

**Report No. B1888A.03**  
**January 1999**

**A REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF  
SPRINGFIELDS, NR SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**Thornfield Developments Ltd**  
32 Park Square West  
Leeds  
LS1 2PF

**GIFFORD**  
AND PARTNERS



99/3.

99 MAR 21

# A REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF SPRINGFIELDS, NR SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE

## CONTROLLED DOCUMENT

<i>Gifford and Partners Document No:</i> <b>B1888A.03</b>			
<i>Status:</i> Final		<i>Copy No:</i>	
	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Prepared by:</i>	J Perkins	<i>J. Perkins</i>	8-1-99
<i>Checked:</i>	A Thompson	<i>Anne Thompson</i>	8.1.99
<i>Gifford Approved:</i>	T J Strickland	<i>T Strickland</i>	8.1.99
<i>Client Accepted:</i>			

<i>Revision Record</i>					
<i>Rev.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>By</i>	<i>Summary of Changes</i>	<i>Chkd</i>	<i>Aprvd</i>

**Thornfield Developments Ltd**  
 32 Park Square West  
 Leeds  
 LS1 2PF

**Gifford and Partners Ltd**  
 20 Nicholas Street  
 Chester  
 CH1 2NX

1999  
1998  
1997  
1996  
1995  
1994  
1993  
1992  
1991  
1990  
1989  
1988  
1987  
1986  
1985  
1984  
1983  
1982  
1981  
1980  
1979  
1978  
1977  
1976  
1975  
1974  
1973  
1972  
1971  
1970  
1969  
1968  
1967  
1966  
1965  
1964  
1963  
1962  
1961  
1960  
1959  
1958  
1957  
1956  
1955  
1954  
1953  
1952  
1951  
1950  
1949  
1948  
1947  
1946  
1945  
1944  
1943  
1942  
1941  
1940  
1939  
1938  
1937  
1936  
1935  
1934  
1933  
1932  
1931  
1930  
1929  
1928  
1927  
1926  
1925  
1924  
1923  
1922  
1921  
1920  
1919  
1918  
1917  
1916  
1915  
1914  
1913  
1912  
1911  
1910  
1909  
1908  
1907  
1906  
1905  
1904  
1903  
1902  
1901  
1900

1999  
1998  
1997  
1996  
1995  
1994  
1993  
1992  
1991  
1990  
1989  
1988  
1987  
1986  
1985  
1984  
1983  
1982  
1981  
1980  
1979  
1978  
1977  
1976  
1975  
1974  
1973  
1972  
1971  
1970  
1969  
1968  
1967  
1966  
1965  
1964  
1963  
1962  
1961  
1960  
1959  
1958  
1957  
1956  
1955  
1954  
1953  
1952  
1951  
1950  
1949  
1948  
1947  
1946  
1945  
1944  
1943  
1942  
1941  
1940  
1939  
1938  
1937  
1936  
1935  
1934  
1933  
1932  
1931  
1930  
1929  
1928  
1927  
1926  
1925  
1924  
1923  
1922  
1921  
1920  
1919  
1918  
1917  
1916  
1915  
1914  
1913  
1912  
1911  
1910  
1909  
1908  
1907  
1906  
1905  
1904  
1903  
1902  
1901  
1900

Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section  
15 JAN 99  
ack sent 25/1/99

1 5. JAN 99

**A REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF  
SPRINGFIELDS, NR SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**C O N T E N T S**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. SITE INSPECTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. RESULTS OF THE DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5. CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>6. BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>14</b>

**FIGURES**

- Figure 1 Site Location**
- Figure 2 Armstrong's Map of 1776-78**
- Figure 3 Ordnance Survey Map, 1970**
- Figure 4 Ordnance Survey Map 1897-1906**
- Figure 5 Ordnance Survey Map Second Edition, 1906**
- Figure 6 Ordnance Survey Map, 1949-54**
- Figure 7 Ordnance Survey Map 1927-46**



## 1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 The proposed development at Springfields Gardens in Spalding has been identified by the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section as of potential archaeological significance and the preparation of a desk-based assessment was requested. In consequence Thornfield Developments Ltd commissioned Gifford and Partners Ltd to undertake the required desk-based assessment of the proposed area of development.
- 1.2 The archaeological assessment included consultation of sources comprising historical documents, maps, aerial photographs and a site visit.
- 1.3 The proposed development area lies to the north-east of Spalding within the man-made landscape of the Lincolnshire Fens. The Fenlands have been constantly manipulated since the Iron Age to enable the control of tidal inundations and to allow landscape irrigation. The area surrounding Spalding was undoubtedly exploited for salt production by the Romans. Furthermore there is evidence that the Romano-British may have settled within the bounds of modern day Spalding. Evidence from the Late Saxon period suggests that this is when Spalding truly became established and from whence the town flourished, until the post-Medieval breakdown of the drainage system and the regulation of Customs and Excise.
- 1.4 Salt production was the mainstay of the Medieval economy and the area was widely exploited for these purposes throughout the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods. The saltern sites for these periods, although differing in techniques, were always essentially semi-permanent structures which could be moved as the Fens changed and shifted. As the whole of the area surrounding Spalding was open to this form of exploitation at some stage in the development of the Fenlands there is a potential for the survival of archaeological deposits relating to salt production within the area of proposed development.
- 1.5 The site of proposed development and an adjacent fields have produced quantities of Romano-British, Saxo-Norman and Medieval ceramics, clearly reflecting the intense growth of the town during these periods and the expansion of the Medieval Priory to within a kilometre of the proposed development site. The recent discovery of Romano-British features together with the ceramics suggests that there is a medium potential for archaeological remains within the evaluation site.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Reason for the Project**

Thornfields Developments Ltd instructed Gifford to undertake a desk-based assessment of the proposed development area in order to identify any archaeological implications arising. An informal method statement for the assessment was verbally discussed with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section.

### **2.2 Location, Topography and Geology of the Assessment Site**

2.2.1 The proposed area of development occupies a parcel of land centred on NGR: TF 2650 2400, on the north-eastern extremity of the historic town of Spalding and is currently occupied by the extensive Springfields Gardens (Figure 1).

2.2.2 The current Springfields complex extends the full length and breadth of the proposed area of development and comprises *c.* 70% landscaped gardens and grassland and *c.* 30% prefabricated structures, greenhouses and metalled surfaces. The land is level except for two areas occupied by a sunken garden and a terrace.

2.2.3 The drift geology is dominated by a series of alluvium deposits consisting of clays and silts and originating in the flood waters of rivers and occasionally maritime flooding (Aram 1993, 6).

### **2.3 Aims and Objectives**

The aims and objectives of the assessment were:

- to further understand the history and development of human settlement and activity in the area of Spalding.
- to determine past human activity and land-use of the site which may effect the survival and state of the preservation of archaeological remains.
- to assess the known and potential archaeology of the site in its local, regional and national contexts and present the results in an illustrated report.
- to fully illustrate the archaeological potential of the site in order to inform the planning process



## 2.4 Methodology

2.4.1 The project was undertaken in accordance with discussions held with the Lincolnshire County Archaeologist, Appendix 5 of the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section *Archaeology Handbook* (Appendix A) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists' publication *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (1994).

2.4.2 Documentary (including cartographic) research was undertaken in order to examine the past usage of the site and to assess the known and likely presence/absence of archaeologically significant deposits/features within the proposed development area.

2.4.3 The following sources of information were consulted:-

- The Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record
- Photographic records (including aerial photographs ref. CUCAP V35 and FN67)
- Published and unpublished documentary sources
- Printed and manuscript maps
- Geological maps
- Place, road and field-name evidence.

## 2.5 Timetable

The desk-based assessment was undertaken on 15 and 16 of October 1998 and included a visit to the proposed development site.

## 2.6 The Archive

This report will be forwarded to the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record (Lincoln) and the National Monuments Record (Swindon) for archive on completion of the archaeological works in relation to the proposed development site.

## 2.7 Acknowledgements

2.7.1 Gifford and Partners would like to thank the following for their support and assistance during this project: Mr M R Finch of Thornfield Developments Ltd; Mr N Taylor of Drivers Jonas; Mr S Catney, Mr J Bonnor and Mr M Bennett of the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section; the staff of the Lincolnshire County Record Office; and the staff of the Lincolnshire County Library.

2.7.2 The Gifford staff involved in this project were:-

T J Strickland	-	Project management, report editing
J Perkins	-	Desk-based assessment and preparation of report
G Reaney and		
L Morris	-	Report illustrations
A Sawyer	-	Report presentation

## 2.8 Abbreviations

<i>c.</i>	<i>circa</i>
DoE	Department of the Environment
m	Metre
mm	Millimetre
km	Kilometre
NGR	National Grid Reference
LRO	Lincolnshire Record Office
OD	Ordnance Datum
pers. comm.	Personal communication
SMR	Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record

## 3. SITE INSPECTION

- 3.1 The site is surrounded on three sides by modern roadways leading to Pinchbeck, Spalding, Holbeach and the A16 which leads to Boston (Figure 1). This extensive road system provides easy access to the Springfields Gardens which currently occupy the site.
- 3.2 The Springfield complex largely comprises landscaped gardens and lakes, paved walks and small patches of woodland, together with a series of prefabricated single storey buildings concentrated in the west of the site around the main entrance. In the north of the site there is a large exhibition hall which is flanked to the east by open grassland and a large mound of dumped overgrown topsoil and to the west by a concreted car park.
- 3.3 The landscaped gardens appeared to be fairly level, although in places there is a gradual decline towards the east and in one part of the site a garden has been terraced. In addition there is a sunken garden feature in the centre of the site which appears to lie *c.* 0.75m below the surrounding ground level.
- 3.4 In the east of the site of proposed development, delineated by large drainage ditches is a sub-rectangular ploughed field which does not appear to form part of the Springfields complex, but lies within the development area.



## 4. RESULTS OF THE DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

### 4.1 Introduction

Spalding is situated in the heart of the South Lincolnshire Fenlands, in an area known as Holland. The complex and continually changing nature of the Fenlands topography has proved to be a major controlling factor in terms of the level and density of occupation over the millennia (Lane and Hayes 1993, 69). Consequently the assessment of human activity in and around Spalding is intricately linked to the development of the Fenland landscape.

### 4.2 Prehistoric Period (Before 55 BC)

4.2.1 The development of the Fenlands in South Lincolnshire has been a lengthy process. It is generally accepted that from the Mesolithic onwards much of the Fenlands was subject to sequences of transgressive and regressive marine cycles and that the area surrounding Spalding was subsequently underwater for much of this time. The rise in sea level, which peaked in the Iron Age, caused widespread fresh water flooding, which created a band of peat which, until recent centuries, divided the uplands from the marine dominated marshes fringing the wash (Lane and Hayes 1993, 58).

4.2.2 Certainly there is little archaeological evidence to suggest that there was human activity in the area surrounding Spalding during the early prehistoric period, although the Fenland Survey of Pinchbeck (South), which lies immediately south-west of Spalding, suggests that the Bronze Age, and subsequently earlier, landscapes have been masked by deep layers of marine sediments. These earlier landscapes therefore have remained inaccessible and unrecorded except through borehole surveys (Lane and Hayes 1992, 143).

4.2.3 The Iron Age period appears to have heralded a more permanent occupation of the Fenland borders, which at this time lay directly east of Spalding and west of Bourne. The archaeological evidence suggests that Middle Iron Age permanent or semi-permanent settlements were established along the inner edge of the southern salt marshes in order to exploit erratically available areas of highly productive land and to produce salt. The subsequent development of these Iron Age settlements and salterns remains, at present, unclear, as there appears to be a hiatus in the ceramic record during the Late Iron Age. However there are several alternative theories which may serve to explain the perceived absence of Late Iron Age material on the borders of the Fenlands (Lane and Hayes 1993, 60).

4.2.4 It is possible that the composition of Late Iron Age pottery has a low survival rate in the harsh conditions of the Fenland or that the pottery remained



unchanged throughout the Iron Age and therefore has not been distinguished from the Middle Iron Age pottery. Further research has suggested that Late Iron Age sites may have existed on the Fenlands but that they acquired a 'Roman-style' pottery over the years and have therefore been identified as Romano-British settlements. The calcite-gritted component to these 'Romano-British assemblages may in fact represent an earlier Iron Age component to the sites (Lane and Hayes 1993, 62). Spalding is one of the sites cited as a contender for Late Iron Age activity on the basis of the comparatively high content of calcite-gritted wares in its Romano-British assemblages.

4.2.5 Finally the unstable nature of the Fenland borders of this period suggests that a proportion of Late Iron Age and probably Romano-British settlements in and around the area of evaluation may lie beneath a masking layer of alluvial deposits accumulated through marine inundations. This theory certainly appears to have been the case in the field adjacent to Springfields.

4.2.6 As part of a proposed petrol station development an archaeological evaluation of a site situated between Holbeach Road and the A151 was undertaken. The evaluation revealed the survival of transistional Late Iron Age/Romano-British archaeological features buried beneath deep deposits of alluvium. These features were interpreted as the possible remains of a settlement site. Although the extent of the site could not be postulated, it is certainly possible that settlement features similar to those in the adjacent field may lie within the area of evaluation (APS Report no. 52 1998).

4.2.7 The Late Iron Age penetration of the Lincolnshire Fenlands is further suggested by Ptolemy in c. AD150. In his account he refers to a *Salinae* located near the Wash, in the territory of the *Catuvellauni*. There are a variety of debates as to the accuracy of Ptolemy's directions and the location and extent of the *Catuvellauni* territories, but together with the archaeological evidence, the fact remains that salt production may have led the Iron Age peoples to penetrate the Fenlands and possibly settle close to Spalding (Lane and Hayes 1993, 62).

### 4.3 Roman Period (AD 43 - AD 410)

4.3.1 The main thrust of the Roman occupation of Lincolnshire appears to have commenced during the reign of Hadrian (AD 117-138) who appears to have positively encouraged the occupation of inhospitable areas with the promise of rent-free land for five years. This policy proved successful as a proliferation of rural settlements occupied the length of the Fenland boundary and along the marsh edges, with economies based on the production of salt and all industries related to salts, together with small-scale cattle ranching, fishing and wild fowling (Simmons 1992, 20).



- 4.3.2 The long-term survival of many of these sites depended on the regulation of the fenland cycles, which the Romans achieved through the construction of large-scale earthworks and ditches, configured so as to control the drainage and flooding of the landscape. Some of the Roman earthworks are believed to have survived in the present day landscape and are marked as such on many of the local maps. A so-called 'Roman' bank is illustrated on a 1776 map of Spalding (Figure 2) and is depicted as continuing along the length of Camel Gate which denotes the western periphery of the area of proposed development. There is no evidence of an earthwork today and the bank is not depicted on any of the maps after 1920 (Figures 3, 4 and 7). Whether the bank was indeed Roman in origin can no longer be established. However, on the basis of previous investigations it is clear that many earthworks established during a dramatic change in the level of the water table in the thirteenth century have been misidentified as 'Roman'. This may well be the case at Spalding (Robinson 1992, 72).
- 4.3.3 Although it appears unlikely that there were any major Roman earthworks in the vicinity of the proposed development site, there is evidence of substantial Roman settlements and saltern sites to the south-west of Spalding on the Pinchbeck South Fen and within the bounds of modern day Spalding. Those sites identified to the south-west of Spalding are established on subsidiary waterways, normally drains, which are not as prone to tidal. These sites are characterised by extensive field systems
- 4.3.4 Within the north-west section of the Spalding there have been a variety of Romano-British ceramics recovered during construction works and field walking. These include a substantial occupation layer which was revealed at a depth of c.800mm and was located to the rear of Oakley Drive (LSMR no. 23598) and some possible Romano-British ceramics identified during the construction of the Sugarbeet factory (LSMR no 23591 and 23592).
- 4.3.5 Three sherds of Romano-British pottery and four fragments of possible briquetage were retrieved during fieldwalking at the junction between Fulney Lane and Holbeach Road (LSMR no. 23065), immediately adjacent to the site of proposed development. However these fragments were found in association with a substantial quantity of Medieval and post-Medieval sherds thereby suggesting that the Romano-British material was residual.
- 4.3.6 It seems likely that the area within which Spalding lies was inhabited by the Romano-British in order to exploit the resources offered by the Welland. Furthermore this occupation appears to have extended to incorporate, at least during its earlier transitional stages, to incorporate the area surrounding Springfields. However the full extent, density, complexity and longevity of the occupation cannot be determined on the basis of the currently available



information.

#### 4.4 The Post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon Periods (AD 410 - 1066)

- 4.4.1 By the early Saxon period the band of peat which divided the uplands and the marine marshlands had become a broad physical barrier between the two environments situated on a north-south alignment. The Fenland Survey has identified the presence of early Saxon sites along the fen margins and in the fens, however the difficulties in identifying early Saxon pottery means that an hiatus between the intense Roman occupation of the fen margins and the Saxon settlement of the area cannot be discounted (Lane and Hayes, 1993).
- 4.4.2 In the middle Saxon period nearly all of the early Saxon settlements on the fen margin had been abandoned and the population relocated to more nucleated villages. The cause of this wholesale movement is believed to be the invasion of the Fen margin by the Mercian Kingdom in the seventh century. However it was evident through the Fenland Survey that this was not the pattern portrayed by the material culture recorded to the east of the peat band in the heart of the fens. Here the settlements remained fairly dispersed and were associated with a material culture which was noticeably different from that to the west of the fen margin (Lane and Hayes 1993).
- 4.4.3 The archaeological evidence therefore suggests that the naturally created peat band which divided the uplands and the marshes was also a cultural/political boundary. Courtney (1981) suggests that there is historical evidence to support the archaeology in a fiscal document of c. AD 680, known as the *Tribal Hidage*, and in the place-names of the area. The *Tribal Hidage* seems to be a list of tribes which pay tribute to the kingdom of Mercia and one of the tribes mentioned in the document are the *Spaldas*, who are believed to have dwelt on the Fenlands.
- 4.4.4 Obviously *Spaldas* forms the personal name stem for Spalding and *ingas* is an Old English word meaning 'the followers of' (Mills, 1991). This evidence suggests that the *Spaldas* peopled the area immediately surrounding Spalding and that it is their material culture which is represented to the east of the peat border which appears to form the division between the Mercian kingdom and the *Spaldas* territories within that kingdom. The proximity of Spalding to the fen margin at this time may suggest that the movement of population to more nucleated villages initiated by the Mercian invasion to the west, was imitated by the *Spaldas*, thereby creating a nucleated settlement at Spalding (Lane and Hayes 1993, 69).
- 4.4.5 Spalding was certainly an established village by the time the Scandinavians had penetrated the county in the ninth century. This is evidenced by the inclusion of



various *gata* place-names in the current town which is Old Norse for 'street'. The street that bounds the western side of the proposed area of development is currently called Camel Gate (Ekwall, 1974).

#### 4.5 The Medieval Period (AD 1066 - 1500)

- 4.5.1 The first direct documentary reference to Spalding is made in the Domesday Book written in AD 1086. Spalding was owned by Ivo Taillebois and comprised eleven taxable bovates of land, two ploughs, five villagers, six fisheries, two smallholders and a drying place with salt houses (Morris, 1986).
- 4.5.2 Ivo Taillebois was to have a lasting impact on the development of the town in the early Medieval period. During his ownership he built a castle complex which included a stone keep and a great hall surrounded by a moat, from which he governed the surrounding fens and plotted the downfall of the Spalding Priory (Marrat, 1814).
- 4.5.3 The Priory was originally established in 1051 by the Abbey of Crowland, but the continual harassment by Taillebois ensured that the Priory was disbanded in 1070. A second attempt to establish a religious house in Spalding took place in 1129 under the patronage of Countess Lucy, Taillebois's wife, and was extremely successful, so much so that by the thirteenth century the priory claimed the villages of Weston, Spalding, Moulton and Pinchbeck (Page, 1988).
- 4.5.4 The intense activity of these initial years after the Norman Conquest is reflected on the site of proposed development. Several sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery have been recovered from the Springfields area over the years, together with a mix of Medieval green-glazed pot sherds and a silver penny (LSMR reference no 23594). The scatter of ceramics is not recorded as concentrated in a particular area of Springfields, thereby suggesting that the material has been distributed through plough action prior to the development of the site and that the pottery fragments are not conclusive evidence of Saxo-Norman activity within the confines of the proposed area of development.
- 4.5.5 Under the auspices of the Priory and the Lords of the Manor the town of Spalding flourished throughout the Medieval period. Salt production remained the mainstay of the towns economy, but was supplemented by the transportation of products such as sacks of wool, wine, firewood and coal in the thirteenth century and of animals during the fourteenth century. During this time the town's population grew from 73 in 1086 to 421 in 1260 (Clark, 1978).
- 4.5.6 Throughout the town's history, its economic viability depended on the management of the Fens and the control of the landscape's drainage and main



waterways. The main proponent of this control was Spalding Priory, as the reports of the Sewers Commission illustrate (Darby, 1968). The dramatic change in sea-level during the thirteenth century prompted the creation of a patchwork of defensive clay banks and ditches configured to contain the tidal surges and maintain the flow of the waterways. The Priory appears to have struggled to cope with the problem and throughout the period conditions gradually deteriorated (Robinson, 1993)

4.5.7 The development of Spalding during the Medieval period has left archaeological traces in and around the area of proposed development. Later post-Medieval maps suggest that a Medieval bank, although labelled as 'Roman', once lay to one side of the western boundary of Springfields (Figures 3 and 4). In addition the expansion of the Priory, as its wealth and notoriety increased, appears to have extended to within a few hundred metres of the Springfields boundary.

4.5.8 Ash Tree House, a small fen-type cottage is situated on the site of a Medieval Chapel which is believed to have been connected with the Priory (LSMR reference no 22382). The site is currently occupied by an unnamed property, but the chapel would have undoubtedly been established within a precinct, which may have extended into the area of proposed development. The proximity of the chapel and possible associated buildings may explain the quantity of Medieval ceramics found within the Springfield site and in the adjacent field (LSMR reference nos 23063 and 22364).

4.5.9 Industrial evidence of possible Medieval salt-production has also been located to the north of Spalding during the construction of the Sugar-Beet factory situated to the north-west of the area of proposed development. Although not in close proximity to the Springfields site, the evidence from the factory suggests that the industrial activities of the town extended well into the surrounding countryside and therefore may have incorporated the area of proposed development (Healey, 1926).

#### **4.6 Post-Medieval and Modern Periods (1500 - Present)**

4.6.1 Spalding continued to flourish throughout the Medieval period, even though neglected drains and waterways caused frequent flooding and crop destruction. By the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the control of the drainage of the landscape was completely dominated by the religious houses, so much so that the dissolution of the monasteries in 1533 caused an almost total collapse of the drainage and irrigation system (Robinson, 1993).

4.6.2 Coupled with the closure of the religious houses was the development of an extensive heirachy of customs control during the Tudor period, in order to



maximise the Crowns' income. Together these factors ensured that the main waterways were neglected and trade was reduced to a minimum across the county (Pawley, 1993). Surveys of Spalding undertaken as part of the new customs regime reported in 1618 that the water was 'less than half a foot deep' in the Welland and travellers in 1634 reported that the bridge had been pulled down and that the Welland 'had not so much water in it as would drown a mouse' (Darby 1968, 43).

- 4.6.3 These reports prompted a concerted effort on the part of Charles I to make the drowned land in Lincolnshire 'fit for tillage and pasture'. To this end he commissioned a Dutch engineer, Cornelius Vermuyden, in 1626 to undertake over a decade of drainage and reclamation on the Lincolnshire Fens. The works of Charles I were continued throughout the following centuries by a variety of engineers whose techniques improved the landscape and enabled the reclamation of over 40,000 acres of the fens (Robinson, 1993).
- 4.6.4 During this period of instability, the area of proposed development appears to have lain within an area known as Fondly in the eighteenth century and corrupted into Fulney by the late-nineteenth. A map of the area dated to 1776 shows an isolated structure to the west of the area of proposed development surrounded by trees (Figure 3). The precise location of the structure has been difficult to pinpoint, due to the alterations to the turnpike roads, but it appears likely that this may be the remains of the Medieval chapel which is believed to have been sited in this general location. Certainly a map of the area in 1897 indicates an identical isolated structure at the junction of Chapel Gate and Holbeach Road (Figure 4), to the west of the proposed area of development
- 4.6.5 The result of the extensive drainage works in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was to secure a landscape of fertile and securely drained open fields which were ideal for the cultivation of market garden crops and flowers. Spalding together with Boston were and still are the focus for market gardening in south Lincolnshire.
- 4.6.6 The site at Springfields has carried on the tradition of flower production in Spalding since its development in 1968. Prior to that, map evidence from 1771 to the 1960's shows that the area remained as open fields, probably seeded with market garden crops (Figures 3 and 6).

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 Human activity along the Fen margins has waxed and waned with the cycles of the tides and the variations in sea-level since the early Prehistoric period. For



much of this time Spalding has lain to the east of the margins, within the marshy fenlands proper and therefore was not subjected to the same intensity of human activity until the water table began to fall in the Roman period.

- 5.1.2 The main concentration of Roman activity appears to lie to the south-west of Spalding in Pinchbeck South. However it is evident that Iron Age/Romano-British activity did penetrate into the Fenland as far as Spalding and that features of this period, possibly associated with a settlement site, are situated in close proximity to the area of evaluation, masked and protected by thick layers of alluvium.
- 5.1.3 The main impetus of occupation at Spalding appears to have occurred in the Anglo-Saxon period, based on the place-name evidence and the historical evidence linked to the *Spaldas* tribe. Quantities of pottery substantiate Spalding's Saxon occupation and suggest that activity may have extended to incorporate the area of proposed development. The lack of concentration of ceramic fragments does however suggest redeposition through plough action.
- 5.1.4 The Medieval expansion of the town was substantial, certainly the properties of the Priory appear to have extended within a kilometre of the proposed development area. The proximity of Medieval settlement may explain the quantity of Medieval sherds of pottery retrieved during fieldwalking from in and around the Springfields site. The sherds may have been deposited at the site by the spreading of urban refuse on the fields as an aid to fertilisation. Alternatively the topsoil at the site may be imported and the sherds of Medieval pottery therein may bear no relation to any actual archaeological remains at the site. Nevertheless, the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits at the site relating to historic salt production is consistent with the extensive exploitation of the area for salt production during the Medieval period. Also, there does appear to be a certain concentration of Medieval pottery in the adjacent field which may suggest that there was Medieval occupation in that field relating to the small satellite village of Fulney to the west.
- 5.1.5 On the basis of the results of the desk-based assessment the potential for archaeological remains within the site of proposed development appears to be medium and relates to human activity from the Roman to Medieval/post-Medieval periods. However it is clear that there has been considerable ground disturbance in the east of the Springfields site as part of landscaping activities, thereby reducing the potential in this area.
- 5.1.6 The sources of information utilised during the assessment do not constitute a complete definitive dataset on the archaeology of the site and its environs. The sources can only reflect previous interest in the archaeology and local history of



Spalding. The conclusions drawn therefore rely on information about the known archaeology and history of the area and not necessarily the actual presence or absence of archaeological remains.

- 5.1.7 The information assessed during this exercise has been found in a variety of often unvalidated sources. Therefore, there is a caveat to the conclusions of the assessment and Gifford and Partners Ltd do not accept responsibility for the accuracy of any particular piece of information or reference.

## 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Aram, J  
1993  
Drift Geology in *An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire*, by S Bennett and N Bennett. University of Hull Press.
- Archaeological Project Services  
1998  
*An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Holbeach Road, Spalding, Lincolnshire (SHA98)*. Report no 52/98 unpublished report.
- Clark, B  
1978  
*Spalding - The Evolution of a Fenland Town*.
- Courtney, P  
1981  
The Early Saxon Fenland: a reconsideration in *Anglo-Saxon Studies in Archaeology and History* by D Brown, J Campbell and S Hawkes, British Archaeological Report 92.
- Darby, H C  
1968  
*The Draining of the Fens*. Cambridge University Press, reprint, second edition.
- Darby, H C  
1974  
*The Medieval Fenland*. Newton Abbot, reprint.
- Ekwall, E  
1974  
The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-names. Oxford University Press, fourth edition.
- Hallam, H E  
1959-60  
Salt-making in the Lincolnshire Fenland during the Middle Ages in *Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society Reports and Papers Volume 8 new series*.
- Hallam, S J  
1959-60  
The Romano-British Salt Industry in South Lincolnshire in *Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society Reports and Papers Volume 8 new series*.
- Healey, H  
1926  
Letter to Lincolnshire County Council regarding excavations at the Sugar Beet Factory, Spalding. Lincolnshire Sites and monuments Record.
- Journal  
*Springfields* in Lincolnshire Life, May 1978.
- Lane, T & Hayes, P  
1992  
*The Fenland Project, No 5 Lincolnshire Survey - The South-West Fens*. Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire and East Anglian Archaeology.





- Lane, T & Hayes, P  
1993                      *Moving Boundaries in the Fens of South Lincolnshire in Flatlands and Wetlands, Current Themes in East Anglian Archaeology*, East Anglian Archaeology, report no 50.
- Marrat, W H  
1814                      *History of Lincolnshire, Part 1. Boston.*
- Mills, A D  
1991                      *A Dictionary of English Place-names.* Oxford University Press.
- Morris, J ed  
1986                      *Domesday Book, Lincolnshire (Part II).* Phillimore, Chichester.
- Page, W (ed )  
1988                      *The Victoria History of the County of Lincolnshire Volume II.* Haymarket.
- Pawley, S  
1993                      *Maritime Trade and Fishing 1500-1700 in An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire*, by S Bennett and N Bennett . University of Hull Press.
- Robinson, D  
1993                      *Drainage and Reclamation in An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire.* by S Bennett and N Bennett . University of Hull Press.
- Simmons, B  
1993                      *Iron Age and Roman Coasts around the Wash II: Archaeology in An Historical Atlas of Lincolnshire.* University of Hull Press.



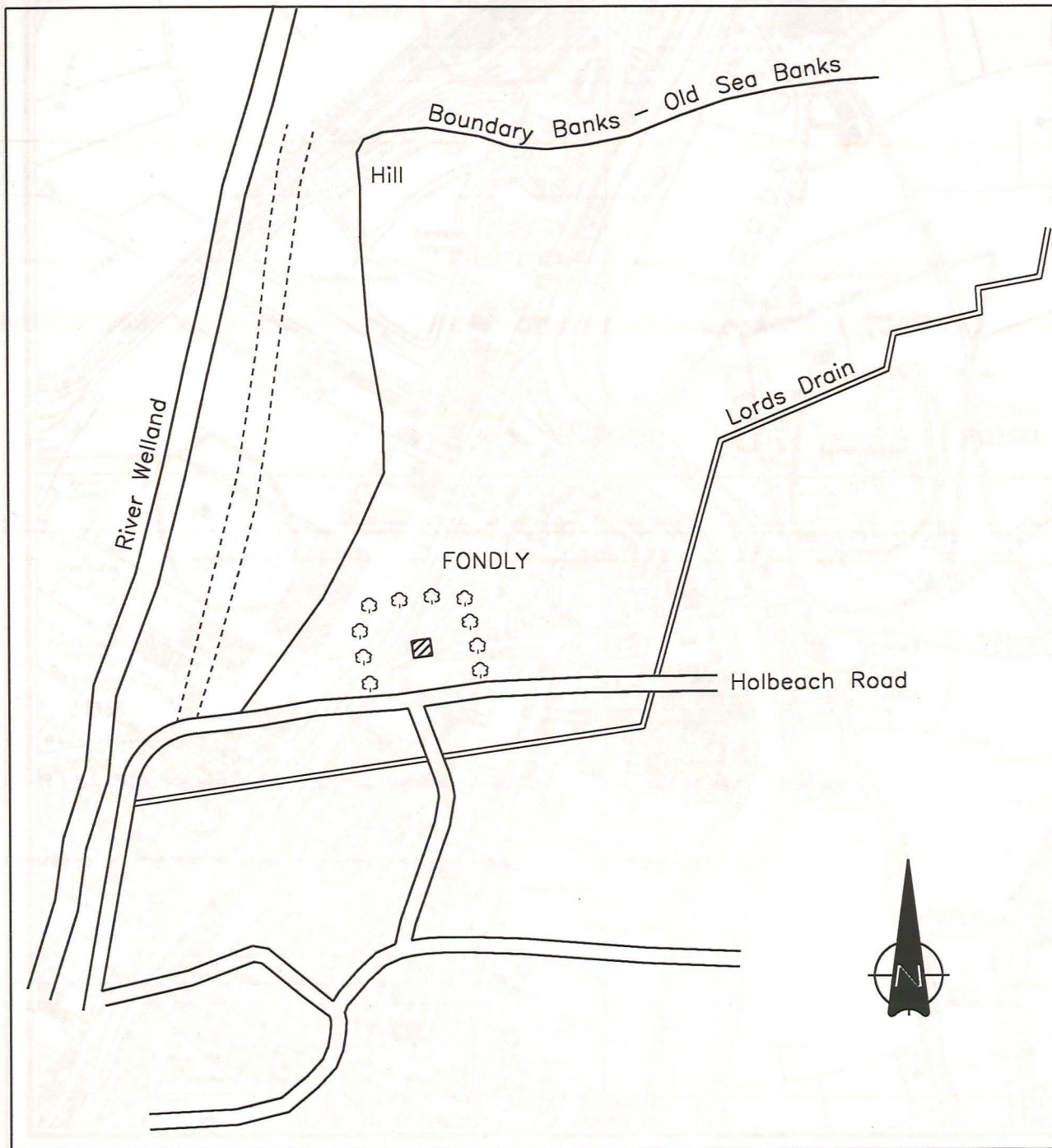


This drawing is for reference purposes only and should not be scaled from as accuracy cannot be guaranteed.


OS maps are reproduced with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright; Gifford and Partners Ltd, 20 Nicholas Street, Chester, CH1 2NX, Licence number: AL 815713.

<b>Project</b> B1888A Springfields, Spalding	<b>Drawn</b> LM	<b>Checked</b> JP	<b>Approved</b> AT	
	<b>Date</b> 16 October 1998			
<b>Title</b> Figure 1 Site Location	<b>Scale</b> 3 inches to 1 mile			
	<b>Drawing No</b> B1888A.11		<b>Rev.</b>	





**KEY**

 Building

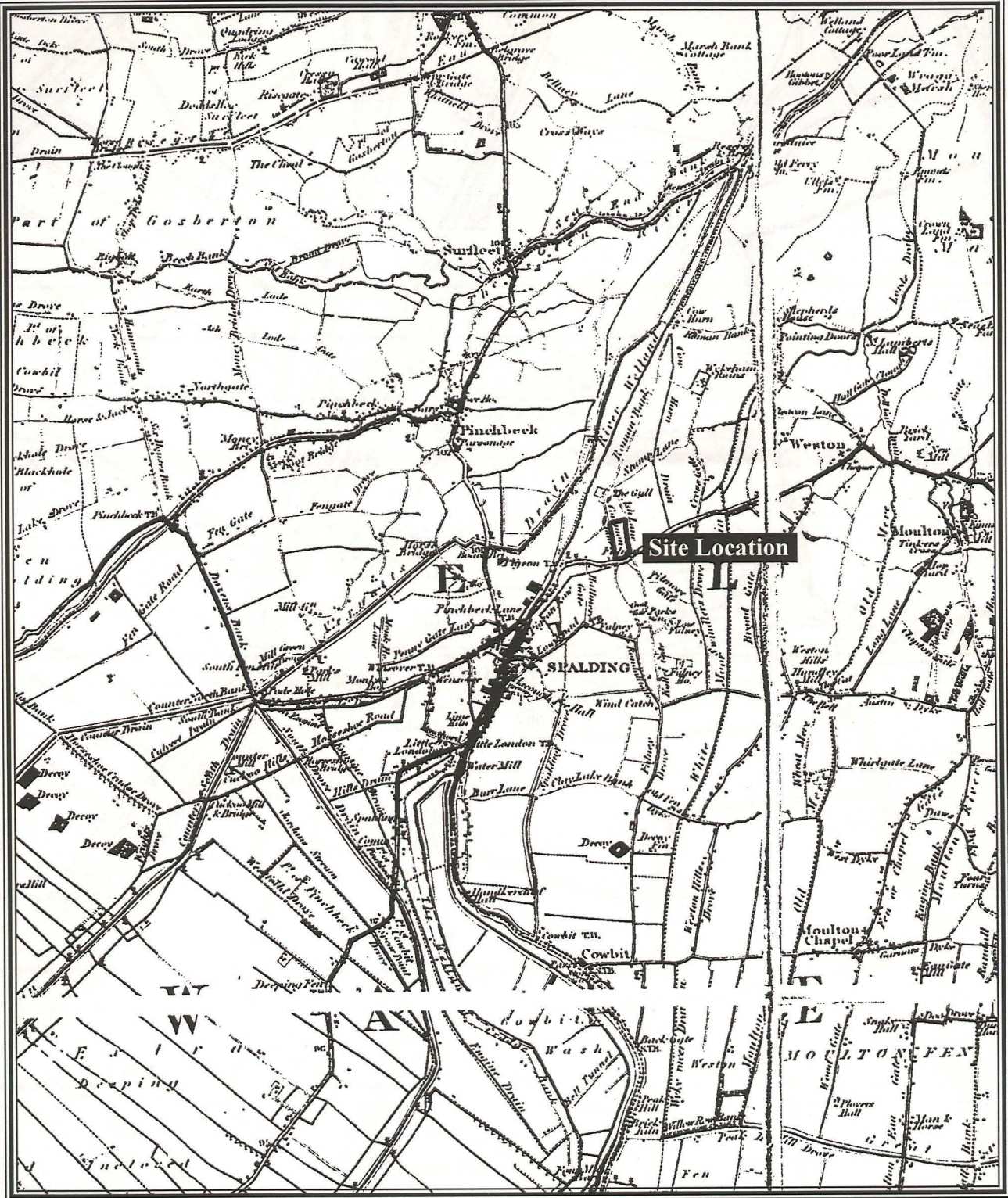
Project	B1888A SPRINGFIELDS SPALDING	Drawn	Checked	Approved
		G.C.R.	J.P.	A.T.
Title	FIGURE 2 ARMSTRONG'S MAP OF 1776-78	Date	16.10.98	
		Scale	Not to Scale	
		Drawing no.	B1888A : 12	
			Rev.	

**GIFFORD  
AND PARTNERS**  
Archaeology





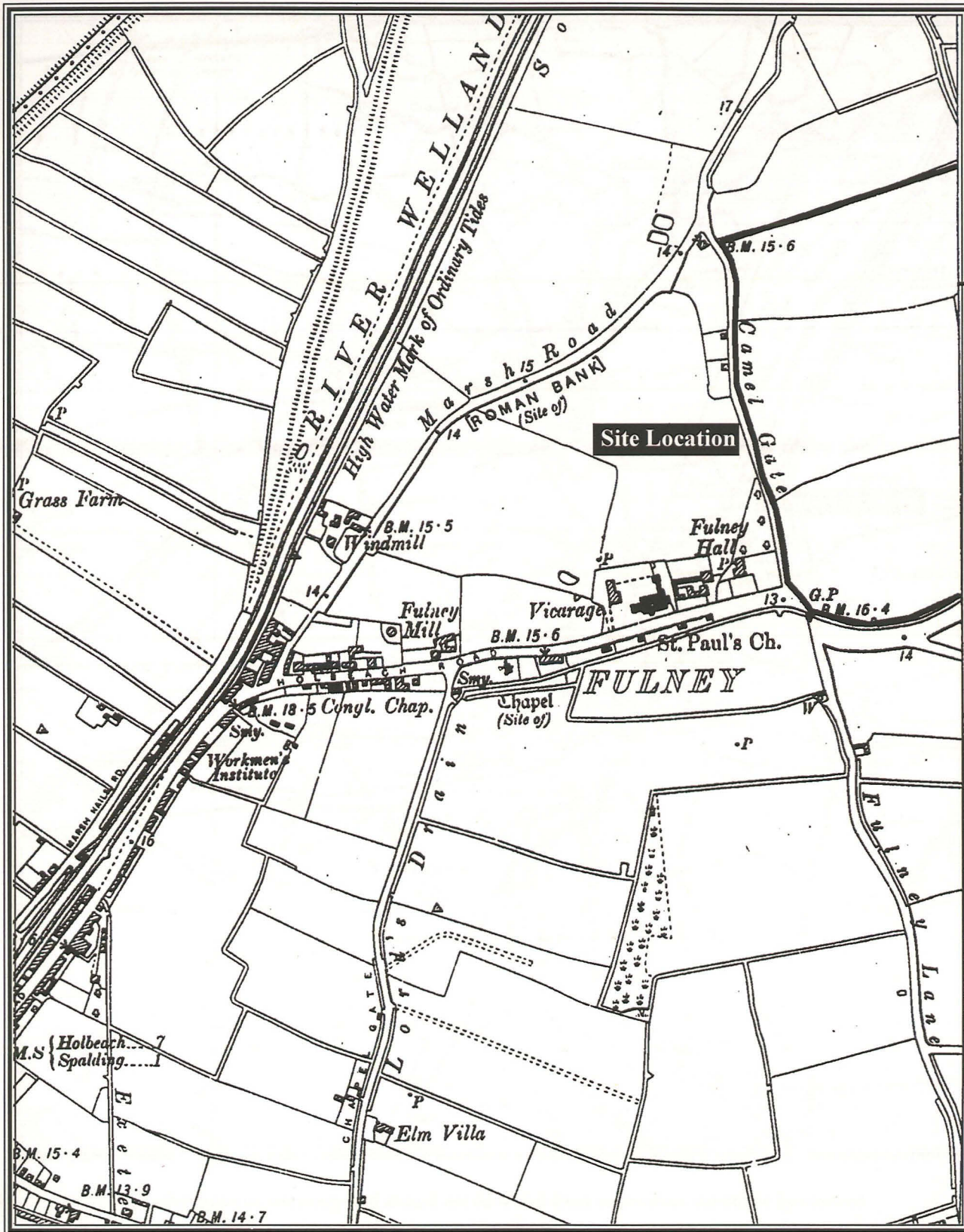




This drawing is for reference purposes only and should not be scaled from as accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

<b>Project</b> B1888A Springfields, Spalding	<b>Drawn</b> LM	<b>Checked</b> JP	<b>Approved</b> AT	<b>GIFFORD</b> AND PARTNERS  <b>Archaeology</b>
	<b>Date</b> 16 October 1998			
<b>Title</b> Figure 4 Ordnance Survey Map 1897-1906	<b>Scale</b> 1 inch to 2 miles			
	<b>Drawing No</b> B1888A.15		<b>Rev.</b>	





This drawing is for reference purposes only and should not be scaled from as accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

<b>Project</b> B1888A Springfields, Spalding	<b>Drawn</b> LM	<b>Checked</b> JP	<b>Approved</b> AT	<b>GIFFORD</b> AND PARTNERS  <b>Archaeology</b>
	<b>Date</b> 16 October 1998			
<b>Title</b> Figure 5 Ordnance Survey Map Second Edition 1906	<b>Scale</b> NTS		<b>Drawing No</b> B1888A.14	
	<b>Drawing No</b> B1888A.14			





This drawing is for reference purposes only and should not be scaled from as accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

OS maps are reproduced with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright; Gifford and Partners Ltd, 20 Nicholas Street, Chester, CH1 2NX, Licence number: AL 815713.

Project	B1888A	Drawn	Checked	Approved	<b>GIFFORD</b> AND PARTNERS  <b>Archaeology</b>
	Springfields, Spalding	LM	JP	AT	
Title	Figure 6 Ordnance Survey Map 1949-54	Date	16 October 1998		
		Scale	1 inch to mile		
		Drawing No	Rev.		
		B1888A.13			





This drawing is for reference purposes only and should not be scaled from as accuracy cannot be guaranteed.

OS maps are reproduced with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright; Gifford and Partners Ltd, 20 Nicholas Street, Chester, CH1 2NX, Licence number: AL 815713.

<b>Project</b> B1888A Springfields, Spalding	<b>Drawn</b> LM	<b>Checked</b> JP	<b>Approved</b> AT	<b>GIFFORD</b> AND PARTNERS  <b>Archaeology</b>
	<b>Date</b> 16 October 1998			
<b>Title</b> Figure 7 Ordnance Survey Map 1927-46	<b>Scale</b> 1 inch to 1 mile			
	<b>Drawing No</b> B1888A.16		<b>Rev.</b>	