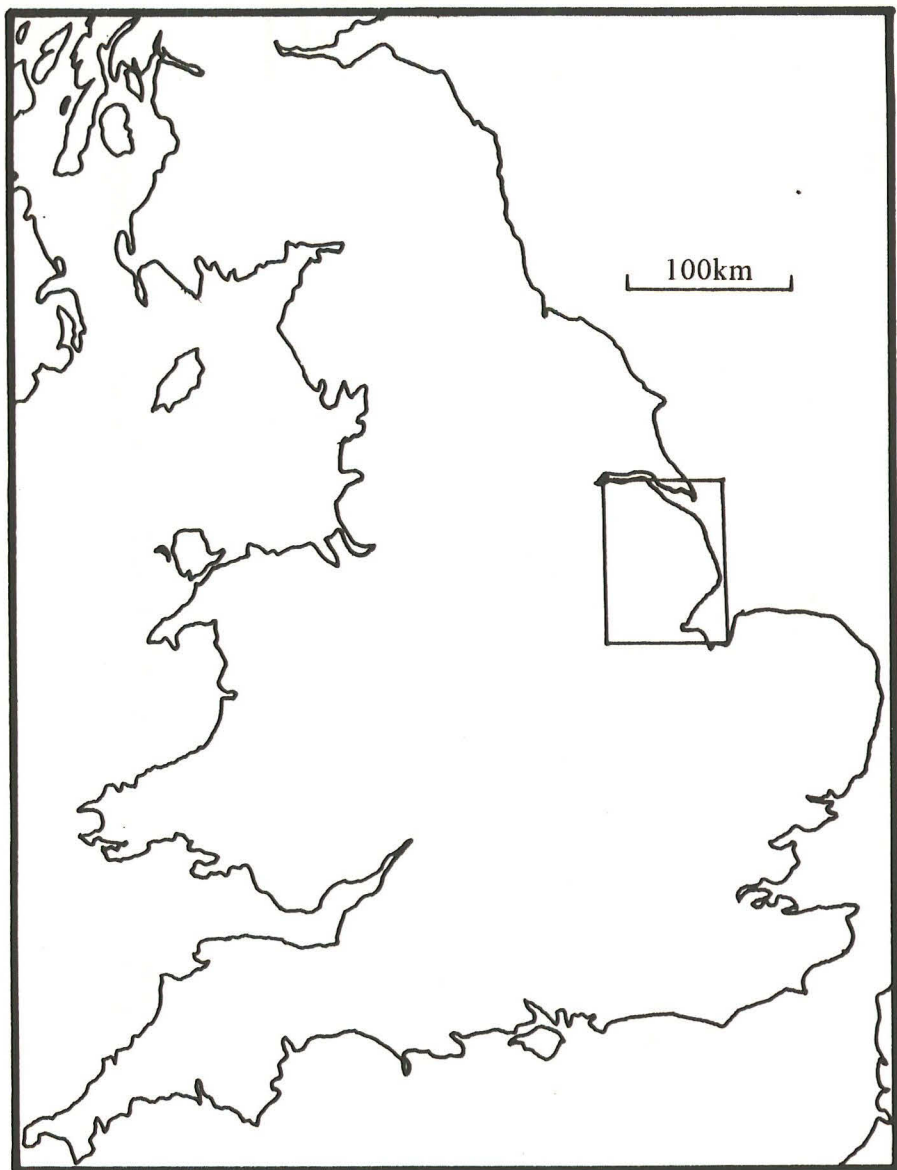
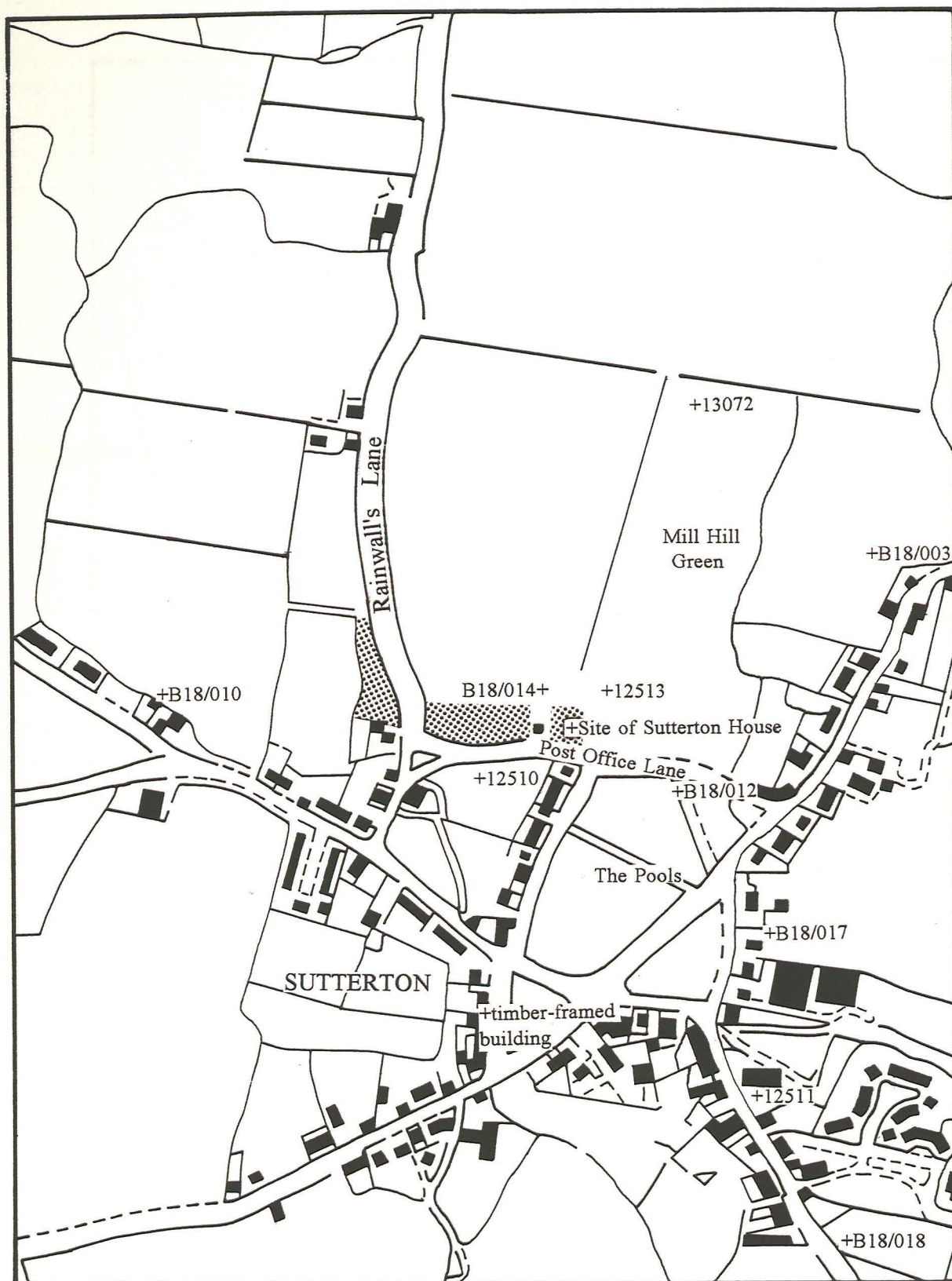


Fig. 1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN



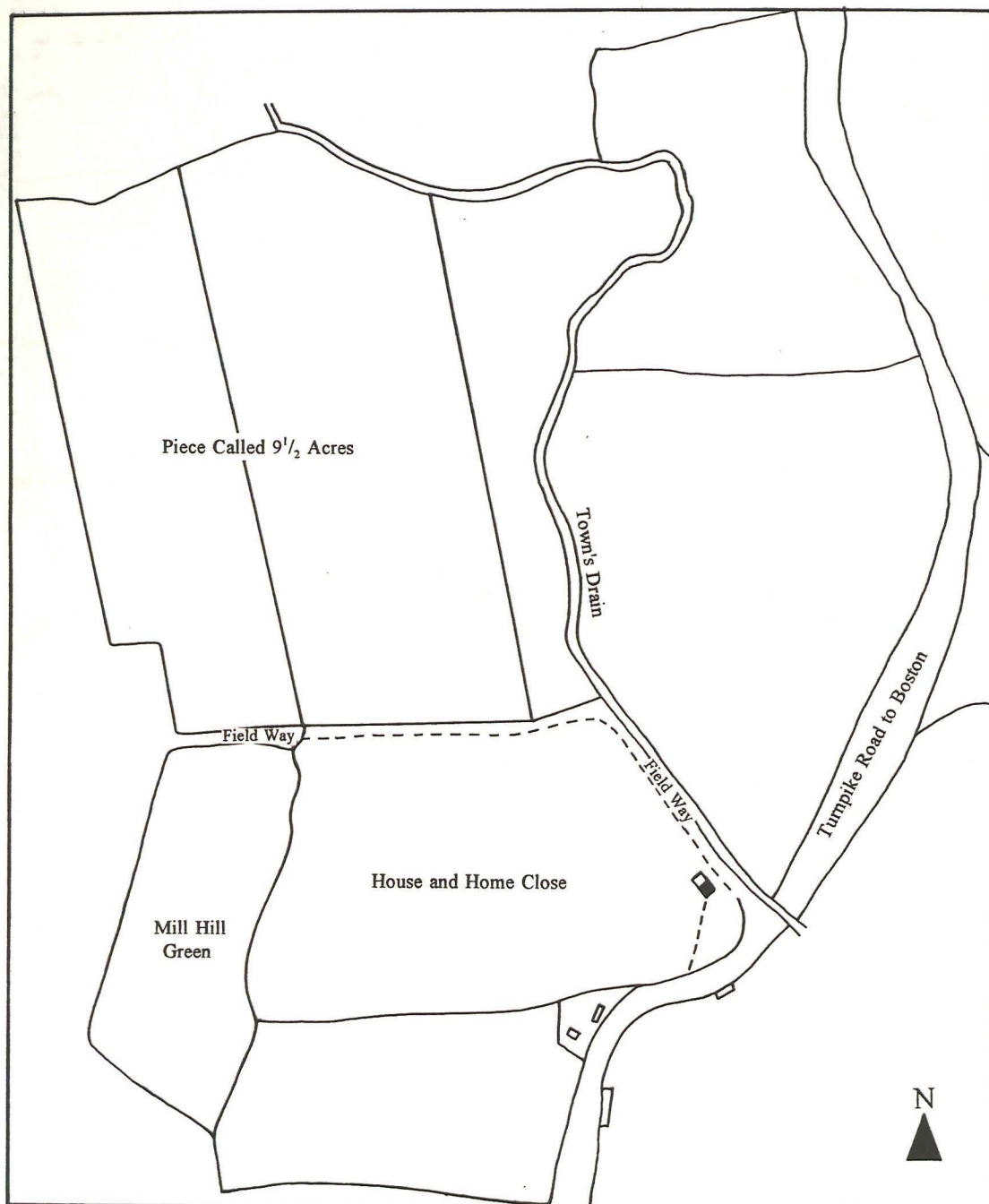
Fig. 2 SITE LOCATION PLAN



Area of Investigation

Fig 4 EX  
COVER

Fig. 3 COPY OF PART OF THE MAP OF  
MUNK'S ESTATES IN SUTTERTON, 1788



Area of Proposed Development





Fig. 4 EXTRACT OF LIGHTON'S 1876 MAP OF SUTTERTON,  
COVERING AREA OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

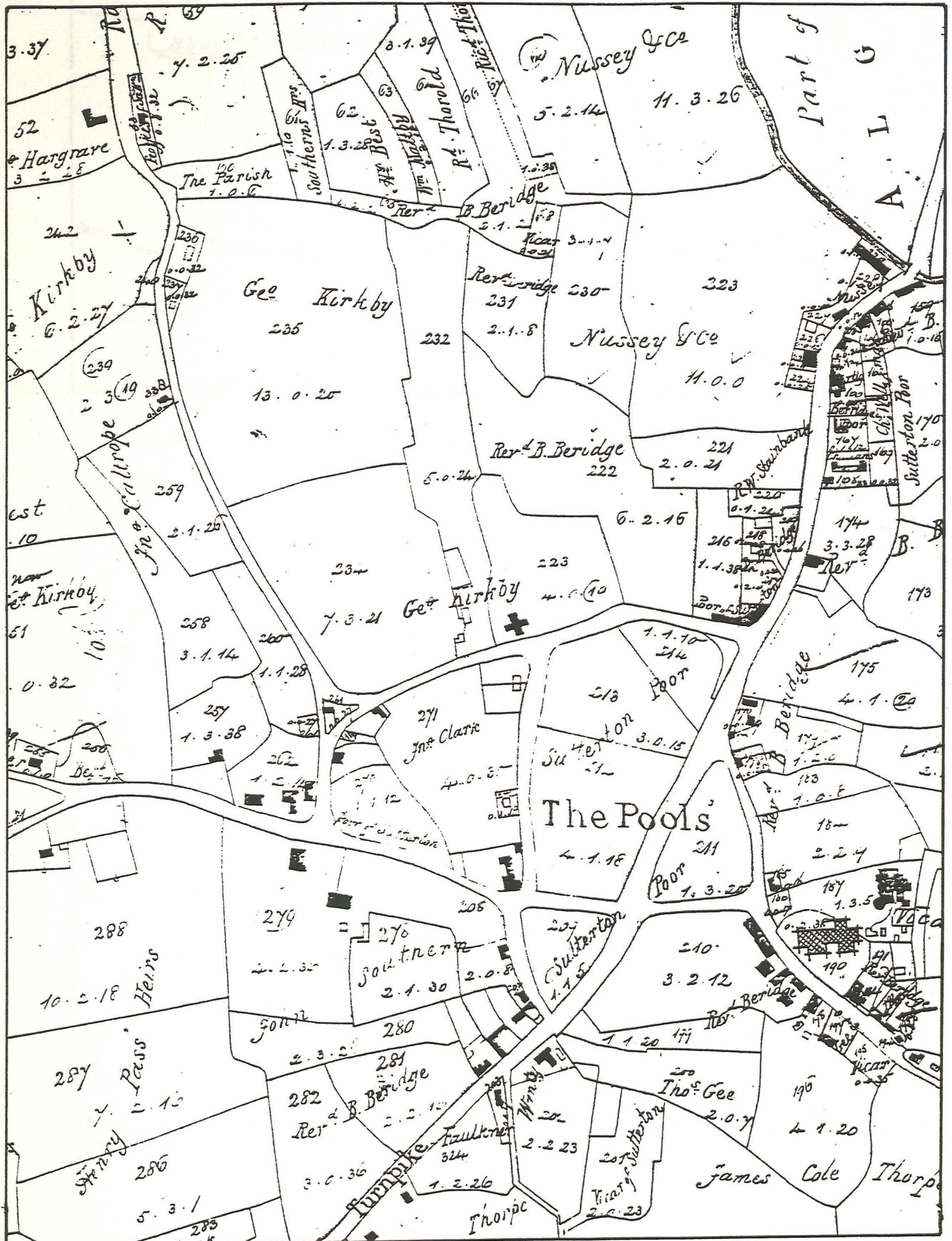
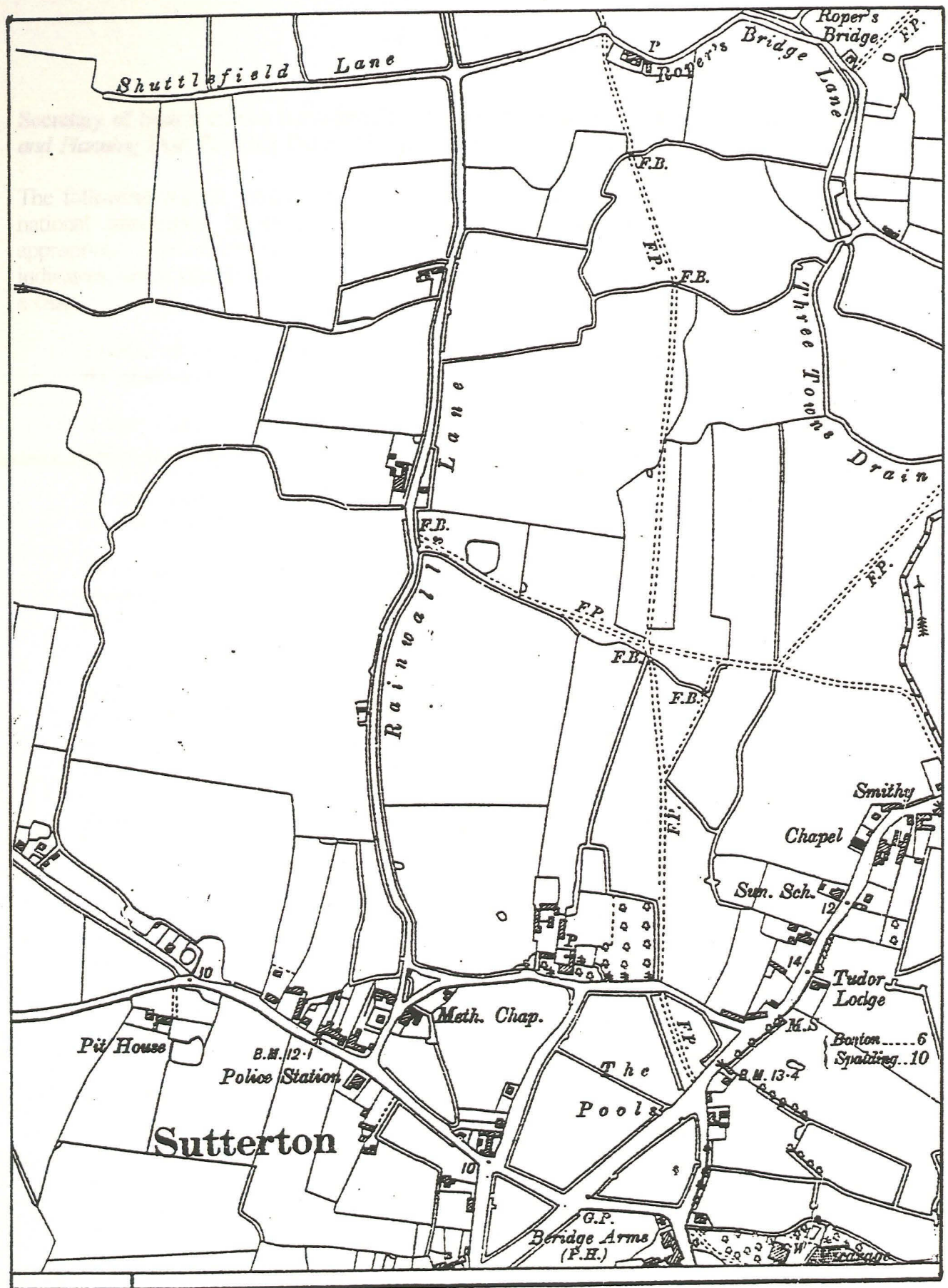




Fig. 5 EXTRACT OF 1906 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP,  
SHOWING DEVELOPMENT AREA





## APPENDIX 1

### Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling Ancient Monuments - Extract from *Archaeology and Planning* DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.

iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.

vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.