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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Land south of Caistor Road

Swallow, Lincs.

NGR: TA 1765 0299

Site Code: SWCR 00

LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 2000.61

W. Lindsey District Council Planning Application No. 99/P/0491

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Report prepared for

Mr J. Board

(on behalf of Sir Richard Sutton's Settled Estates)

by

G. Tann

LAS Report No. 396

February 2000

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Summary

The application site occupies a pasture field on the western edge of Swallow village. There are suggestions of medieval settlement earthworks across the site, most pronounced to the south of a small stream which crosses the site. Any remains south of the stream will be at the rear of medieval plots, but entire properties would be present to the north if this area was developed in or after the medieval period. A sherd of medieval pottery was found on the field surface during the site visit. No other remains of any date have been reported from the site.

The stream appears to have been managed, possibly diverted to the north of its natural course. The natural 'swallow-hole' to the SE of the site could be a focus of early activity. There is a feature of unknown function alongside the stream.

Part of the site has been pitted for chalk extraction, probably in the early nineteenth century.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in February 2000 by Mr J. Board to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment of land south of Caistor Road in Swallow, Lincs. (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

Swallow is situated 40km NE of Lincoln, and 12km SW of Grimsby, in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The nearest small town is Caistor, 6km to the SE.

The application site is located to the south of the former A46 Caistor Road, west of the village crossroads (Fig. 2; Pl. 1). The 0.79ha plot extends back from the Caistor Road, with its southern edge at the rear of new properties fronting onto Chapel Lane. At present, the site is grazed rough pasture. The application is for outline consent for residential development.

Methods and Sources

A desk top study of the application site within a 0.5km surrounding area was undertaken in order to

identify and assess all archaeological constraints. Research for the assessment was conducted by G. Tann on March 6th-8th 2000. The following sources were consulted and available information researched:

- Lincolnshire County Council Built Environment Office, Sites and Monuments Record (SMR),
- Lincolnshire Archives Office (Enclosure map, Ordnance Survey maps, manuscript maps and other documentary and published sources)
- Lincoln Central Library Reference Department, Local Studies Collection
- Site visit

Observations from the site visit are marked on Fig. 2, with letters referring to the report text. Features on this map are sketch plotted.

Topography and Geology

Swallow is sited in a deep west-east valley within the Lincolnshire Wolds. The surrounding geology is chalk, but sand pits and gravel quarries are documented in the parish. This material is probably of glacial origin and restricted to the valley bottom, but sand deposits have been reported to be over 5.5m deep (letter in SMR parish file, PRN **51731**). It is unlikely to be associated with the present west-east stream which flows through the application site. Road widening in 1953 removed part of the churchyard adjacent to the northern side of Caistor Road, and graves were found to be cut into chalk up to 3m below the former ground level (previously 4m higher than the road) (Lincs. Echo 1953). Although the northern side of the application site is probably on chalk, sand may be present in the centre of the site and alluvium deposits are probable alongside the stream. The northern side of the site is at about 48.5m OD.

There is evidence of quarrying within the NE part of the site **a**, and this may have been for chalk (Pl. 2). It was not possible to identify the positions of chalk and sand pits described in eighteenth century documentary sources, which might include the features on this site.

Archaeological and Historical Background (Fig. 1)

Previously recorded sites and findspots are listed in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record. These have been allocated Primary Record Numbers (PRNs) and these are used, in bold, in the text. A summary list of entries in the vicinity is provided in Appendix 1. An earthwork survey and documentary analysis was conducted by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) (RCHM(E)) and information from that study has been used in this assessment (Fig. 3; Everson, Taylor and Dunn 1991, 189-191).

Prehistoric

A Neolithic polished stone axe (SMR **51727**), found 850m SW of the application site, is the closest reported prehistoric find in the study area. Cropmark sites of possible levelled barrows (burial

mounds) are known to the west and east (51741, 51735). Prehistoric activity in the Lincolnshire Wolds is known to have been extensive, and finds of flint and stone tools are widespread.

Roman

A Roman coin 54128 was reported from 250m north of the application site in 1997. A scatter of pottery 51731 was discovered in 1930 at a depth of 18ft [5.5m] within a sandpit, 600m SW of the site. The provenance appears unlikely, and the finds may have fallen in from a surface feature. Further finds 54127 have been reported from 1km NE of the site.

Saxon and Medieval

The earliest recorded forms of the Swallow place-name are *Sualun* and *Svalun* [1086 Domesday Survey], with numerous slight variations of *Swalowe* after the early fourteenth century, until *Swallow* is recorded in 1610 (Cameron 1997, 144-5). The name has no certain meaning, but in all likelihood it derives from a name for the action of a stream disappearing below ground, as a stream does at the SE corner of the application site **b**. The term 'swallow-hole' is used where the chemical reaction of water on chalk results in creation or enlargement of a fissure, down which a watercourse disappears (Rackham 1994, 170). As a topographical place-name, it may be considerably earlier than its first record.

Swallow is at the western limit of Bradley wapentake, in the North Riding of Lindsey. At the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, land in Swallow was probably divided between three manors, although seven entries occur. The RCHM(E) survey suggested that one manor house site **c** may have been south of the site of Glebe Farm **k**, 130m west of the application site. The population in 1086 is thought to have been about 35 households, dropping markedly in the fourteenth century as a result of the Black Death.

Analysis of documentary sources by the RCHM(E) indicates that one manor had been granted to an Augustinian foundation by the early thirteenth century, and another estate or manor was granted to a Cistercian priory. Both these properties are suspected to have been in the village itself. Three other monastic institutions held lesser parcels of land in the parish, resulting in a complex tenurial arrangement reflected by settlement earthworks which, because of more recent development, have defied analysis (Everson, Taylor and Dunn 1991, 189).

The application site may include settlement remains relating to both Caistor Road and a medieval precursor of Chapel Lane. Caistor Road appears to have been a narrower form of the present road, flanked to the north and parts of its southern side by dwellings and their crofts. To the south, these crofts extended to the stream. To the south of the stream were the crofts of dwellings fronting onto a former lane **d** now represented for part of its length by Chapel Lane. This medieval lane passes adjacent to the suggested manor house site. The sites of all the frontages of the crofts south of the application site now lie below twentieth century development, and most of the croft earthworks have

been obliterated since the RCHM(E) survey.

Post-medieval

Maps of Swallow indicate a number of small disused pits and quarries along the valley sides and floor. These are mostly former chalk pits, for building material and for agricultural chalk; some may have been used for hardcore and road maintenance. There are other pits which exploited gravel and sand deposits. Several of these pits are shown on early nineteenth century plans or are recorded in the text of earlier Glebe Terriers, and a post-medieval date is probable for most (LAO MCD 851/36; OS 1890). Presumably extraction has occurred since occupation of the village site, but early quarries may have been subsumed by later, more extensive, extraction.

The population of Swallow is thought to have declined during the post-medieval period, with waste properties documented in the later fifteenth century. In 1607, six farms had been converted into cottages, and other indications suggest a continuing decline until about 1831. A small-scale map of the county, surveyed between 1827-8, marks a regular row of buildings along the Caistor Road frontage SW of the church (Greenwood 1830). This depiction may well be inaccurate, as other sources only show buildings at Glebe Farm **k** and attached to the smithy **p**, with none on the application site.

Site Visit (Fig. 2)

The application site was visited on March 8th 2000, in good light and dry conditions. The site is under grazed rough pasture, with a small stream **e** flowing across from west to east (Pl. 3). Hawthorn field hedges are present along the western and northern boundaries, with evidence of a backfilled field ditch **f** along part of the western boundary. The ditch has been obliterated in the NW corner **g**, but the cause is not known. It may be a hardcore field entrance, but it predates a large oak tree **h** and there are no signs to suggest an entrance here. Immediately to the west of the site are the remains of an orchard **j**, probably associated with the site of Glebe Farm **k** (demolished at a date after 1971) (Pl. 4).

Most of the ground north of the stream and up to Caistor Road is now a virtually uniform slope, with a very slight raised area **l** visible to the west. Almost all trace of the north-south earthworks visible on 1971 air photographs, and those recorded by the RCHM(E) in the 1980s, has gone (Fig. 3). A small sherd of twelfth-fifteenth century pottery **n**, not from a local kiln, was found on a mole-hill near the northern hedge during the site visit. A large depression **a** close to the boundary with the adjoining property is a disused quarry: although there are sand and gravel pits in the locality, the amount of chalk visible on the field surface suggests that this is a former chalk pit, perhaps for maintenance of Caistor road (Pl. 2). The main pit is about 2m deep, with regular sides at the base. A lesser pit lies partly within the neighbouring property, and the land north of the pit has been disturbed either by further shallow pits or by spoil tipping and an access track. There is no evidence for a blocked field entrance from Caistor Road.

The neighbouring property, formerly a smithy **p** (still with horseshoes hanging on an outhouse door) was not shown on the 1806 Enclosure map; neither were the pit features, although similar features were marked elsewhere in the village (Fig. 4; LAO MCD 851/36). The building is apparently shown on the Ordnance Survey First Edition One Inch map (OS 1824). By 1887 trees were established in the adjoining garden and a public footpath crossed from Caistor Road to Chapel Lane between a large pit and the field boundary (Fig. 5; OS 1890). The pits seem therefore to be dateable to between 1805 and 1887, with the larger one being the latest; all may have been abandoned by or shortly after 1824.

Behind the smithy, the application site is uneven. This is probably a combination of spoil from the chalk pits and disturbance from a sewer inserted after 1970 (a sewer inspection cover is visible **q**, dated 1970). The alignment of the sewer was not established, although it would seem to link the smithy premises with the Chapel Lane houses. Vehicular access into the field is limited, and may have been from the west. It is possible that levelling may have taken place across the application site at the same time; earthworks surveyed by the RCHM(E) to the west are no longer visible. A small amount of brick rubble, almost certainly from Glebe Farm buildings, was seen near the stream. This could indicate some introduction of hardcore onto the application site at the same time. The RCHM(E) earthwork survey indicates a complex set of undulations behind the smithy, so earlier features may also be present.

The stream flows from west to east in a shallow channel. In the centre of the field is a tree **r**, to the north of which the ground is saturated, as if a water feature had been backfilled (Pl. 5). The grass around this point is a darker green, with waterlogging extending further than the grass growth suggests.

The stream channel changes direction abruptly 70m into the application site, from a SW-NE direction to west-east **s**. The angle is between earthwork depressions **m** and **v** on both sides of the stream, and could be produced by medieval land use or ownership differences. Another possibility is that it marks the position of a feature related to the stream. The third option is that the stream channel has been moved about 10m north of its natural course through this field and that the angle was required to return it to its natural course slightly further east.

Although the stream channel could probably be easily forded anywhere in the field, a buried pipe allows a dry crossing point **t** south of the chalk pit. A possible ford **y** lies a short distance to the west. The crossing point seems to equate with the route of the public footpath from Caistor Road to Chapel Lane, first represented on the 1890 map (OS 1890). The path joined Chapel Lane close to the site of the Methodist Chapel, and may have been used primarily to serve the chapel; it is not marked on the 1806 map. The route of the path was not evident across the field, and apparently stopped being a public footpath between 1956 and 1971, coinciding with abandonment of the chapel and clearance of its site (Fig. 6; OS 1956; OS 1971). Since 1971, land fronting Chapel Lane has been developed and

properties have been extended to the north, removing the former path. The former right of way does not seem to represent a medieval route across the application site.

To the south of the stream, the most obvious feature is a pronounced north-south aligned linear depression **v**, looking similar to a narrow hollow way or a ditch (Pl. 5). Beyond the application site, the feature has been levelled but remains visible as waterlogged grass in a rear garden. This feature was surveyed by the RCHM(E), at which time it formed part of a complex of settlement earthworks associated with the medieval precursor of Chapel Lane. It appears to have been a boundary between crofts fronting onto that lane and extending to the stream. Slight traces of a separate but similar feature **m** are visible on the northern side of the stream.

To the west of the linear feature is a west-east aligned rectangular platform **w**, breaking the slope to the stream (Pl. 3). No interpretation of this feature has been made.

A water trough **x** in the SW corner of the application site means that a water service pipe will be present, probably entering from the southern side of the field.

Planning Policies

Middle Rasen is in West Lindsey. The *West Lindsey Local Plan* for the period to 2002 was placed on deposit in March 1994. An extract relevant to archaeological issues is appended (Appendix 2).

Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the application site or which would be affected by development on the application site. Holy Trinity Church, on the north side of Caistor Road is a building listed as of Grade II* Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The church, which contains eleventh century fabric within the tower, stands alone on raised ground overlooking the southern side of Caistor Road. The setting of a Listed Building is taken into consideration during determination of planning applications.

Archaeological Potential of the Application Site

Prehistoric and Roman

Only casual finds of prehistoric and Roman artefacts have been made in the immediate area and despite cropmark sites of barrows, the potential for remains on this site is low.

Saxon and Medieval

The application site lies on the western fringe of the settlement core, and close to the Anglo-Saxon church building. Saxon remains are possible in this location.

The site appears to lie between medieval plots (to the east, fronting onto the present course of

Caistor Road) and the site of Glebe Farm (to the west). No available plans indicate any structures within the site, and a small-scale map of 1827-28 which appears to show a regular row of buildings fronting the road is probably inaccurate. The reason for this land remaining undeveloped during the medieval and post-medieval periods is not clear. The stream and the wet ground around it may be the determining factor, as could the slope from north to south or the documented decline in population in the village.

This stretch of the stream has been managed within the field, and the extent of this management might be significant. A dammed pond and other ponds south of Glebe Farm may be related; a medieval fishpond arrangement is unlikely but not inconceivable, given the monastic land holdings in Swallow.

The stream goes below ground in the SE corner of the application site, and property boundaries to the east are more sinuous. Early settlement may have used the dry ground (presumably chalk) rather than the wetter ground of the application site where water flowed across the surface (perhaps on a clayey alluvium). This particular 'swallow-hole' may have been sufficiently remarkable to have prompted the Anglo-Saxon name, or there may have been a series in the settlement. It may not be coincidence that the church site overlooks this feature.

Despite the absence of surface indications, the northern side of the application site may have contained entire medieval dwelling sites and associated rubbish pits, drainage features and metalled surfaces. The rear crofts of medieval properties are thought to be present south of the stream. Boundary features are present in both locations.

An important feature of this site is the stream contained within it, with its potential for the survival of organic artefacts and environmental remains. The site may contain archaeological features which indicate which side of the stream was developed first, and what prior landuse existed. To the north, the development sequence of more than one complete property may survive, apparently unaffected by post-medieval development other than the chalk pits. Any dating material present would allow the chronology of this settlement to be determined more precisely.

Previous damage to archaeological remains on this site is most severe to the east where the ground has been badly disturbed by the chalk pits and sewer pipe. Levelling of earthworks has occurred to the west, but the extent of this is unknown.

Potential Archaeological Impact of the Proposed Development

If developed for housing, strip foundations with associated drainage and landscaping would severely affect any underlying remains on the site. All remaining earthworks might be removed, and the physical evidence for medieval use of this plot would be lost.

Conclusion

The application site is within the core of an Anglo-Saxon and later settlement, and land to the south of the stream contains the rear crofts of medieval properties. The field to the north is an area of less certain archaeological potential. An earthwork survey which included this plot identified no features which could be interpreted with certainty. There were possible croft divisions, but the features on this plot were already in the 1980s much less well preserved than elsewhere in Swallow.

The medieval settlement was an amalgam of holdings of up to seven manors and estates and the development of the present village form is not understood. The stream, immediately west of a swallow-hole, may have influenced the village layout from an early date, and evidence of this might be found on this application site.

Geophysical survey and evaluation trenching within the field could reveal a glimpse of medieval and earlier land use within the application site. Further excavation might be justified if archaeological features, particularly medieval house sites, are located by the evaluation trenches.

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Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
13th March 2000

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Gordon Luck 12/5/1996 2Q; 12/4/1997 2S (SMR).

Archive Summary

Archaeological find: medieval pottery sherd

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film no. 00/24/15-30 (including those used in this report)

Correspondence

APPENDIX 1

Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record Summary

PRN	NGR (all TA)	Description
50316	1735 0289	moated site
51727	1666 0228	Neolithic stone axe (Great Langdale), 1973
51729	1761 0303	Holy Trinity Church; pre-conquest tower with rebuilt belfry, nave and chancel 13thC.
51731	1690 0273	Romano-British pottery in sand pit, 1930
51732	1650 0250	cropmark site of enclosure
51735	1795 0231	cropmark site of barrow and pit
51736	1799 0234	cropmark site of boundary ditch
51740	1765 0298	earthworks of shrunken medieval settlement
51741	1675 0326	cropmark site of barrow
51756	1838 0220	chalk pit
51757	1818 0250	chalk pit
51758	1741 0092	Cuxwold shrunken medieval settlement
51759	1730 0300	chalk pit
51760	1846 0315	chalk pit
51765	1783 0314	disused chalk quarry
54127	185 033	Roman finds
54128	1768 0315	Roman coin
54129	172 034	post-medieval finds
54160	1846 0315	chalk pit

Abbreviations

PRN: Primary Record Number, Lincs. County SMR

NGR: National Grid Reference

Planning Policies

Relevant policy initiatives followed by West Lindsey District Council are detailed in its Draft Local Plan (WLDC 1992a, 57-60; Deposit Local Plan March 1994):

Ancient Monuments and Sites of Archaeological Importance: Policy SA9

The Local Planning Authority will seek to protect the District's archaeological heritage, including all known sites of archaeological importance.

Planning permission will not normally be granted for development which would adversely affect the archaeological remains on, or under, a site or affect the character or setting of a site. This is particularly so in the case of archaeological remains of national or great local importance.

Where development is proposed on a site where there is considered to be an archaeological interest and the information about the archaeology is insufficient to determine an application the applicant may be required to provide further information needed to determine the application; in the absence of this the local planning authority will consider the need to refuse permission for the proposals.

If planning permission is granted for a development which if carried out would adversely affect the archaeology of the site it will be subject to conditions, agreements or planning obligations as appropriate to:

- i) Ensure preservation of the archaeology in situ and/or*
- ii) Ensure an adequate record of the site is made. Depending on the importance of the site, this may take the form of*
 - a) excavation, adequate opportunity being provided by the developer for an archaeological body approved by the District Council to carry out such works*
 - b) watching brief*
 - c) field survey*

Such excavation or recording shall normally be carried out before development commences. The publication of results of any excavation or survey will be required as part of any agreement or set of conditions.

Where the character setting or physical structure of an archaeological site is being or would be adversely affected by permitted development, the local authority will give consideration to the need for making an order under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1988.

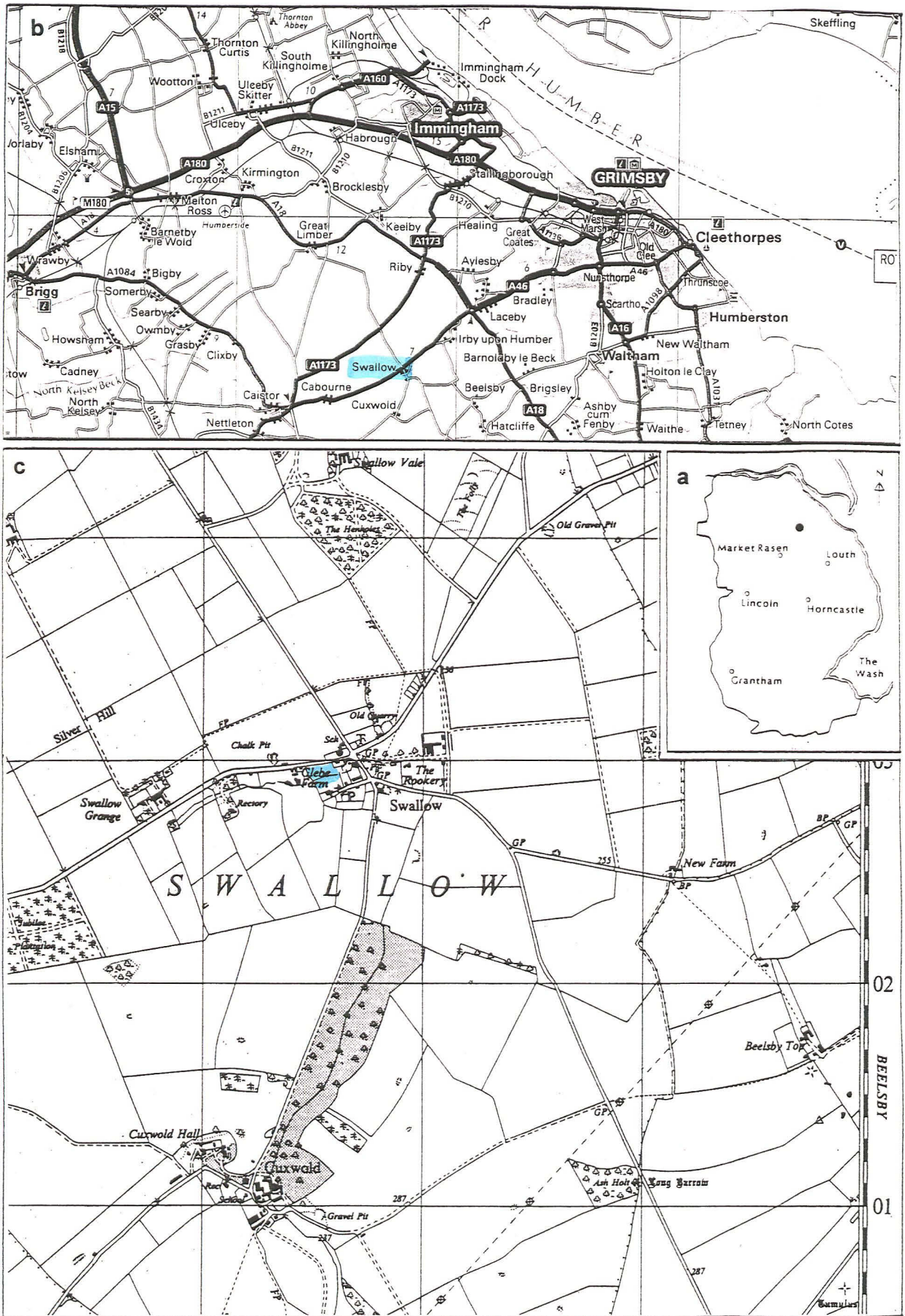


Fig. 1 Location of Swallow, showing recorded archaeological sites and findspots (c based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map sheet TA 10. Additional information plotted from Lincolnshire SMR. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).



Fig. 2 The Application Site, showing features of interest identified and sketch-plotted during the site visit. Letters in bold refer to observations noted in the report text. (1:1,250 map supplied by the client. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).



Fig. 3 Earthwork survey of Swallow village produced by RCHM(E), with features 1 and 2 within the application site visible on 1971 air photograph added by LAS (Sources: Everson, Taylor and Dunn 1991; HSL UK 71 52 2/5/1971, Run 17, 0160-161).

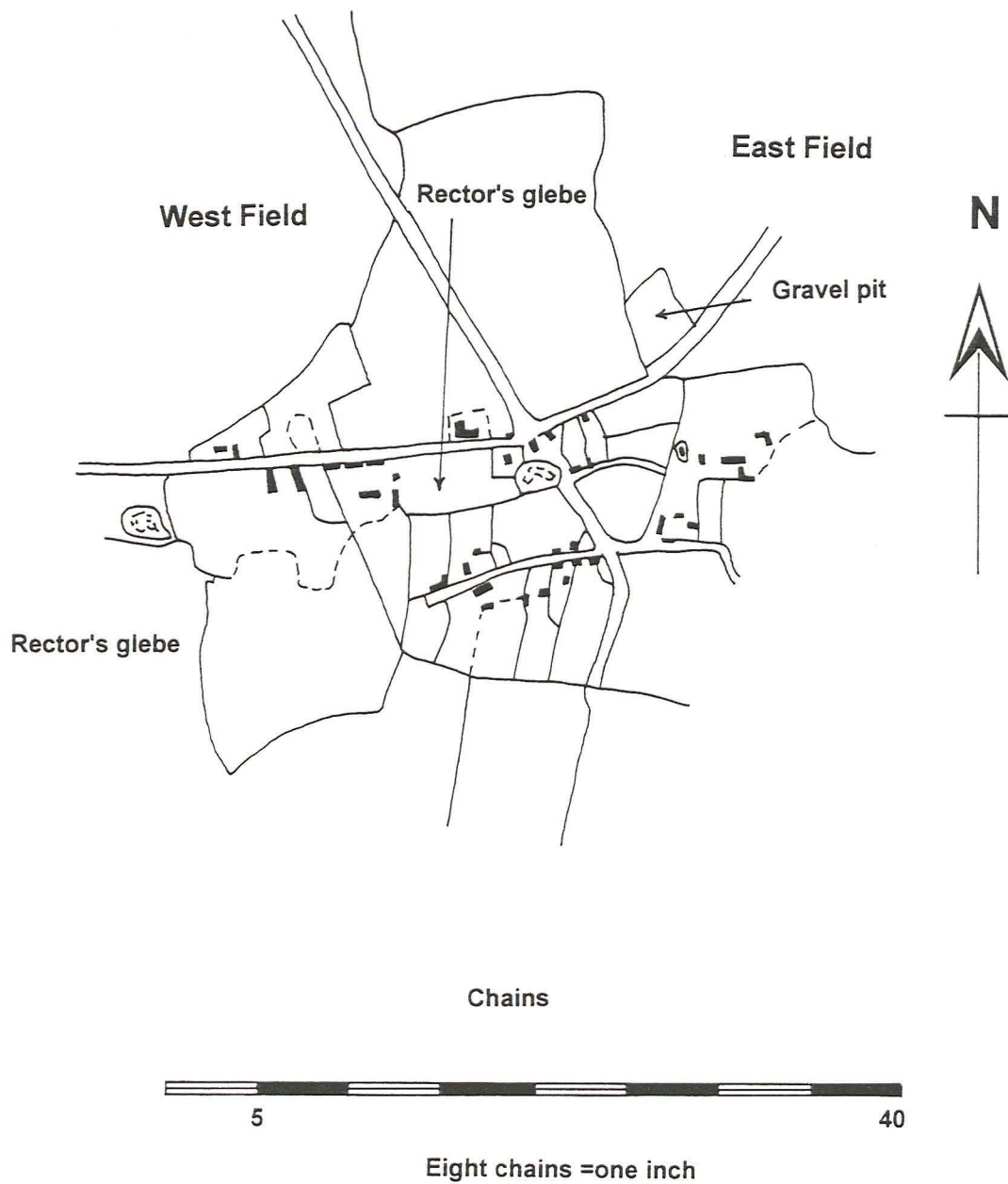


Fig. 4 Extract from the 1806 Swallow Enclosure Map, surveyed by Samuel Dickinson (traced from LAO MCD 851/36).



Fig. 5 Extract from the 1890 OS 1:10,560 map Sheet Lincs. 29SE, reproduced at enlarged scale.



Pl. 1 View of Swallow village from a hot air balloon, 12/4/1997. The application site is almost central, surrounded to east and south by housing. (Looking east, above Caistor Road. © Gordon Luck. Reproduced with permission, copyright reserved).



Pl. 2 The eastern part of the application site, showing disused chalk pits extending from the application site into the former smithy property. Looking NE to Holy Trinity Church.



Pl. 3 Very faint earthwork traces north of the stream, and a backfilled field ditch beside the hedge boundary (right). Looking south from Caistor Road.



Pl. 4 Remains of an orchard immediately west of the application site, beside the site of Glebe Farm, with pond behind. Looking SW.



Pl. 5 Earthworks either side of the stream, within the application site. The change in the stream direction is apparent (foreground). Looking west.