



INDEX DATA	RPS INFORMATION
Scheme Title A16 (T) Partney Bu-Pass.	Details Preliminary Archaeological Survey.
Road Number A16	Date
Contractor Heritage Lincolnshire.	
County Lincolnshire.	
OS Reference TF46.	
Single sided <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Double sided A3 1 Colour 0	

Preliminary Archaeological Survey  
for  
A16(T) Partney By-Pass  
Partney, Lincolnshire  
by  
Heritage Lincolnshire  
on behalf of  
Frank Graham, Consulting Engineers.

Report compiled by M. Dymond & M. Jarvis

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 A preliminary archaeological survey was undertaken by Heritage Lincolnshire on behalf of Frank Graham, Consulting Engineers. The survey covers a study area encompassing the proposed route of the A16(T) Partney by-pass, East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (National Grid Reference: TF 407685) (see fig. 1).
- 1.2 The aim of the survey is to establish, as far as possible within the scope of such work, the extent, date and nature of archaeological remains lying within the study area, through historical reference and preliminary archaeological survey, so as to enable a schedule of archaeological works to be defined, should they be required. The recommendations for further work are contained within a separate report.

## **2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA**

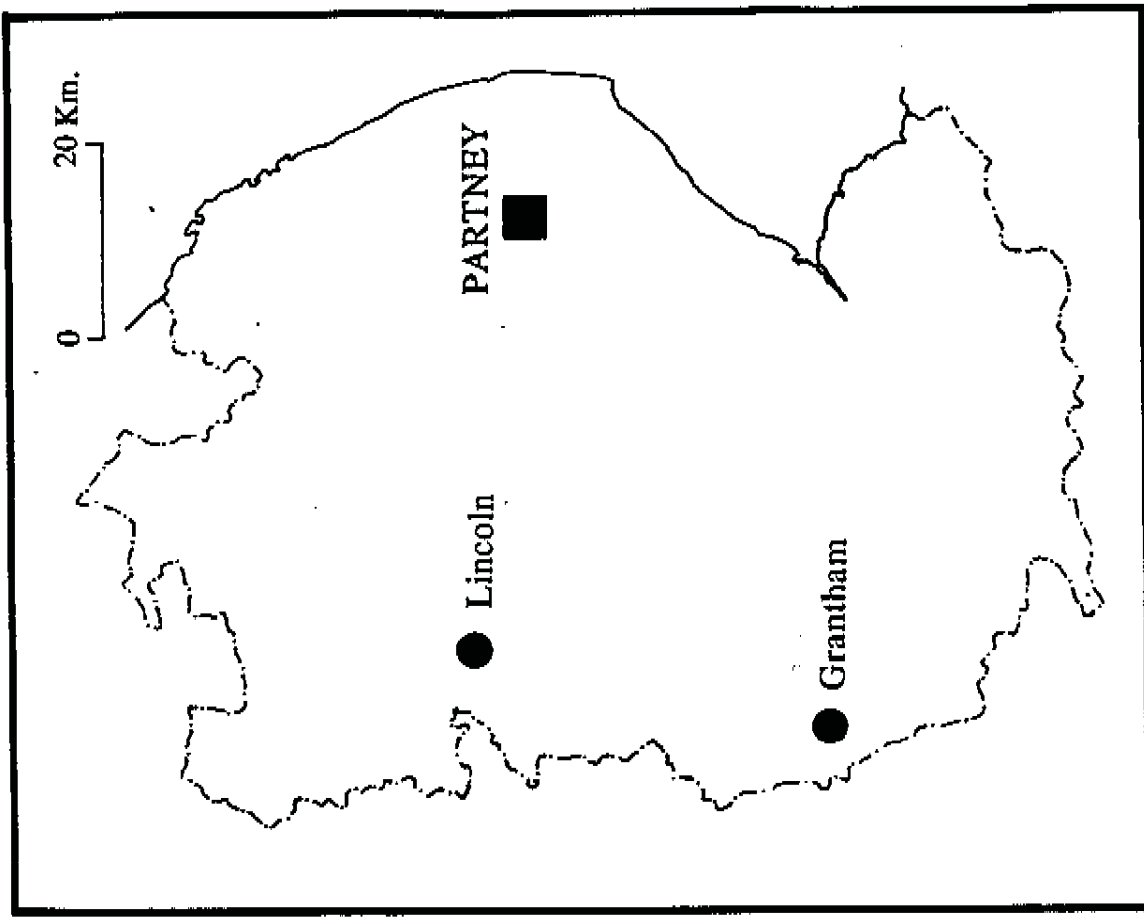
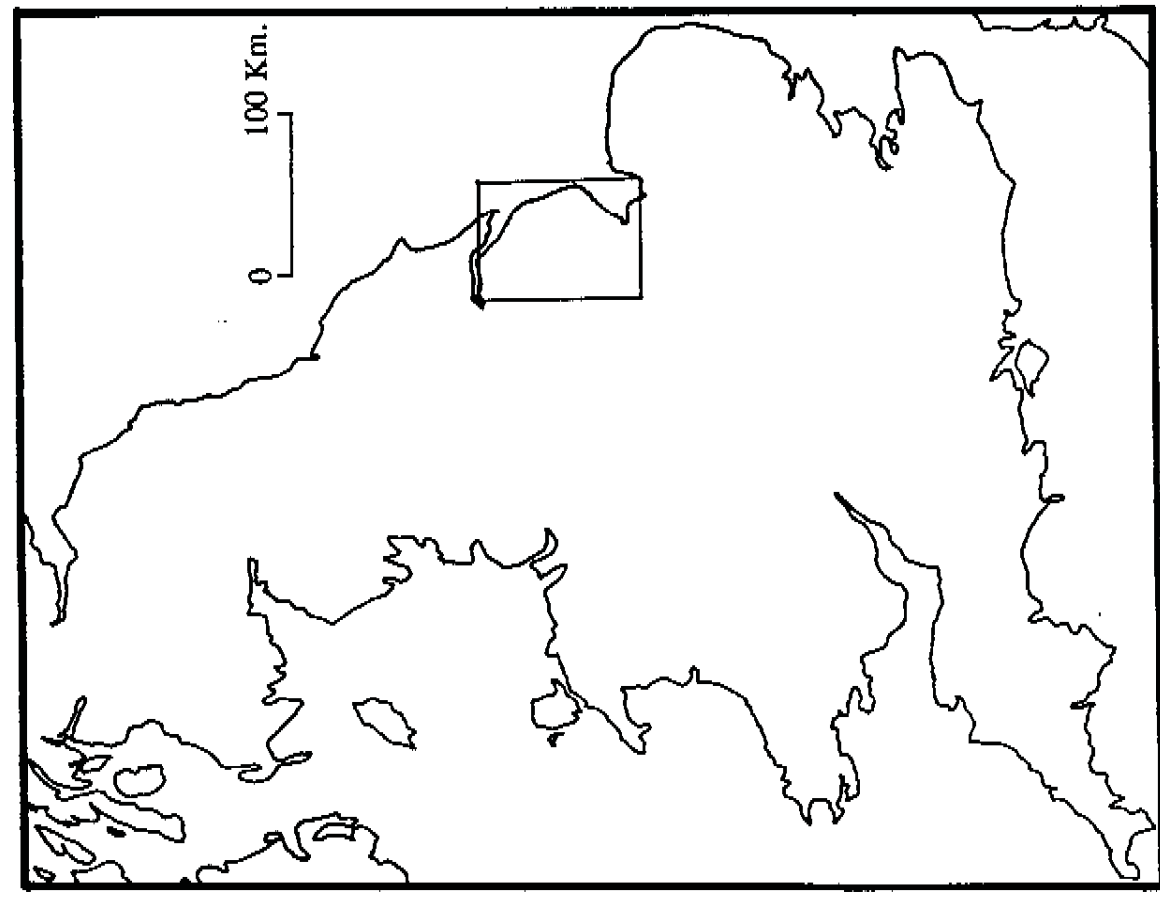
- 2.1 The study area lies on the eastern side of the village of Partney, and extends from the junction of the A158-A16, north along the A16 for a distance of c.1.6km. The eastern and southern boundaries of the study area are defined by the A16, whilst to the west it arcs from TF 404678 to TF 409696 in a crescent. Its maximum width is c. 600m and covers an area c. 56 hectares (138.38 acres).
- 2.2 Partney is situated in the valley of the River Lymn. From the south the ground level gradually rises to form a small gravel hill (or island), upon which the village is located. Approximately 300m into the study area are two tributaries of the River Lymn, one aligned east-west, the other following the main river valley downhill (south).
- 2.3 To the west the ground level drops and to the north the land falls to form a shallow valley with a ditch aligned northwest-southeast at its base. A narrow belt of meadow and woodland lines the sides of this ditch.

## **3.0 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

### **3.1 Topography**

Partney lies in the ancient administrative division of Lincolnshire known as Lindsey (east), to the east of the Lincoln clay vale, on the south-eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. The Lincolnshire

FIG. 1 LOCATION



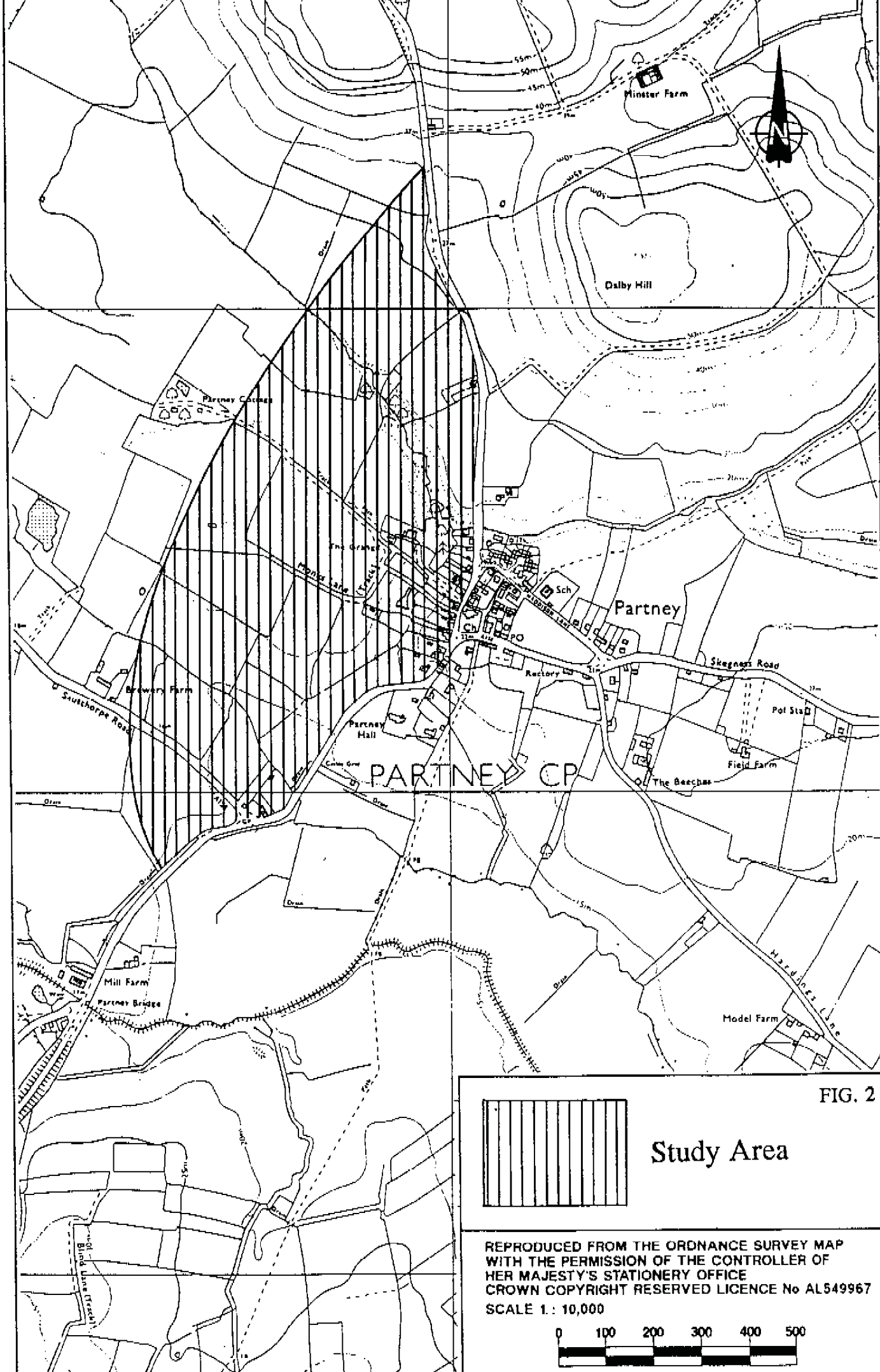
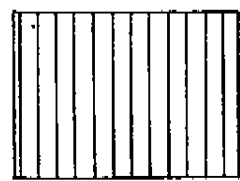


FIG. 2



Study Area

REPRODUCED FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP  
 WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CONTROLLER OF  
 HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
 CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED LICENCE No AL549967  
 SCALE 1 : 10,000



Wolds form part of a series of scarped chalk uplands and are essentially a high tableland of chalk dissected by streams and other forces of erosion forming ridges and valleys.

### 3.2 Geology

The underlying geology of the area consists of Lower Cretaceous rocks; Carstone, Snettisham and Tealby clays; Sandringham sands and Spilsby sandstone. These are sealed by a cap of chalk overlain by soils comprised of sandy ferritic brown earths. The matrix of these earths within the study area varies slightly depending on their location in respect to topographical features.

## 4.0 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

4.1 Information from various sources was gathered during research into the archaeological and historical setting of Partney. The Sites and Monuments Records (S.M.R.) maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire and the S.M.R. maintained by the County Archaeological Officer in Lincoln were consulted, in addition to records held by the Lincoln Archives office and the Lincoln City Library.

4.2 Copies of aerial photographs of Partney held by Cambridge University Aerial Photographic section, Lincolnshire County Council (Graphics Section) and the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (National Monuments Record, Swindon), were obtained. Visible archaeological features and anomalies were plotted onto Ordnance Survey scale 1:10,000 maps. Further aerial photographic coverage was supplied by the consulting engineers, Frank Graham.

4.3 During the survey each field within the study area was visited and a record of individual land use made. Each field is identified within the report by its Ordnance Survey field number.

## 5.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SETTING OF THE STUDY AREA

### Historical Setting

5.1 Historical references to Partney are primarily concerned with its 7th century abbey, a 12th century hospital, a 14th century monastic cell and their association with Bardney Abbey.

5.2 The Venerable Bede, twice, in his ecclesiastical History of the Anglo-Saxons, alludes to an Abbey at "*Peartenai, in Mercia*", where he refers to two Abbots of

Partney, Deda "a very truthful man" and Aldwine, whose sister, Ethelhilda, was Abbess of a neighbouring cell. *Whites Directory of Lincolnshire* quotes Tanner as referring to a hospital dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene (one of the earliest hospitals established in Lincolnshire), and a monastic cell, over which the Abbess Ethelhilda presided. The founder of the abbey is unknown.

- 5.3 It has been suggested that the monastic precinct covered the entire "island" of Partney, this being the higher ground still visible today (see 2.2). The layout of the monastic buildings within the suggested island precinct is unknown, although it is possible that a group of earthworks east of the church could be remains associated with the monastery.
- 5.4 Off the island, to the west of the church, are two fields named 'Monks Close' and 'Lower Monks Close' which are also thought, locally, to be the site of the monastery. However, these names probably refer to land which was farmed by, rather than the site of, the monastery.
- 5.5 A Tithe Award of 1839, held by the Lincolnshire Archive Office, refers to three field names with possible monastic connections: Low Monks (Lower Monks Close), High Monks (Monks Close) and Andrew Monks.
- 5.6 In the 9th century, the region around the Wash was invaded by Scandinavians. These people were staunch opponents of Christianity and it is believed that they destroyed the abbey at Partney around this time.
- 5.7 In 1087 Gilbert de Gaunt refounded the Benedictine abbey at Bardney, whereupon he also granted it land from within Partney. At this time a church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, was built. The site of the church is likely to be the same as the one which exists today. This church, and a chapel dedicated to St. Mary (which may also have served as the hospital referred to by Tanner - see 5.2), were confirmed to the monks by Walter de Gaunt, the son of Gilbert, in 1115. Both church and chapel were dependent on Bardney Abbey.
- 5.8 King Stephen gave a charter to Partney hospital, but, beyond proving the hospital's existence, it lacks any information of real value. Within the charter the names of foundations, benefactors and estates are not given nor is any other property particularised. It is likely that the hospital was a charitable institution and catered for the poor and almost certainly for victims of leprosy as well.
- 5.9 By 1138 the hospital would have merged with one of the estates of Bardney Abbey. Apart from Tanner's reference, there are no other records of the chapel/hospital and as a consequence its size and location are unknown.
- 5.10 A field named Chantry Garth located between the Red Lion Inn and the present rectory would suggest a religious foundation. A 'Garth' refers to enclosed ground



which was used as a paddock, garden or yard. A chantry is usually an annex to a church which contains the body of its founder. It is normally used as a place for offering prayers for the soul of the founder (and other important deceased personages). An artificial bank of considerable size lies between this field and the rectory and it is likely that it may have once formed one of the boundaries of the rectory garden. The field name may therefore imply that the rectory premises are on the site of the chapel/hospital. This probably signifies the centre of the estate called 'Monkthorpe'.

- 5.11 It has been suggested (Stocker, D. forthcoming) that the hospital was a new foundation in the 12th century, but there is also the possibility that it was centred on the preexisting Anglo-Saxon monastic settlement.
- 5.12 By the 14th century the need for small leper establishments lessened and as a consequence were sometimes absorbed by local religious houses, probably because it was hard for them to survive alone, especially when situated in remote areas.
- 5.13 In the 14th century the hospital at Partney ceased to function and became a small cell associated with Bardney Abbey. The cell is first mentioned in 1318, when Robert De Waynfleet, who had been Abbot since 1280 was deposed and *"the church and the Manor of Steeping, the vill of Partney, together with the cells of Partney and Skendleby, were assigned for his support"* (Walker, G.G. 1898) A function of this cell may have been to provide a home for an abbot at his resignation or retirement.
- 5.14 By 1540 all the monastic institutions of England had fallen, Bardney amongst them, and its rights over Partney passed to the Crown. The rights of the patronage to the Rectory passed into private hands.
- 5.15 During the economic contraction between 1350-1450 some villages became deserted. A retreat was seen from marginal soils as the pressure on population and on land use was relaxed. On the Wolds in particular, large tax reliefs were granted in 1352-4 and a considerable amount of arable land was reverted to pasture as the need for such land diminished.
- 5.16 During the 1600s mixed farming was encouraged. The farming of sheep and grain was undertaken, especially on the light soils of the chalk outcrops in areas such as the Lincolnshire Wolds.
- 5.17 In the 1800s new farms arose from the old villages. The texture and acidity of the soils was modified by the application of mineral clays, and this procedure was extensively used on the Lincolnshire Wolds.
- 5.18 By the 1900s, the clay lands were suffering because of the effects of low prices and poor seasons. However the lighter soiled lands suffered less and the Lincolnshire Wolds were as extensively farmed as ever.

## Archaeological Setting

5.19 The archaeological setting of the study area was determined through three separate phases:

1. Aerial photographic research and plotting of the archaeological features identified (see appendix 2).
2. Limited field reconnaissance (see appendices 1 and 4).
3. Research into the S.M.R.s held by Heritage Lincolnshire and the County Archaeological Officer (see appendix 3).

## Aerial Photographic Results

- 5.20 The aerial photographs obtained revealed the existence of several buried archaeological features grouped within three areas in the mid-north/west of the study area. These features have been plotted onto scale 1:10,000 maps. Due to the oblique nature of the photographs and the low height at which they were taken, an error of  $\pm 4$  metres is expected within these plots.
- 5.21 Present within field 0004 (grid ref. TF40706894) is a linear feature (A) c. 80m long, aligned NW-SE. Either later or earlier than this feature are two sub-rectangular enclosures, (B) and (C), measuring, c. 20m NW-SE and c. 40m NE-SW
- 5.22 A linear feature (D) aligned NW-SE and c. 110m in length extends from the south-eastern corner of enclosure (C). After approximately 40m. this feature turns through  $20^{\circ}$  and continues east.
- 5.23 Lying approximately 20m to the NW of (A) are two linear crop marks (E) and (F) located at right angles to each other. Both are c. 40m in length and may form the corner of a large rectangular enclosure.
- 5.24 The second group of crop marks, (G) and (H), are located against the eastern boundary of field 5100 (grid ref. TF40806870). Both are circular in plan, where (G) has a diameter of c. 38m, and (H) has a diameter of c. 45m.
- 5.25 The third and last series of crop marks identified, (I) to (O), are also situated within field 5100 (grid ref. TF40566887), to the west of (G) and (H). Two types of crop mark are present. The first of these are two incomplete enclosures (I) and (J), the longitudinal axes of which are aligned NW-SE. Each are c. 50m. wide and have a maximum visible length of c. 54m. Offset from their western boundary is a short linear feature (K), whose alignment is parallel with their sides and is c. 20m. long.



- 5.26 Immediately south of (J) is another incomplete enclosure (L), which is c. 58m. NW-SE, and c. 30m. NE-SW.
- 5.27 The second type of crop mark present in this concentration are two annular ring ditches, (N) and (O). (N), the larger of the two, is situated across the western edge of enclosures (I) and (J), and has a diameter of c. 35m. (O), located against the south-western edge of (L), has a diameter of c. 20m.
- 5.28 A single linear feature (M), c. 40m in length, crosses the south-western boundaries of enclosures (I) and (J).

### Field Reconnaissance

- 5.29 During the survey the study area was visited in order to determine land use. Also, conditions permitting, certain fields were subject to an unsystematic field walking survey. Although every field within the study area was under crop, some contained areas where crop growth was slow and this allowed small areas to be examined. Appendix 4 lists the results of this survey.
- 5.30 The boundary of field 0006 was walked. In its north-western corner was a small area where damage by animals had rendered the crop sparse. A survey of this area resulted in the retrieval of a small number of pottery sherds (discarded pottery fragments), and worked flint flakes.
- 5.31 Field 0004 contained a beet crop. Along its southern boundary and in its south-eastern corner the crop was sparse. This allowed limited field walking between the lines of beet. A moderate quantity of pottery sherds and flint flakes were recovered. The finds were dispersed across the entire area examined.
- 5.32 To the south of field 0004 lies field 5100. Again this field was under crop. However, a five metre wide margin located along the field's northern, eastern, and southern boundaries, was free from wheat. This was walked within the confines of the survey area. A quantity of pottery sherds and flint flakes were recovered. A concentration of artefacts was recognized in the north-west corner of the field.
- 5.33 Two small areas on the eastern boundary of field 7353 were examined and a small quantity of pottery sherds and flint flakes were retrieved.
- 5.34 Field 0170, on the east side of the survey area, adjacent to the A16, contained a young root crop. Ground cover was sparse enough to allow transects across the field to be walked. A quantity of pottery sherds and flint flakes was recovered. No concentrations were noted.

- 5.35 The southern boundary of field 9786, north of field 0170, was walked. A small number of pottery sherds were recovered.
- 5.36 The finds from the preliminary field walking survey produced artefacts which have been provisionally dated to the Bronze Age, Roman, and medieval periods.

#### **Sites and Monuments Record Information**

- 5.37 The information available from the S.M.R.s was plotted onto scale 1:5000 maps. The grid references quoted comprise six figures, therefore, their exact location cannot to be determined. Only one reference from one of the S.M.R.s is located within the boundary of the study area (see fig. 3.).
- 5.38 A list of the S.M.R. information which lies within and in close proximity to the study area is given in Appendix 3.

## Summary

The preliminary archaeological survey has shown that:

1. Field reconnaissance produced evidence for archaeological activity from the Bronze Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval periods.
2. Aerial photographic analysis has identified archaeological features which have been provisionally interpreted as the result of sustained prehistoric occupation.
3. Field reconnaissance has identified limited Roman activity.
4. During the late Saxon and early medieval periods an abbey, monastic cell, and a chapel/hospital associated with Bardney Abbey, were built and subsequently destroyed.

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- Tithe award, 1839, Lincolnshire Archives Office

## APPENDIX 1

### LAND USAGE

<u>OS Field Number</u>	<u>Land use</u>	<u>Comments</u>
0004	Beet	Limited field-walking across entire field.
0006	Wheat	Borders of field field-walked.
0170	Beet	Crop cover did not allow walking.
0282	Grass	Private garden.
5100	Wheat	Limited field-walking along borders
8762	Meadow	Crop cover did not allow walking.
East of 2926	Nursery	Area occupied by greenhouses on pasture.
3400	Wheat	Owing to the nature of the crop only the borders of the field were walked.
4100	Wheat	Owing to the nature of the crop only the borders of the field were walked.
4417	Wheat	Owing to the nature of the crop only the borders of the field were walked.
4443	Wheat	Owing to the nature of the crop only the borders of the field were walked.
4533	Wheat	Owing to the nature of the crop only the borders of the field were walked.



<u>OS Field Number</u>	<u>Land use</u>	<u>Comments</u>
5265	Potatoes	Owing to the nature of the crop only the borders of the field were walked.
5800	Trees/grass	Private garden.
5941	Wheat	Owing to the nature of the crop only the borders of the field were walked.
6019	Wheat	Owing to the nature of the crop only the borders of the field were walked.
6300	Trees/grass	Private garden.
6832	Wheat	Owing to the nature of the crop only the borders of the field were walked.
6900	Wood/grass	Common land
7353	Potato	Crop cover did not allow walking.
7417	Wheat	Owing to the nature of the crop only the borders of the field were walked.
8031	Wheat	Owing to the nature of the crop only the borders of the field were walked.
8039	Track	Grass track forming Monks Lane.
8337 & 8835	Wood	Private garden.
8784	Wood/grass	Common land
8778	Wood/grass	Common land

<u>OS Field Number</u>	<u>Land use</u>	<u>Comments</u>
8840	Grass	Private garden.
8979	Wood/grass	Common land
9145	Grass	Private garden.
9225 & 9328	Trees/grass	Private garden.
9468	Wood/grass	Common land
9762	Wood/grass	Common land
9786	Wheat	Owing to the nature of the crop only the borders of the field were walked.
9952	Wood/grass	Common land

Certain field numbers quoted above no longer exist as some fields have been amalgamated.

**APPENDIX 2**

**CROP MARKS IDENTIFIED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

<u>OS Field Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Grid Reference</u>
0004	Enclosures. (B) + (C)	TF 40706894
0004	Linear features (A) + (D)	TF 40756885
0004	Linear features (E) + (F)	TF 40636898
5100	Ring ditch (H)	TF 40806870
5100	Ring ditch (G)	TF 40826875
5100	Enclosures (I), (J) + (L)	TF 40566887
5100	Ring ditch (N)	TF 40646889
5100	Ring ditch (O)	TF 40666881
5100	Linear features (K) + (M)	TF 40566887

### APPENDIX 3

#### SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORDS, LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Appendix 3 lists all of the information contained in the S.M.R.s. Grid references highlighted refer to entries which are in proximity to the study area. Numbers which appear in brackets after a grid reference are used to identify each S.M.R. entry on Fig. 3. (Please note that (1) and (2) are located beyond the limit of fig. 3).

<u>Grid reference</u>	<u>Description</u>
TF 401675 (1) AA	A fossil tooth (possibly from a hippopotamus) weighing 2lb 3oz. was recovered from gravel pits near Partney Mill in 1822. ✓
TF 402675 (2) S	Bronze socketed axe found about 1975. 42143
TF 412682 (3) F 42146 ✓	Human remains were discovered in 1826 during the excavation of foundation trenches for the Red Lion Inn. In 1967, Spilsby Sandstone faced blocks were found 1 foot below ground surface of the yard. Two skeletons were found on the south side of the Skegness road.
TF 410683 (4) 42155/6 ✓	St. Nicholas church - Largely restored and partially rebuilt in 1862. It has Perpendicular and Decorated features. The base and shaft of the churchyard cross were raised to their present position after being buried for some time.
TF 412683 (5) H 42177 ✓	Late medieval and post-medieval pottery, including Old Bolingbroke and Cistercian type manganese glazed wares. ✓
TF 412683 (6) 42154	There was a monastery in Partney in the 7th century. It is thought that it was probably destroyed by the Danes. An anonymous information board in the church places the site in Monks field.
TF 410684 (7) 42151	Fragments of Anglo-Saxon pottery from an inhumation cemetery which was destroyed in 1950.

Grid reference	Description
TF 409685 (8) 42145/4	Romano-British grey ware and prehistoric worked flints found at Partney Grange.
TF 422681  42150	<p>Road works in 1950 revealed a barrow c.40ft in diameter. Human bones were unearthed along with associated objects at a depth of three feet. The finds suggest that the barrow was built for an Anglian (Saxon) family in c. A.D. 600. Artefactual remains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Skeletal remains of at least 2 adults (Male and female) and 2 children.</li> <li>b) Two 6th-7th century bronze cruciform brooches, three bronze annular brooches, two bronze buckles and a bronze ring.</li> <li>c) Three iron spear-heads.</li> <li>d) Iron shield-boss and shield handle.</li> <li>e) Pottery sherds.</li> </ul>
Unlocated Q	Large hoard of silver coins (Elizabethan and possibly later) were found in 1932.
Unlocated Z	The hospital of St. Mary Magdalene. Built 1115 and dissolved before 1318. By the 14th century it had ceased to be a hospital and had become a cell belonging to Bardney Abbey.

#### APPENDIX 4

Pottery spot-dating for field walking finds.

<u>Field No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Latest date</u>
0004 (mid-west)	2 sherds	Romano-British
	19+ sherds (Toynton All Saints type)	13th - 14th Century
	2 tile sherds	Medieval
	1 Pantile	Medieval
	3 sherds	Modern
0004 (South and South-East)	4 sherds	Romano-British
	7 sherds (assorted fabrics)	14th Century
	1 sherd	Prehistoric
0006	1 sherd (jug handle)	17th Century
	1 sherd	Late Saxon/ early medieval
	1 sherd (Cistercian ware)	