

98/25



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**South Street, Horncastle (Lincs.)**

**Proposed Foodstore Development  
off The Wong**

*NGR: TF 2590 6915*

**Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment**  
by Geoff Tann and Naomi Field

Report prepared for Littman & Robeson  
(on behalf of Carter Commercial Developments Ltd)

Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

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**South Street, Horncastle (Lincs.)**  
**Proposed Foodstore on Land Including Football Ground**  
**Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment**

NGR: TF 2590 6915

**Summary**

*The site of a proposed foodstore development off South Street lies within the area of a Late Iron Age and Romano-British unwalled settlement known from numerous casual finds. Air photographs record cropmarks of archaeological features, apparently mostly field enclosures of Romano-British date, on undeveloped land within the application site. Redevelopment of the sites of existing buildings is likely to produce further burials in addition to occupation features.*

*The application site forms part of The Wong, indicating garden or in-field land in the early medieval period; it lay in the South Field. No Anglo-Saxon or medieval features are predicted on the site.*

*Post-medieval and modern features include the artificial South Ings Drain/Old River Bain, the Town Hall and cattle market complex. Recent structures and football pitches associated with Horncastle Football Club are present.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in February 1998 by Littman & Robeson (on behalf of Carter Commercial Developments Ltd) to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment of land off South Street, Horncastle (Figs. 1 and 2).

The purpose of the desk-based assessment is to identify the archaeological potential of the application site by collating available existing information.

**The Application Site** (Fig. 2)

Horncastle is situated in the East Lindsey District of Lincolnshire, 35km east of Lincoln and at the eastern side of the Wolds.

The proposed application site is located to the west of the junction of Mareham Road and the A153 Horncastle to Boston road, called South Street to the north of the junction. The northern limit of the area adjoins a lane off South Street called The Wong, formerly used to describe a block of land. Another former land block, The Oaks, lies within the application site (Pl. 1).

The proposed development is partly sited on land currently used by Horncastle Football Club as a sports ground with ancillary buildings. To the NE the application site includes the cattle market premises.

LAS understands that the development proposal consists primarily of a 25,000ft<sup>2</sup> country store constructed to the south of Ancaster Court, SW of the cattle market. A petrol filling station is planned for the South Street frontage, SE of the cattle market. The junction of South Street with Mareham Road is to be improved with installation of a roundabout. Access roads and a 240

space car park area will occupy the current sports ground north of the Sellwood Gardens residential development. A replacement sports area, with parking, pavilion and floodlighting, will be constructed south of Horncastle Football Ground's present pitch, on land at present used as a playing field for Banovallum School. The western part of the pasture field to the south will be developed as a replacement school playing field.

### **Planning Background**

A planning application has been submitted to East Lindsey District Council for the proposed development. Details of the application were not available when the assessment was prepared.

### **Methods and Sources**

A desk top study of the application site within a 1km surrounding area was undertaken in order to identify and assess all possible archaeological constraints. Research for the assessment was conducted by G. Tann between May 18th and 21st 1998; the site was visited on May 21st. The following sources were consulted and available information researched:

Lincolnshire County Council County Archaeological Section (Sites and Monuments Record), Lincoln  
Lincolnshire Archives Office (Enclosure map, Ordnance Survey maps, manuscript maps and other documentary and published sources)  
Horncastle Library, Reference Department Local Studies Collection  
National collections of aerial photographs at Cambridge University and the National Air Photographic Library, Swindon (RCHM[E])

The assessment has made considerable use of information collated and presented by Field and Hurst (1983) and Robinson (1983).

### **Topography and Geology**

Horncastle lies on river terrace gravels close to the 30m OD contour in the valley of the River Bain near the SW corner of the Lincolnshire Wolds (Fig. 3). At this point the Bain valley flattens out into the fenland surrounding the Wash. The Bain is the main river flowing south from the Wolds and it is joined at Horncastle from the east by a tributary, the Waring. The Bain itself joins the Witham nearly 10km. to the south at Dogdyke, from where it flows into the Wash.

The topography of the Fens has undergone such changes since Roman times that the significance of this setting is no longer apparent (Fig. 4). It is thought that c. 200 AD the Wash extended westwards over a substantial area of modern Fenland, with the high tide line at that date close to the 3m [10 ft.] contour, with the sea level rising perhaps a further 1m by 400 AD (Simmons 1980). There is evidence from soil studies of estuarine-type silt deposits either side of the Bain below the 3m contour, suggesting that the lower part of the river was once an inlet of the sea. These deposits have been traced at least as far upstream as Coningsby, about 9km from Horncastle.

The Woodhall Spa sheet (TF 10) of the Soil Survey also suggests that there was an extinct watercourse marked by estuarine-type clays extending eastwards from the Witham towards Horncastle (Simmons 1980, 71). Stukeley recorded a local tradition about Horncastle: 'Some don't scruple to affirm it was a seaport, that is, navigable' (Stukeley 1724, 28) The estuarine deposits lie directly under modern topsoil and cannot be readily dated. Where peat deposits are present and dates have been obtained, it appears that estuarine deposits were laid down from the fifth to third millenium BP prior to a marine regression. Horncastle is unlikely to have been tidal during the Roman period (J. Rackham, pers. comm.). Another major change since the Roman period has been the erosion of the east coast of Lincolnshire.

### **Archaeological and Historical Background** (Fig. 5)

#### **Prehistoric**

Horncastle lies at the southern end of the Caistor High Street, a prehistoric ridgeway linking Horncastle with Caistor (Lincs.) and South Ferriby, which is thought to have been a major route between the Wash and Humber (May 1976, 8-9).

Archaeological excavations within the walled town area have produced numerous Neolithic and some Mesolithic flint artefacts, indicating contemporary occupation of the riverside gravels. Occasional worked flints have been recovered from watching briefs and evaluation trenching south of the town and north of Mareham Road. In 1986 a struck flint was found with later material in footings beside Jubilee Way in the Cagthorpe area north of the Wong.

Late Iron Age material has been recovered on river terrace gravels forming the east side of the Bain valley a little way south of the confluence of the Waring with the Bain (in the area of the unwallled Romano-British settlement) suggesting that sustained occupation at Horncastle began in the Late Iron Age.

#### **Roman**

Despite the Roman construction of Ermine Street northwards from Lincoln to the Humber ferry crossing at Winteringham, the Caistor High Street route would have continued to be the main link between the Wolds and the salt-making sites of the Wash and the east coast. Water-borne transport seems to have been the most effective means of movement through the marshy areas south of Horncastle (no Roman road has so far been found in this area), and westwards from Horncastle to Lincoln. The journey by Roman road from Horncastle to Lincoln appears to have been circuitous, first northwards along the Caistor High Street, then westwards and finally south-westwards on the Lincoln to Burgh-le-Marsh road, presumably because the Witham valley west of Horncastle was marsh. The Witham would almost certainly have been navigable as far upstream as Lincoln; close links between the two centres are suggested by the high incidence of Lincoln-made wares, to the apparent exclusion of more local products, among the pottery assemblage at Horncastle (Field and Hurst 1983, 63).



Horncastle has been considered as a possible site for an early Roman fort on the strength of its early Roman finds and strategic situation but this conjecture has not been substantiated (Whitwell 1982, 44).

Roman Horncastle consisted of two main elements: a walled enclosure of about 2ha. at the junction of the rivers Bain and Waring (at the modern town centre), and an unwalled settlement covering up to 54 ha. on a slightly higher gravel terrace south of the Waring and east of the Bain. The application site lies within the larger unwalled settlement area.

### **The walled town (Fig. 6)**

Horncastle has been recognised as a Roman walled site at least since the antiquarian William Stukeley's description and map of 1722 (Stukeley 1724; cf. Whitwell 1970, 71-4). The width of the wall is known from excavation and observation to have been 4m at the base of the western circuit.

The wall was a late 3rd- or 4th-century AD military construction built on a site not previously continuously occupied (although there is limited evidence for cultivation and occupation before the wall was built), less than 1km north of the existing and longer-occupied settlement south of The Wong. The few reported casual finds of Roman objects or structures within the wall is in marked contrast to the abundance of material from outside it; an archaeological excavation at 27 High Street in 1978 identified late-3rd to mid-4th century finds, including traces of timber buildings and clay roof tiles but no evidence of stone structures (Field and Hurst 1983). Finds from 3-5 Bridge Street, excavated in 1984, were of the same date.

There is a case for the walled site at Horncastle being a late 3rd century or later military installation connected with coastal defence and designed to protect against river-borne invasion. Horncastle would have lain about 16 km. up river from the Wash coastline as reconstructed by Simmons for the late Roman period (Fig. 4). In its situation at, or near to, a point which could be reached by sea-going vessels, Horncastle has a comparable position to other late Roman coastal fortifications around the shores of England. The massive walls and insubstantial nature of the intramural features accords with the picture produced by excavation within known Saxon Shore forts such as at Portchester.

Tentative suggestions have been made that the walled settlement at Caistor (35km NW) and a Roman site lost by marine erosion near Skegness would have formed a broader scheme serving this defensively vulnerable part of the coast.

### **The unwalled settlement**

Evidence of occupation and cemeteries over a substantial area south of the river Waring, originating in the Iron Age and continuing into the late fourth century and probably beyond, has been revealed since the 19th century as the modern settlement has expanded in three major waves of building activity (Cagthorpe area, south of the walled site; the Queen Street/Foundry Street

area SE of the walled site; and since the 1960s further south beside the Boston and Mareham Roads.

The settlement of the first and second centuries AD was situated on river terrace gravels forming the east side of the Bain valley a little way south of the confluence of the Waring with the Bain.

The unwalled settlement seems to have covered an area of about 54 ha., but its actual extent at any period is unknown. Indicators of the extent of the early Roman settlement are the cemeteries with cremation urns on the north and north-east (unfortunately the early reports of finds in these areas are vague about the locations), the single find of a beaded cremation urn and the general tailing out of early finds in the Tennyson Gardens-Stanhope Gardens area on the south; and the ditched enclosures besides the river on the west (Pl. 2). The eastern limit is possibly defined in the area of the Residential College along Mareham Road.

The separation of burial areas from habitation areas in successive periods and the existence of buildings with stone foundations and painted wall plaster have been seen as indications of urban status. Ditches on the Town Hall site, 4.5-6m wide and c. 2 m deep, were initially thought to be defensive features but have been reinterpreted as field boundary ditches as seen on air photographs. Recent archaeological investigations east of South Street have produced evidence of two second century Romano-British gullies 0.2m deep, beneath 0.5m of mixed dark soil interpreted as possible graveyard material; a single human bone was found (Neil Herbert, pers. comm.).

Coins found in the extramural settlement and the presence of unaccompanied inhumations in the cemetery areas show that occupation there continued throughout the 4th century, perhaps with a Christian element in the population at that date. The occurrence of inhumations on parts of the Town Hall site which seem to have been built up in the earlier Roman period is of particular interest in showing a reduction or shift of the inhabited area away from the walled enclosure.

Cropmark air photographs taken in 1976 of the fields just east of the Bain and west of Boston Road show that the western part of the settlement consisted of a series of ditched enclosures, presumably small Roman or Late Iron Age fields (Fig. 5; Pls. 1 and 2). The cropmarks lie immediately west of the Late Iron Age-Roman settlement as revealed from finds made on building sites. There is no evidence for significant post-Roman occupation in this area until modern times. The fields were related in the southern part of the area to two lanes running along the river valley; there seem to have been at least five rectangular enclosures about 40m wide fronting the lane nearest the river. More than one period of features is represented. The type of settlement revealed in the photographs can be paralleled in Roman contexts throughout Lincolnshire and beyond.

### **Saxon and Medieval**

The earliest recorded form of the place-name is *Hornecastre* [1086 Domesday Survey]. The name appears to derive from the Old English terms for 'a Roman station' and 'a horn-shaped piece of land' (Mills 1996, 178). Anglo-Saxon graves were found east of the walled circuit, south of Conging Street, in 1980.

The Domesday Survey of 1086 records that before the Norman Conquest Horncastle was the centre of a large royal estate held by Edith, wife of Edward the Confessor. Horncastle held land in many of the surrounding villages and was the centre of the wapentake. Its pre-Conquest status is confirmed by the presence of a mint in the tenth century (mints were only located in royal holdings).

The location of St. Lawrence's Church within the Roman walls is reminiscent of very early churches found inside Saxon shore forts. The manor and market place are also within the walled area, and all three formed the nucleus for the post-Roman settlement of Horncastle.

The medieval farming arrangement of the parish was the two fields, North and South, divided into strips. The Wong appears to derive its name from *vangr* (Middle English, 'garden or in-field'; common in Lincoln and parts of the county); the 'lord's wange' was located in the southern part of the South Field, close to the parish boundary. Air photographs show slight traces of ridge and furrow cultivation cropmarks at the SE edge of the application site, but much of the site closer to the Bain may have traditionally remained meadow since the Roman period.

### **Post-medieval Remains**

By 1700, the leather tanning industry in Horncastle was of local importance despite its decline elsewhere. By the end of that century the trade had declined with only two tanyards extant in 1826 and one in 1856 (although there was a subsequent revival in the town's shoe-making industry). Maltings were established in the town during the nineteenth century, using the local water supply and good communications (Wright, 1982, 27 and 76-7).

The Horncastle Navigation Act was passed in 1792 but was followed by difficulties in beginning the scheme. Work started in 1794 and the final section was opened in 1802. The canal experienced a drop in use by 1874, with the last recorded cargoes in 1878 (Wright 1982, 187).

The Horncastle to Kirkstead railway branch line was opened in 1854, with the station using the former site of a tanyard.

The western half of the application site had been enclosed prior to the nineteenth century (Fig. 7). During Enclosure of unenclosed land between 1803 and 1851, the course of the River Bain was straightened to improve flood water drainage (Fig. 8). The South Ings Drain (to the west of the application site, labelled 'Old River Bain' on some Ordnance Survey maps) was excavated by 1804 and enlarged in 1806 (Robinson 1983, 110-1). Two

early enclosures beside the drain, named in the 1851 Enclosure Award, were called South Ings, but other plots within the application site were not named.

After enclosure, the Royalty Allotment of 4 acres, 3 rods and 6 poles was known as The Wong and became a town open space for cattle market, fairs and recreation pursuits, acquired by the Local Board in 1892 (Fig. 9). Use was made of The Wong by the Horncastle Rifle Volunteer Corps (founded in 1859 after the Crimean War), who had an 800 yd [730m] rifle range between Oaks Meadow and a former sewerage works off Champion's Road. A former British School at the junction of South Street and The Wong was adapted as a Drill Hall, until a new Drill Hall was built in 1901 opposite the Mareham Road junction. This structure had an attached caretaker's house and rifle range; the hall was a Red Cross Hospital during World War I and is currently the Town Hall. Oaks Meadow was a cricket venue before 1914, and a new pavilion and pitch was built by 1926.

The population of Horncastle declined from 4,921 in 1851 to 4,374 in 1891, one of several small market towns in Lincolnshire which declined at that period. The horse fair (held in the town centre but extending south to The Wong) had been a three-week occasion in the eighteenth century but by 1888 lasted only three days, overtaken by Lincoln with its better railway links. Inns along South Street and Boston Road which served the fair included the Black Swan, Bridge and Castle, Alma, and Coach and Horses.

First edition 1:500, 1:2,500 and 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey maps, surveyed in 1887, show the rifle range extending across the area of the application site, with marked points at 50 yard intervals (Fig. 10). An open cattle market area is marked south of The Wong. West of South Street, two adjacent enclosures are shown, one marked pinfold (pound for stray livestock). This facility reflects the position close to the town boundary; the junction of South Street with Mareham road is labelled Hangman's Corner and might refer to a medieval and later site of execution. If so, burials of criminals might be expected in the immediate vicinity. The modern topography shows a distinct (probably natural) knoll NE of the junction emphasized by the ground falling away to the north and west.

North of the pinfold, the Black Swan public house fronted onto South Street, with three ranges of buildings (possibly cattle sheds) detached and to the west and south. The original Drill Hall is shown on the corner of South Street and The Wong. North of the Drill Hall was the Castle Inn.

Second edition maps, revised in 1904, show the next site of the Drill Hall, built in 1901 SW of Hangman's Corner, and used as Horncastle's Town Hall since 1970 (Pl. 3). To the SW of the large building were allotments.

#### **Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Application Site**

The earliest reported archaeological find from the immediate vicinity of the application site is a Bronze Age perforated basalt axe-hammer (SMR 41867) found at The Wong before 1908. Single stone and flint items probably represent casual loss within land exploited by local populations rather than

evidence of occupation of the site. Although such artefacts are found on burial sites, none are yet recorded in this vicinity; a ditched mound (SMR 41872) to the NW of the application site is certainly Roman or later and possibly post-medieval.

Cropmark features extending across the southern part of the application site (SMR 42763) have been interpreted as being of Late Iron Age or Romano-British date. The cropmarks recorded on air photographs show settlement features, a field system and trackways to the east of the River Bain. 1976 photographs show rectangular ditched enclosures 40m wide aligned alongside two lanes which follow the valley at the south end of the complex. Smaller rectangular enclosures and pits to north of the complex may be in a zone of denser multi-period settlement. At the north end of the complex, two trackways are visible with a small ditched enclosure and another larger enclosure which may pre-date the smaller feature.

The cropmarks have been dated by their proximity to frequent pottery finds south of The Wong, and by their similarity to other dated Late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement sites in Lowland England. A late Iron Age ditched enclosure was excavated by LAS 1km to the east off Mareham Road in 1994 (Tipper 1994).

At least five, and possibly six Roman cremation burials were found in 1982 at The Wong (SMR 42734). This site represents the archaeological investigation closest to the application site. Contractors excavating trenches for the High Dependency Unit to the SW of The Wong (on land described as previously common land) revealed a group of Roman jars with unrecorded association with human cremated bone. An archaeological excavation recorded the circumstances of the discovery, located further remains and identified two parallel 'U' profile ditches aligned NNW-SSE 3m from a cremation but apparently unassociated with it. The cremation vessels had been buried at different levels and over a long period of time; all except one of the burials had been disturbed by later ploughing. This findspot indicates a high probability of further human burials in the NE part of the application site.

Pottery dated to the third and fourth centuries AD was found south of the Wong (at the northern edge of the application site) in 1947 (SMR 41871); a fourth century bronze coin (SMR 42735) is recorded from an adjacent findspot. Similar pottery (SMR 42762) was reported from works north of the application site, on the site of a childrens' playground west of Cagthorpe in 1968.

Archaeological investigation of the cremations at the High Dependency Unit off The Wong indicated that the area had been ploughed, and there is air photographic evidence for west-east ridge and furrow between Boston Road and the South Ings Drain. Evidence of surviving medieval or later ridge and furrow is likely within the application site despite the field name Ings suggesting meadowland. Except where post-Roman alluvium has protected archaeological deposits, ploughing may have truncated them in places.

Air photographs taken in 1976 and 1986 indicate preservation of some ditched features on the open ground south of The Wong. The level of preservation within the application site itself is unknown as faint cropmarks on a 1976 photograph could indicate either poor preservation or unsuitable ground cover conditions for crop variation (TF 258 691: 2918/26). Much of the application site has been used as a grassed football pitch and this may have provided considerable protection unless it was levelled in preparation; most of the reported finds have been from building works, drain installation or garden cultivation alongside buildings.

### **Environmental preservation**

The western edge of the application site coincides with a drain marked by the Ordnance Survey as Old River Bain, although by its straight alignment it seems to be an artificial watercourse. A sinuous watercourse (coinciding to the south with parts of the parish boundary) lies 150m to the west and this is likely to represent a medieval or earlier course of that river. The disused Horncastle Canal passes 300m west of the application site.

The presence of these three adjacent watercourses marks a broad area of land with a high water-table. This may have two impacts on preservation of environmental remains in features within the application site. Waterlogging may be present within deep features even to the east on the higher part of the slope. There is evidence from The Wong of 1m deep ditches, 2m deep and 5m wide ditches SW of the Town Hall and 'large' ditches NW of the Town Hall, perhaps forming part of the Late Iron Age/Romano-British field system. Equally, ancient ditches may have been needed to drain water-logged land, but in this eventuality damage by later post-medieval land drainage should be expected on the site. Within the Bain valley, gravel extraction has lowered the water table relatively recently (producing dessication of deposits) but this is unlikely to have affected the application site.

The second possibility is that the river course has naturally changed or been managed at various stages. This may have been in response to changes in water-table known to have occurred since the Roman period. Alluvium from flooding episodes may have overwhelmed riverside occupation sites (resulting in their abandonment) and masked their remains from subsequent discovery. Well sealed deposits may be present (especially to the west side and NW corner of the application site and would offer the potential for environmental investigation of the settlement.

### **Site Visit** (Fig. 2)

The application site was visited by the author on 21st May in dry, bright conditions. Much of the application site (including the proposed replacement sports fields) was fenced and not readily accessible but all the site could be visually appraised.

Apart from possible vestigial traces of west-east aligned ridge and furrow within the pasture field south of the present school playing field, no archaeological features were observed. This conflicts with slight evidence of north-south ridge and furrow visible on the 1976 air photograph (Pl. 2). Each

of the north-south field boundaries east of the South Ings Drain lies along or parallel to an adjacent rise in ground level, which might possibly represent successive flood banks or terracing of the slope. It has been suggested that the 'terracing' could equally be natural, reflecting either Pleistocene gravel terraces or ponding back of freshwater by rising sea-level in the mid-sixth millennium BP (J. Rackham, pers. comm.).

Silty dark grey soil was evident within the adjacent allotments to the north, and in molehills and other soil exposures within the application site as far east as South Street. This may have been alluvial deposition, possibly redeposited after preparation of football pitches.

Remains of field boundary hedges, comprising mostly of hawthorn, were seen in several locations within and around the application site. A former ditch is visible between the southernmost playing field and the grass field.

Small inspection covers marking an underground service, probably a storm sewer flowing into the South Ings Drain, were seen along the northern side of the grass field (Pl. 4).

#### **Scheduled Ancient Monuments**

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the application site or which will be affected by the proposed development.

#### **Listed Buildings**

Two buildings in the close vicinity of the application site are Listed Buildings. These are both on the west side of The Wong and comprise the former Baptist Chapel (1767) and two houses (now amalgamated) NW of Phoenix House (c. 1800). Both are Listed Grade II (DoE 1987).

#### **Planning Policies**

The application site lies entirely outside the Horncastle Conservation Area as amended in 1996. The Conservation Area includes land to the north of The Wong and east of the cattle market beside South street.

The East Lindsey Local Plan indicates land at the southern edge of the application site as zoned for 'protected open space (Env24)' with both recreation area and Country Park designations (ELDC 1993b, Map 84). The Cattle Market area is zoned for 'Action Area Redevelopment Site (Env13)' (Map 84.1).

Relevant policy initiatives followed by East Lindsey District Council are detailed in its Deposit Local Plan (ELDC 1993a, 34):

#### *Conservation: Policy C8*

*The Council will not normally permit development which would harm a defined scheduled ancient monument site or other site of archaeological importance, or its setting.*

*Where such development is permitted, or, in the course of new development archaeological remains become apparent, then the developer will be required to suspend activities in order that the County Archaeologist shall be given the opportunity to excavate and record the site before development begins and to inspect and monitor the progress of development on the site.*

*The planning permission may be re-negotiated in the light of findings on site. Also, where such development is permitted, its form, scale, proportions, siting, materials, boundary treatment and associated landscaping shall take account of, and complement, the setting or archaeological significance of the ancient monument.*

Paragraph 4.27 accompanying the policy statement notes that in the case of archaeological sites not of Scheduled Ancient Monument status but "... of archaeological importance the Council will also try to make sure that the archaeological effects of development proposals are fully assessed before planning applications are determined. Planning Permission will not be granted without such an assessment. To this end the Council will liaise closely with the Archaeological Service provided by the County Council."

Paragraph 4.28: "Policy C8 seeks to protect sites yet undiscovered or unrecorded as well as those which are fully documented. The Sites and Monuments Register is constantly evolving with information on new and existing sites. Under the National Monuments Protection Programme, English Heritage is reviewing and updating sites to be protected. This will clearly increase the number of sites to fall within the terms of this Policy."

Paragraph 4.29: There will normally be a presumption against development which would harm other sites of archaeological significance. However, permission may be granted if the Applicant has shown that the site will be preserved either in situ or by record and that the proposed development is totally sympathetic to the site's character. Site investigation and recording should be seen as part of normal development costs to be borne by the developer."

#### **Potential Impact of Proposed Development on Archaeological Remains**

The store and petrol station will produce the greatest disturbance to surviving levels with their foundations and underground services. These zones are close to South Street and south of Ancaster Court (the High Dependency Unit). Further, but lesser, impact will be caused by preparation of car parking and servicing areas, and the new roundabout at Hangman's Corner.

Beyond the store itself, the replacement of facilities used by the Horncastle Football Club and the school playing fields to the south will cause extensive but probably limited disturbance within the open land east of South Ings Drain, where cropmarks are densest. Disturbance will be caused by



construction of pavilions, outbuildings, car parking areas, improved drainage and underground lighting ducts for floodlight pylons. Landscaping and re-seeding of pitches will probably also have some impact. Replacement of the Town Hall car parking area may have limited impact.

### **Conclusion**

The application site lies at the western side of an area known to contain a Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement site. To the east and north of the application site occupation features, perhaps including buildings with stone foundations, may be expected. A number of human cremations and inhumations ranging in date from the first to late third centuries AD have been encountered during previous building work in the cattle market, beside The Wong and off South Street as far south as the Drill Hall. These probably represent burial areas at the edge of the Roman unwalled settlement and the extent of their locations reflects changes in the size of that settlement. Further burials, and probably earlier cremations are virtually certain within the application site.

To the west and south of the application site, cropmarks visible on air photographs indicate buried ditches defining fields and trackways. This is likely to be agricultural land flanking the urban settlement. The cropmarks are multi-period and may range from Iron Age exploitation of land beside the River Bain through to the Romano-British period.

Further remains within the application site, especially on its western edge, may be present but both masked and protected by alluvium from prehistoric and late Roman flooding episodes. Air photographs show possible ditched round barrows on the western side of the former River Bain and other sites might be present within or just outside the site.

The relevant policies of East Lindsey District Council's Local Plan may require that a developer fund archaeological investigation within the application site because of its position within an area of archaeological interest or potential. As part of the application site is open land, geophysical survey could be a cost-effective way of preparing an initial indication of the extent and nature of buried remains, allowing a targeted programme of evaluation trenching and/or area archaeological excavation.

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The report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann and Naomi Field  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
15th June 1998

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## Appendix 1

### Summary List of Archaeological Sites and Artefacts (Source: Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record)

	SMR PRN No.	NGR (TF)	Description
1			
2	41851	?	Roman coffin found in The Gardens between Queen Street and South Street.
3	41853	25 69	Roman cremation urns, mortaria fragments, pottery, querns, bone pins. Found in vicinity of the Union House.
4	41855	261 691	Roman coin (Carausius 287-293).
5	41856	2606 6933	skeletons found 0.8-1m deep, north side of Bryant Close 1960. Undated.
6	41858	2618 6921	2 Roman coins (Gratian, Theodosius II).
7	41862	261 692	Romano-British coin, Gallienus 3rdC, found at junction of South Street and Mareham Road.
8	41863	2605 6932	2 Roman coins, Bryant Close. (Constantine and Constantinopolis. Single sherd Castor ware pottery.
9	41866	2615 6934	Roman inhumations, 5 adult, 1 ?child; in shallow cuts 0.22m deep, east-west and north-south. Croft House.
10	41867	2595 6933	Bronze Age perforated basalt axe-hammer found at The Wong pre 1908.
11	41868	2579 6965	site of possible ford over River Bain.
12	41871	2579 6929	3rd and 4th C pottery found to south of Wong 1947.
13	41872	2563 6935	site of ditched mound destroyed 1964. Local tradition claims was site of medieval maze at Julian Bower. Earth mound on gravel; 23m diameter. Romano-British pottery below mound. Also claimed to be area used for horse breaking around central post.
14	41876	2579 6965	16thC square limestone mortar found beneath bridge 1954.
15	41877	2616 6923	Roman wall section?
16	41878	260 691	Roman finds from site of Drill Hall, 1968-9.
17	41879	2610 6922	?Romano-British double ditch/gully north of junction of Mareham Road and Boston Road.
18	41884	2628 6915	Romano-British greyware pottery found 89 Queen Street.
19	41885	264 692	2 Neolithic flints SE of Horncastle.
20	41890	2628 6921	Roman coin (Constans).
21	41893	2643 6922	Roman coin (Constantine II).
22	41894	2652 6928	medieval spindle whorl.
23	41895	2562 6928	undated copper alloy ring.
24	41896	?	2 undated lead coffins found in garden near Queen Street. Both parallel, and east-west. Traces of decayed wood, long iron nails and clamps.
25	41897	2614 6934	3 Roman lead coffins found 1872 on site of New Jerusalem Chapel.
26	41898	?	Roman cremation urns.

	SMR PRN No.	NGR (TF)	Description
27	41899	2638 6950	Roman cremation urns found on the Vicarage ground, pre 1858.
28	42200	2638 6950	2 ?Iron Age urns found in new vicarage garden.
29	42202	2604 6917	Romano-British greyware pottery found off Boston Road, on building site and allotments near Drill Hall.
30	42203	26356 69080	Roman coin, garden off Mareham Road.
31	42205	2628 6937	Roman coin (Constantius II).
32	42207	2555 6935	post-medieval lead token or counter.
33	42208	2588 6963	site of undated cross, now removed.
34	42214	2597 6967	Anglo-saxon inhumation, 2 High Street. Beads, annular brooch and iron knife.
35	42221	2554 6930	site of Julian Bower medieval maze.
36	42689	262 693	?Late Iron Age settlement site.
37	42691	259 696	42 worked flints, mostly mesolithic but also neolithic, found 27 High Street.
38	42710	2577 6958	site of 14thC parsonage house.
39	42734	2589 6931	5-6 Roman cremations found 1981-2 at The Wong. Disturbed by later ploughing.
40	42735	2589 6931	Roman coin, mid-4th C, found in garden at the Wong.
41	42749	2608 6904	Roman coin (Constantius) found Southfield Place.
42	42750	2603 6933	human bones found in area of South Street and Bryant Close.
43	42751	2614 6934	?Human bones, undated. 1 Croft Street.
44	42752	2618 6927	Roman chalk floor of building, Bargate Lane.
45	42753	2620 6929	beehive quern and samian pottery sherd, The Hollies, Queen Street.
46	42754	2618 6937	human bones from sewer trench, Queen Street near junction with Croft Street.
47	42755	2650 6907	5 undated coins, Ambulance Station, Mareham Road.
48	42757	2628 6937	coin, undated.
49	42758	260 691	Late Iron Age pottery sherds found 1968-9, Sellwood Gardens.
50	42759	2603 6922	much Roman pottery north of Town Hall, 1968.
51	42760	2602 6918	Roman cinerary urns and several inhumations found 1968 just NW of Town Hall. Jet bracelet and bronze bracelets. Two large NE-SW ditches seen to south of the burials.
52	42761	2601 6932	2 skeletons found 1960 from cattle pens west of South Street.
53	42762	2584 6938	3rd-4th C greyware pottery on site of childrens' playground west of Cagthorpe, 1968.

	SMR PRN No.	NGR (TF)	Description
54	42763	258 689	cropmarks of settlement features, field system and trackways east of River Bain. 1976 APs show rectangular ditched enclosures 40m wide on two lanes along valley at south end. Smaller rectangular enclosures and pits to north may be in denser settlement.
55	42763	continued	Multi-period features. Further to north, two trackways with small ditched enclosure and another larger enclosure. ?Late Iron Age/Roman.
56	43167	2670 6925	?Iron Age enclosure, and flint scatter, Banovallum Gardens.
57	43248	2664 6926	medieval ridge and furrow, Banovallum Gardens.
58	43307	2675 6920	Roman ditches, ?enclosure. Banovallum Gardens.
59	43564	2606 6937	Romano-British gullies, ditches and post hole found east of South Street. Sealed by thick dark earth deposit. Single human bone. Pottery assemblage 3rdC or later.
60	43583	258 696	Roman walled settlement area.

### Abbreviations

NGR: National Grid Reference

LSMR: Lincs. County Sites and Monuments Record

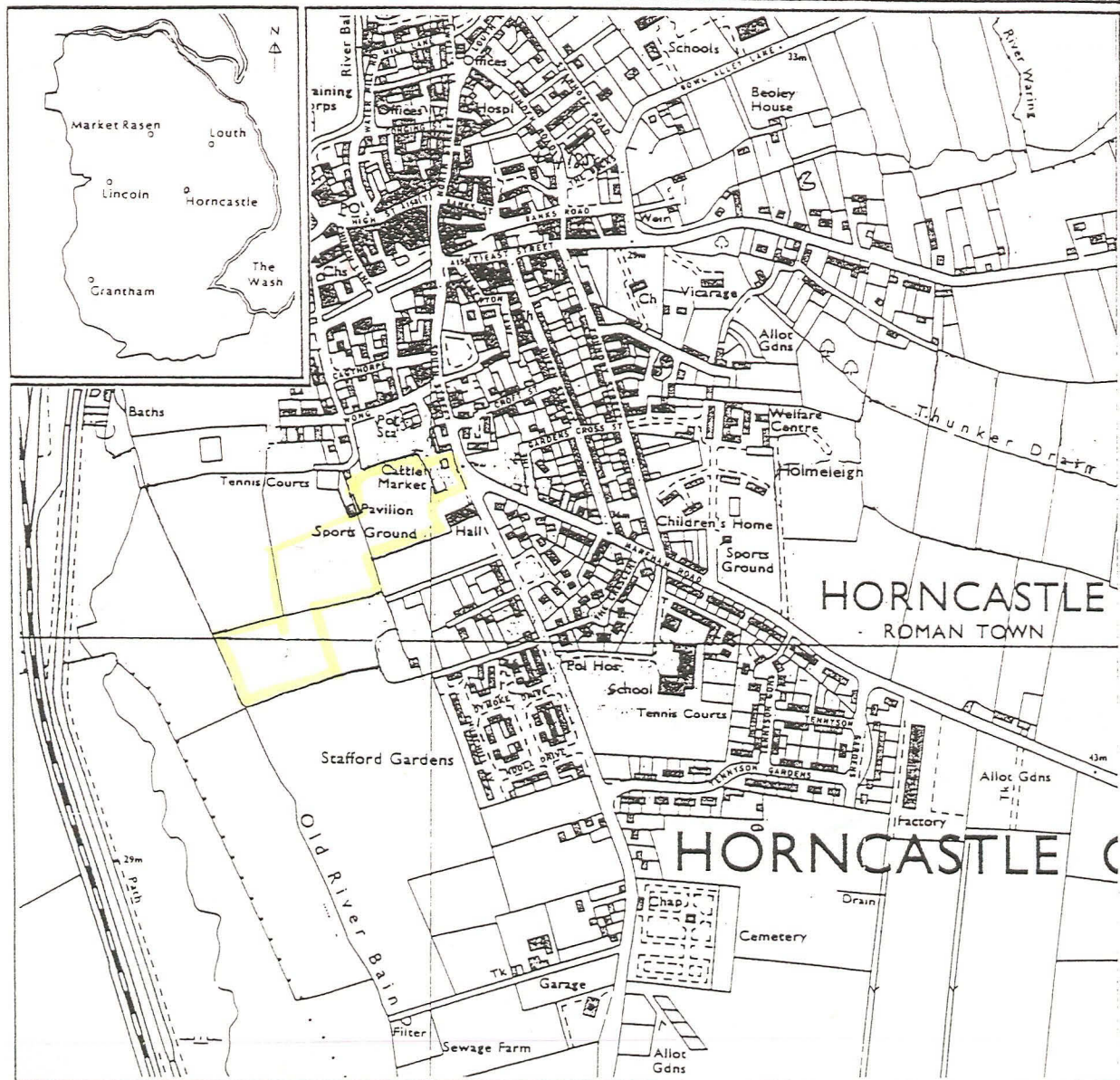
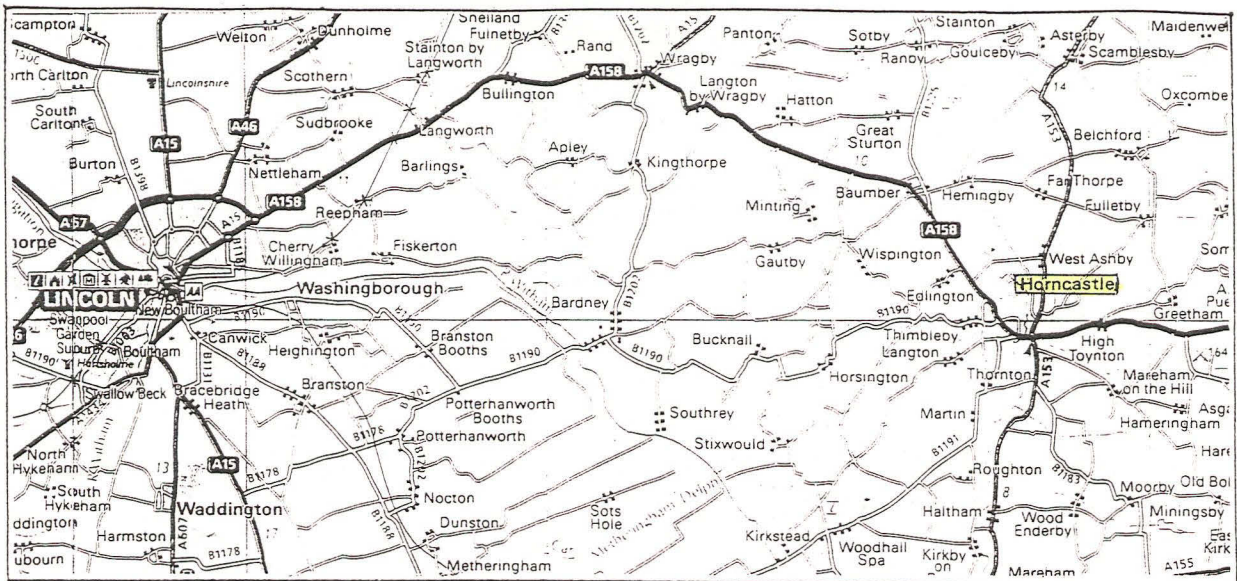
SAM: Scheduled Ancient Monument

## Appendix 2

### Air Photographic Coverage

NMR 2918/29		24.7.1976PE
NMR 2918/26	TF 258 691	24.7.1976PE
CDC SF 3202/6A	TF 258 692	13.7.1986
CDC SF 3202/7A	TF 258 692	13.7.1986
CDC SF 3202/8A	TF 258 692	13.7.1986
CDC SF 3202/9A	TF 258 692	13.7.1986
CDC SF 3202/10A	TF 258 692	13.7.1986
CDC SF 3202/11A	TF 258 692	13.7.1986
CDC SF 3202/12A	TF 258 692	13.7.1986
CDC SF 3202/13A	TF 258 692	13.7.1986
CDC SF 3202/14A	TF 258 692	13.7.1986
CDC SF 3202/15A	TF 258 692	13.7.1986
BYW 99		2.7.1976

Copies of these photographs are held by LAS.



**Fig. 1** Location of Horncastle (based on the 1988 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map, Sheets TF 26NW and TF 27SW. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).





Fig. 2 The Application Site and archaeological observations from the site visit (based on a 1:2,500 plan supplied by the client, dwg. no. L&R1). © Crown Copyright, reproduced with permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

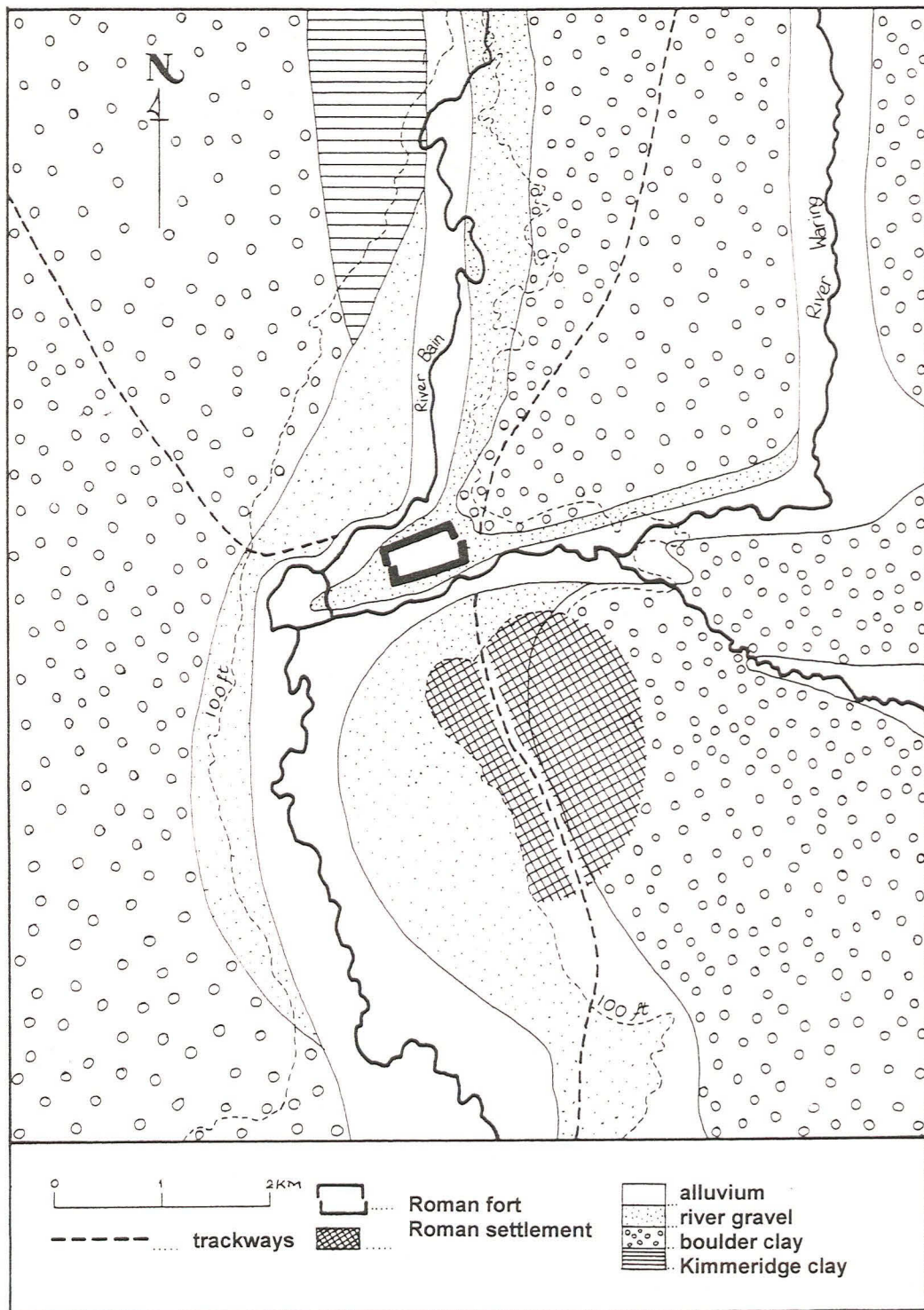


Fig. 3 Roman Horncastle and surface geology of the site (reproduced from Robinson 1983).

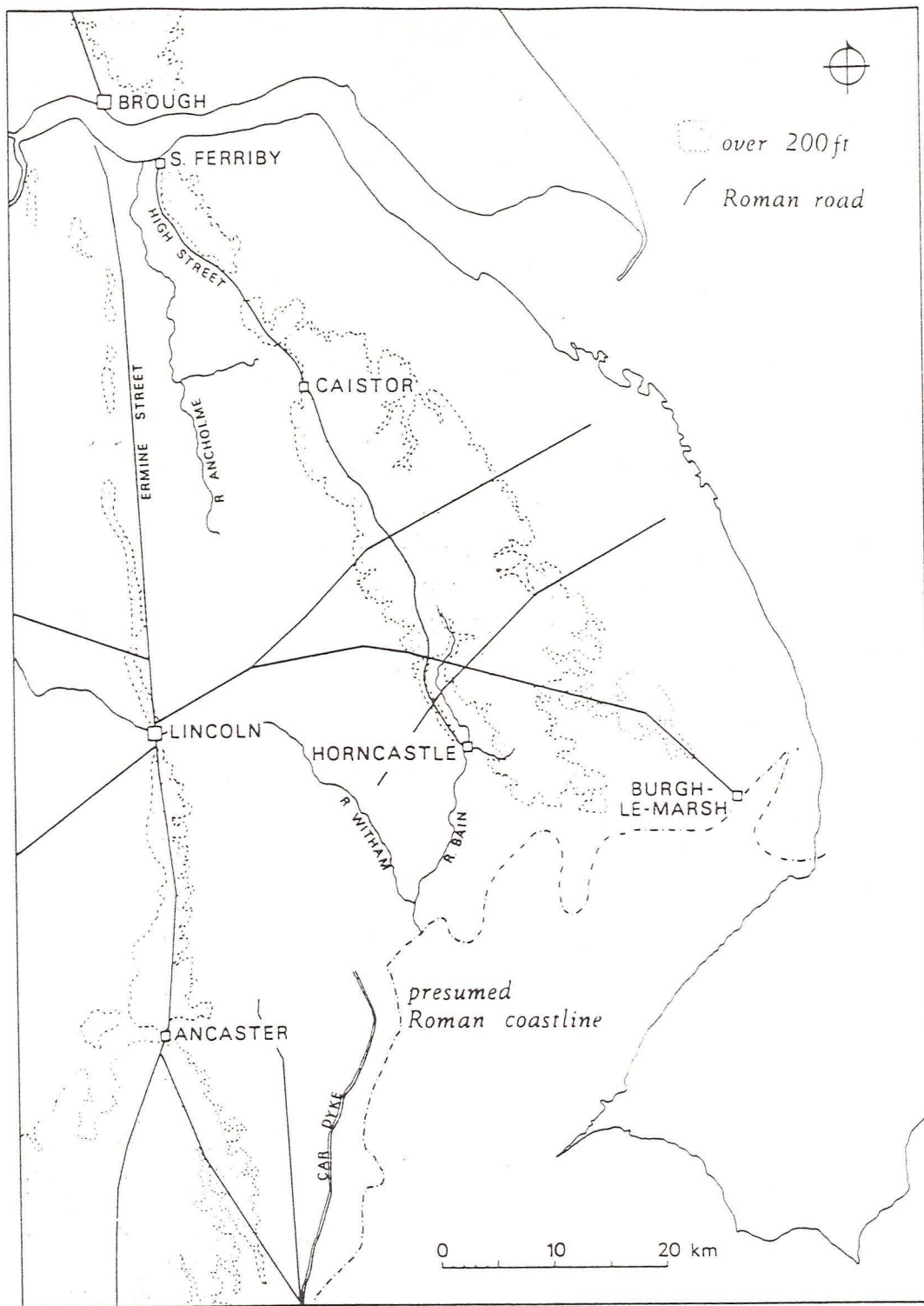


Fig. 4 Roman context of Horncastle (reproduced from Field and Hurst 1983, Fig. 2)

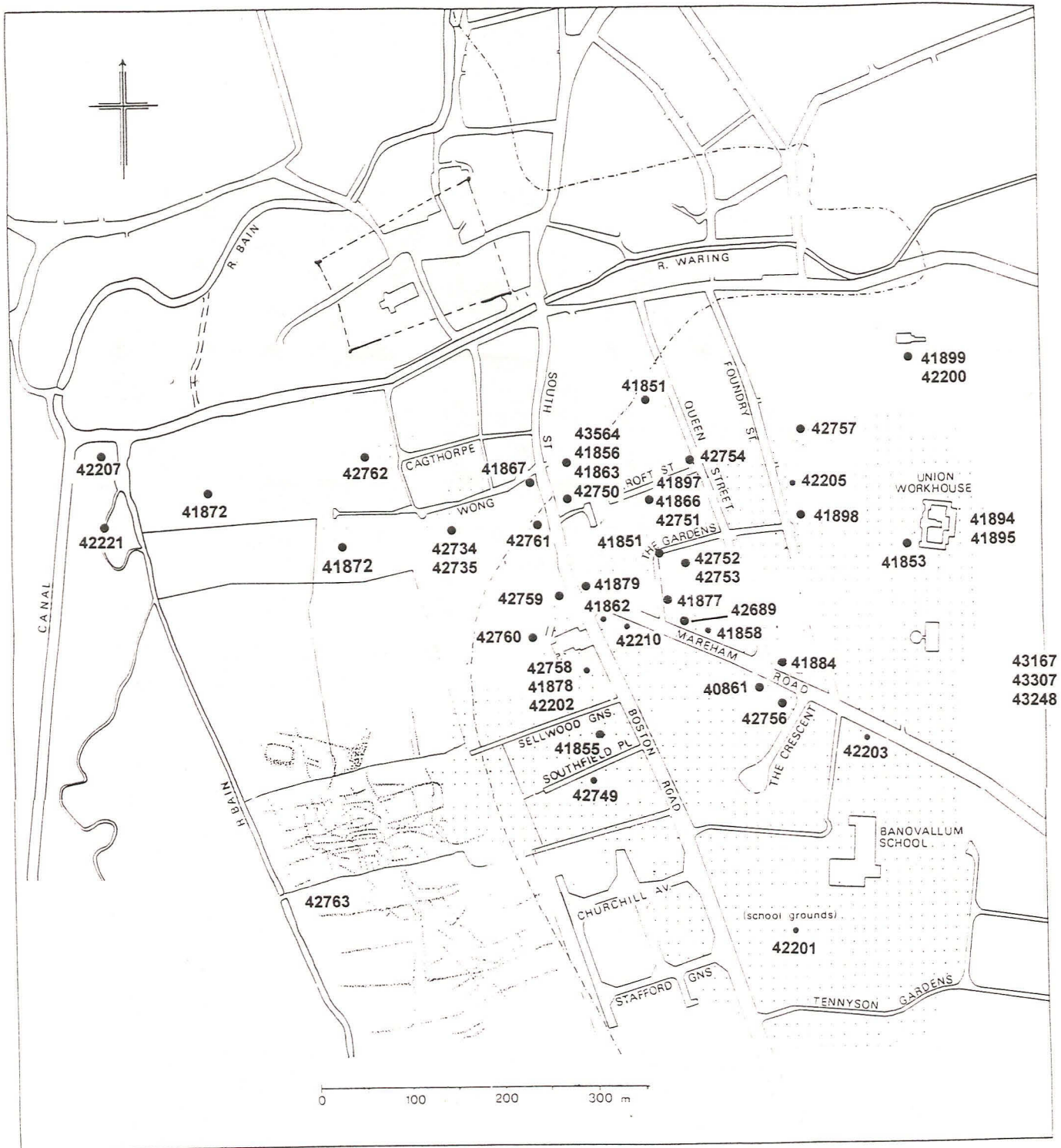


Fig. 5 Known archaeological sites close to the Application Site (based on Field and Hurst 1983, Fig. 26).



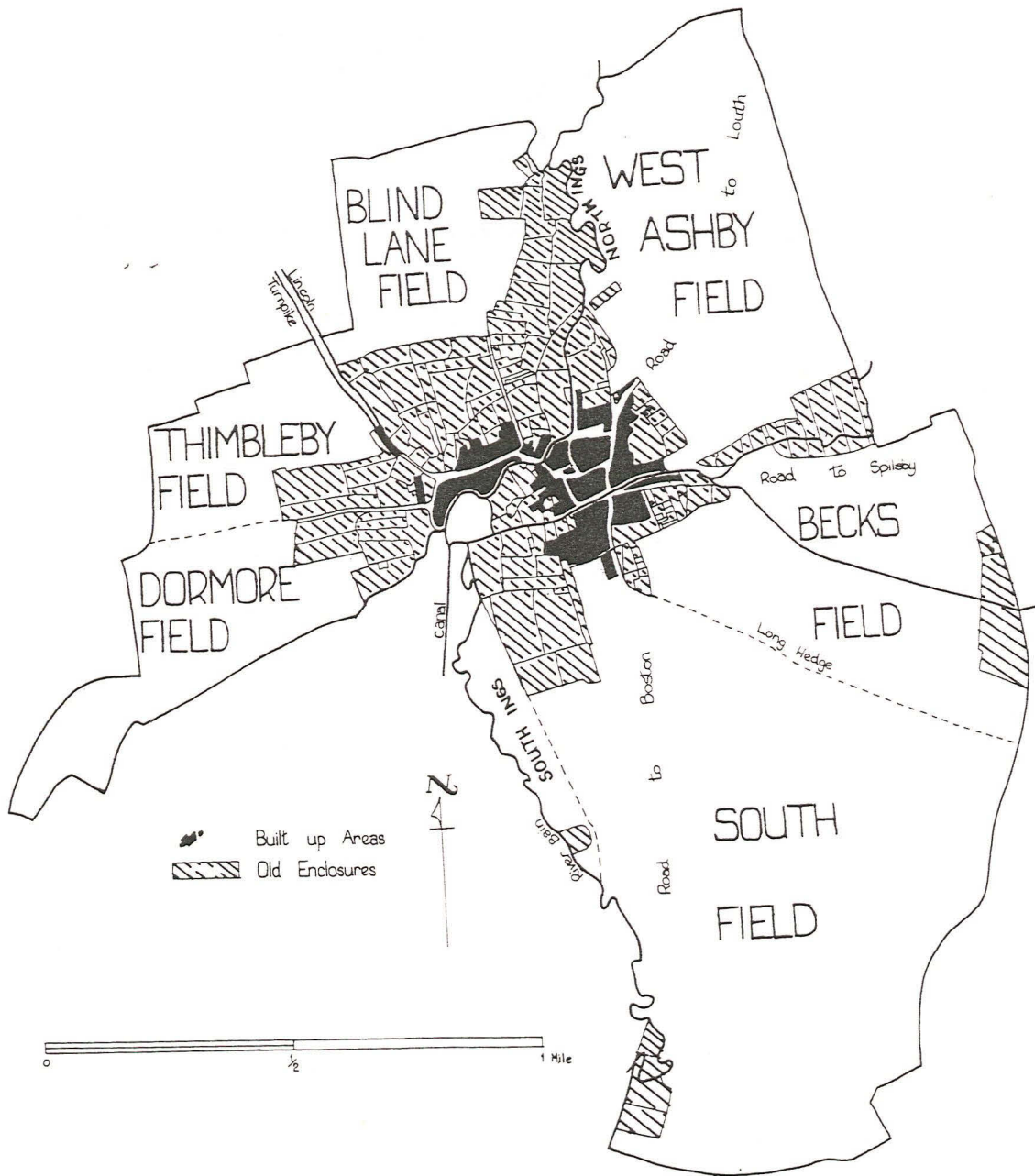


Fig. 7 Horncastle open fields before Enclosure (reproduced from Robinson 1983).

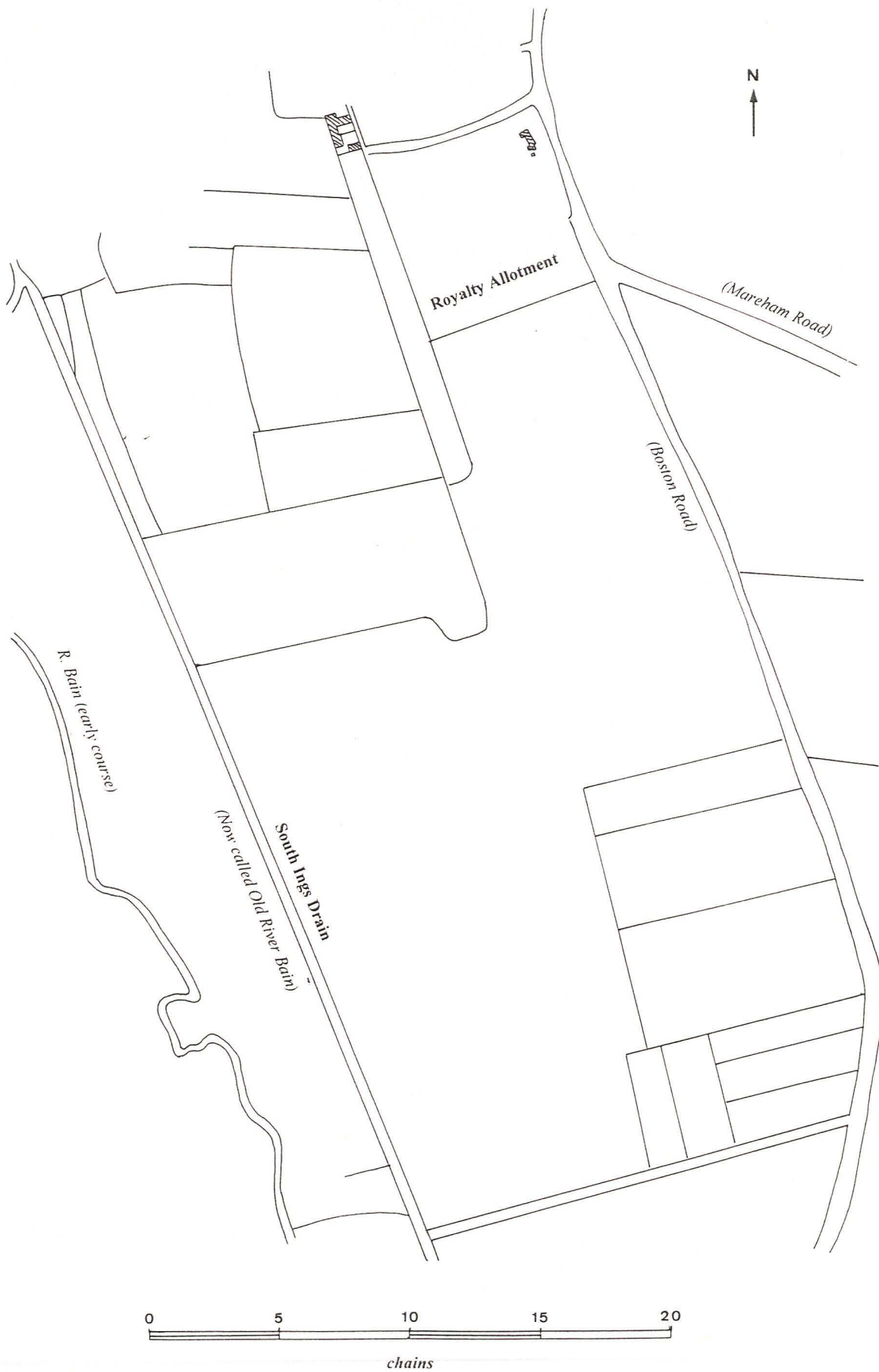


Fig. 8 Horncastle Enclosure Plan, 1850 (Field, after Maughan; LAO Lindsey Award 147).

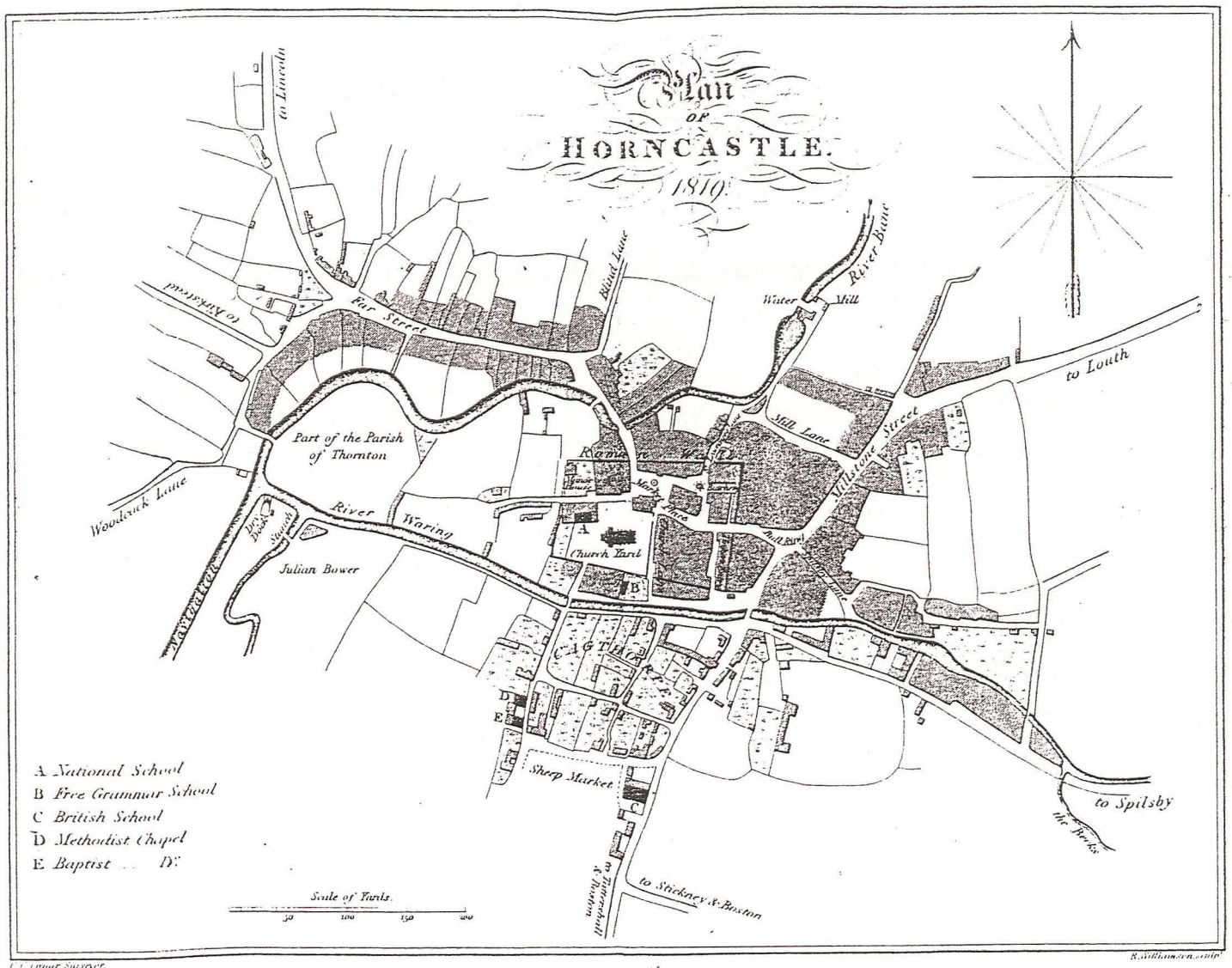
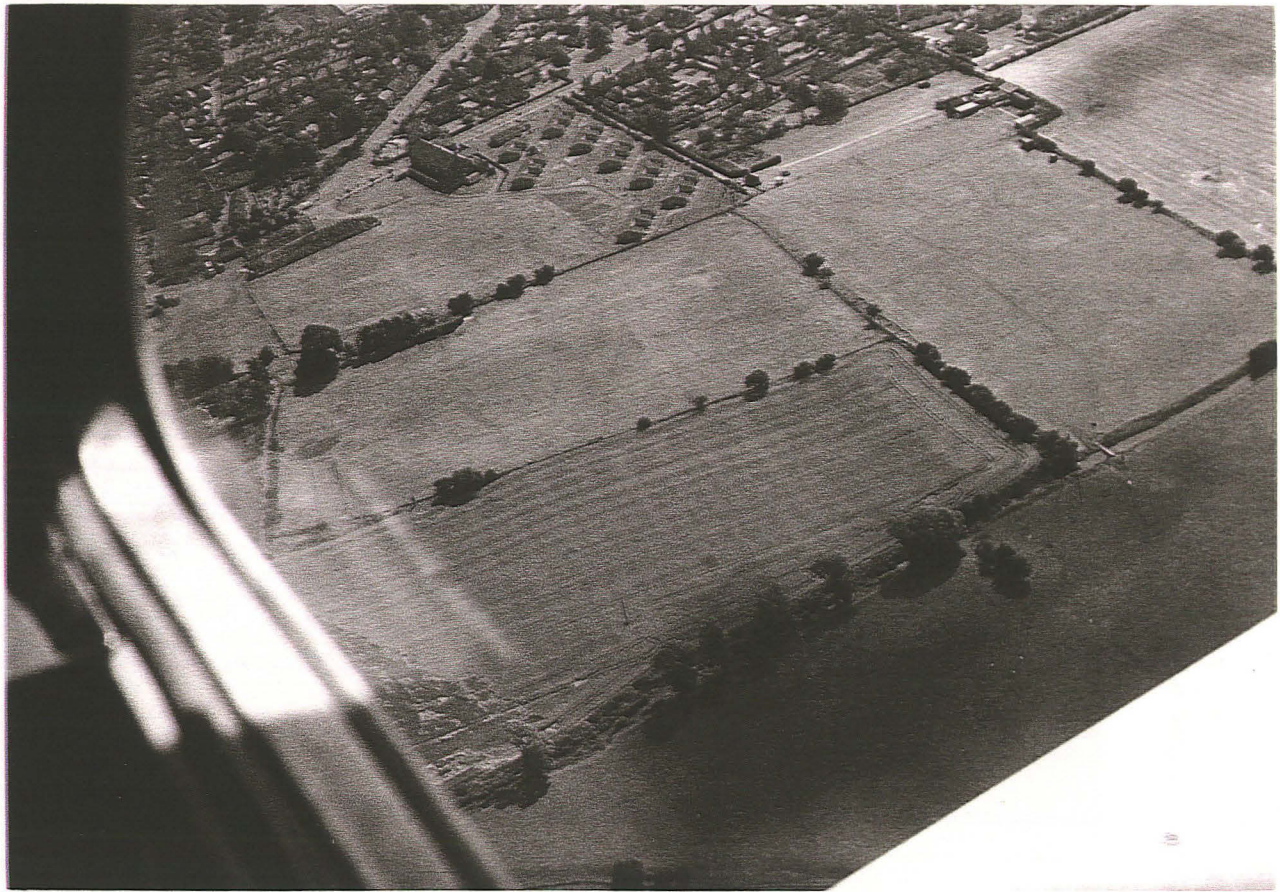


Fig. 9 Plan of Horncastle 1819 by Weir, showing Cagthorpe and the Sheep Market (reproduced from Robinson 1983).





Fig. 10 Extract from the Ordnance Survey 1890/1891 First Edition  
 1:2,500 map, Sheets Lincs. 73 SE and 73 SW.



**Pl. 1** Air photograph showing the application site in 1976, looking east across South Ings Drain to the Town Hall and Mareham Road junction. (NMR Ref. 2918/26. TF 258 691; 24.7.1976. Copyright reserved).



PI. 2 Air photograph showing rectangular ditched enclosures thought to mark Iron Age and Romano-British field systems east of the River Bain. Looking east across the river and South Ings Drain, with the application site extending two fields in from the right. (CUCAP Ref. BYW 99. 2.7.1976. Copyright Cambridge University Collection, reproduced with permission).



**Pl. 3** View across open ground and sports area (to south of market place) towards the former Drill Hall, now the Town Hall (looking SE).

**Pl. 4** Pasture field partly contained within southern limit of the application site. The hedge and backfilled ditch are visible (right). Slight traces of north-south ridge and furrow were seen in this field. (Looking west to higher ground west of the River Bain).

