DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LAND ADJACENT TO NORTH STREET CAISTOR, LINCOLNSHIRE (CNS 00)



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DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LAND ADJACENT TO NORTH STREET CAISTOR, LINCOLNSHIRE (CNS 00)

Work undertaken for CAD Associates

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1. SUMMARY

A desk-based assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of a proposed residential development on land adjacent to North Street, Caistor, Lincolnshire. Archaeological evidence dating from the Romano-British to modern periods has previously been identified within the vicinity of the proposed development site.

Prehistoric artefacts and sites are known from Caistor, although none are located close to the proposed development area. During the Romano-British period (AD 50-410) a fortified town was established at Caistor. This 4th century town may have replaced an earlier settlement. The proposed development site lies to the north of the Romano-British town, but may fall within the vicinity of an external cemetery of the period.

Continuity of settlement into the Saxon period (AD 410-1066) is suggested initially by a number of Early Saxon cemeteries located around the town. By the Middle Saxon period, Caistor was probably an important settlement and a stone inscription suggests it may have had a church at this early date. Later, the town was the centre of an important Soke and also had its own mint briefly during the later 10th century.

The medieval period (1066-1500) saw Caistor decline in importance, despite being a royal holding, as Louth became the prominent town in the region. Of this period, only the church of SS. Peter and Paul remains as much of the town was destroyed by fire in 1681. Earthworks of ridge and furrow of the medieval field system were identified north of the proposed development area.

Cartographic sources, although limited,

suggest that the development area has remained as open ground since the late 18th century.

A walkover survey established that the site was on fairly level ground raised above the height of the road, possibly indicating that landscaping had occurred here. Geophysical survey has been ruled out as a viable means of assessing the buried archaeological remains due to landscaping and apparent gardening activities at the site. Fieldwalking is also not valid due to vegetation cover across the majority of the site.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Desk-based assessment

A desk-top assessment is defined as 'assessments of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land. They consist of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic or electronic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IFA 1999).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by CAD Associates to undertake a desk-top assessment of land adjacent to North Street, Caistor, Lincolnshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed residential development at the site.

2.3 Topography and Geology

Caistor is located 26km northwest of Louth

and 33km northeast of Lincoln in West Lindsey District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed development site is situated 280m northeast of the town centre as defined by the parish church of SS. Peter and Paul (Fig. 2). Centred on National Grid Reference TA 1183 0152, the site comprises a rectangular area of land approximately 0.11 hectares in extent. The proposed development area is situated at a height of c. 95m OD on the west facing scarp of the Lincolnshire Wolds. North Street generally slopes down to the west, although the site has been landscaped and is now level.

Local soils at the site are of the Upton 1 Association, typically shallow very calcareous grey rendzinas (Hodge *et al.*, 1984, 333). These soils are developed upon a solid geology of Upper Cretaceous Ferriby Chalk and Carstone (GSGB 1982).

3. AIMS

The purpose of the desk-based assessment is to obtain information about the known and potential archaeological resource within the vicinity of the proposed development site. In addition to the above, statutory and advisory heritage constraints were identified.

4. METHODS

All archaeological remains or documentary evidence relating to the area within *c*.500m of the proposed development site was considered. Compilation of the archaeological and historical data relevant to the area of the proposed development site involved examination of appropriate primary and secondary sources available. These have included:

Historical documents, held in

Lincolnshire Archives Office.

- Enclosure, tithe, parish and other maps and plans, held in Lincolnshire Archives Office.
- Recent and old Ordnance Survey maps.
- Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- Aerial photographs.
- Archaeological books and journals.

Information obtained from the literature and cartographic examination was supplemented by a walkover survey of the site to assess present land-use and ground conditions.

Results of the archival and field examinations were committed to scale plans of the area.

5. **RESULTS**

5.1 Historical Data

Caistor is first documented between AD 1070 and 1087 although coins with the legend CASTR indicate that a mint was operating at Caistor during the period AD 975-8 (Cameron 1991, 87). The early document relating to Caistor is in a grant by William I of the church and manor to Remigius, the future first Bishop of Lincoln (Foster 1931, 2). This was confirmed by William II in 1090 (*ibid.*, 5).

The place-name is derived from the Old English *cæster* and *ceaster* and refers to the site of a Roman fort (*ibid*.). From 1190 until the 19th century Caistor was also referred to as *Thwancastr*, *Thwangcastre* and *Twangcastre* and *Yongcastr* which is derived from the Old Norse *pwang* meaning a 'thong' which possibly relates to an unidentified topographical feature. Caistor has also been identified with the Roman name BANOVALLUM which means strong peak, although this name is more suited to Horncastle (Rivet and Smith 1979, 265).

The Domesday Survey of c. 1086 records that Caistor was held by Morcar, the Earl of Northumbria, before the conquest but was subsequently taken by the King. Domesday refers to a church, 4 mills and 60 acres of meadow (Foster and Longley 1976). Moreover, it was the centre of a significant Soke or estate indicating a degree of importance as seen in other parts of Lincolnshire at Grantham and Horncastle. The church may have been a minster at the centre of this Soke which extended to the north and west of the town. The presence of a mint at Caistor, albeit briefly, during the 10th century lends credence to the importance of Caistor, although the moneyers probably derived from Lincoln (Stafford 1985, 46).

It has also been suggested that Caistor is the *Syddensis civitatisn episcopus* mentioned in the Council of Cloveshoe in 803 as the seat of Eadulf, the Bishop of Lindsey. However, general opinion suggests Lincoln as a more likely candidate and Stow as a possibility (Hill 1990, 22).

The Domesday account confirms that the King gave the church at Caistor to Saint Mary's of Lincoln with land and a mill. Additionally, it states that the King's men took toll in respect of bread, fish and hides (Foster and Longley 1976). This mention of a toll probably indicates the presence of a market in Caistor.

The grant of the church to St. Mary's in Lincoln has been suggested as providing income to fund the cathedral for the newly created Lincoln See (Owen 1971, 37).

It would appear that initially Caistor was a prosperous centre as evidenced by the construction of the principal elements of the church during the 12th century. However,

even by the end of the 11th century Caistor was being superceded by Louth in importance (Platts 1985, 187). The existence of a market is recorded in the 12th century but no later charter confirms its existence and by the late 14th century Caistor had some of the poorest taxpayers in the vicinity (*ibid*. 222).

During the civil wars between Stephen and Matilda in the early 12th century, Caistor is recorded as having a castle which was built by Stephen in 1143 (Cathcart-King 1983, 264). The reference would suggest that the castle lay at Caistor and had a motte and therefore not a re-fortification of the Roman walls. It is also stated as having withstood a siege (Everson 1991). Soon after this date, Stephen gave land '*below the great way which goes from Caistor to Kirmington*' to Newsham Abbey (Smith 1980, 105).

In the 14th century two guilds were established at Caistor. The earliest was the guild of the Perpetuation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, founded in 1358, followed by the Corpus Christi guild in 1376 (Binnall nd., 23).

A Free Grammar School was founded in Caistor in 1630 by Francis Rawlinson of Sidney Sussex college, Cambridge (Muskett 1993, 76).

A survey of land owned by Lincoln Cathedral in 1649 indicates that the manor of Caistor was held by the cathedral (Page 1988, 94). An Act of Parliament in the same year banned chapters and deans in cathedrals and subsequently most of the cathedral estates were sold off between 1649 and 1658 (*ibid.* 90).

Caistor suffered a catastrophic fire in 1681 when most of the town was destroyed (Binnall nd., 13). Abraham de la Pryme, a local curate, recorded that Caistor '*was very* *ill built before the great fire, but there are a great many good modern buildings therein'* (*ibid.*). A total of 45 families were reduced to poverty as a result of the fire (Wright 1982, 16).

Caistor was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1796 and the Award settled in 1798 (Russell and Russell 1987, 53). Prior to enclosure Caistor had two fields with a number of Ings or meadow lands located to the west (*ibid*, 54; Thirsk 1957, 100). Part of the North Field was set aside 'for the purpose of holding public fairs and markets which have been usually held in the Town of Caistor' (Russell 1960, 19).

Caistor was also a centre for industry. A paper mill is recorded here in 1703, although this did not survive much longer, and a rope making factory (preserved in the street name at the east end of North Street) was founded in 1808 during a drop in the price of wool (Wright 1982, 29, 74).

5.2 Cartographic Data

The proposed development site is located north of Caistor town centre. Appropriate maps of the vicinity were examined.

The earliest map examined is Armstrong's *Map of the County of Lincoln*' dating from 1778 (Fig. 3). This is of a small scale and does not show any specific details for the assessment site.

The plan for Enclosing Caistor dates from 1798 (LAO Caistor Par 17/1). The proposed development site falls within an area enclosed prior to this date and has been shaded green. Little detail is apparent, although traces or representations of buildings occur along North Street. The scale of the map is too small to reproduce here. Dating from 1840 a plan entitled '*Plan of Hundon and Fonaby in the Parish of Caistor, Lincolnshire*' depicts North Street, although not in any great scale (LAO Dixon 18/5/14). The frontage only of buildings are shown and it can be seen that North Street is partly developed upon both sides (Fig. 4).

The first edition 6" to the mile Ordnance Survey maps of 1886 shows the centre of Caistor as well developed (Fig. 5). The proposed development area is clearly visible as an open piece of ground with a number of trees or large shrubs. This pattern is retained in the 2^{nd} edition maps, of which an extract from the 1905 25" map is depicted (Fig. 6).

Subsequent Ordnance Survey plans show very little change occurring until the 1960s, whereupon buildings south of North Street are no longer recorded, the area eventually becoming car parking spaces.

5.3 Aerial Photograph Data

Aerial photographs held at the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, Heritage Lincolnshire and published sources were examined.

No photographs of the development area were held by the Sites and Monuments Record. Heritage Lincolnshire has several photographs of Caistor of which three depict the proposed development site (Codes: N005, N013 and N014). Taken in 1993 these oblique views focus principally on the town centre. The site is open ground covered with grass and is not suitable for soil or crop marks and there are no earthwork remains visible.

In addition to the aerial photographs discussed above, RCHME plots of the area were also examined. These show earthwork remains of ridge and furrow forming part of the medieval field system as located in fields

| Map Code | SMR Ref. | Description | National Grid Reference | |
|----------|----------|--|-------------------------|--|
| 1 | . 54186 | Roman town | TA 1168 0130 | |
| 2 | 52690 | Saxon settlement of Caistor | TA 1180 0130 | |
| 3 | 52691 | Medieval town of Caistor | TA 1180 0130 | |
| 4 | 52692 | Post-medieval town of Caistor | TA 1180 0130 | |
| 5 | 53545 | Post-medieval road (possible Roman origin) | TA 046 020 - TA 107 015 | |
| 6 | 50585 | Undated Inhumations | TA 1130 0110 | |
| 7 | 54499 | Undated Inhumations | TA 1185 0147 | |

Table 1: Known archaeological sites and finds within the vicinity

to the north of the proposed development site.

5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds are held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record. Other, secondary, sources were also examined. Details of archaeological and historical remains falling within *c*.500m of the proposed development site are collated in Table 1 and located on Figures 7, 8 and 9.

Prehistoric Archaeology

No evidence of prehistoric archaeology was identified within the assessment area. However, prehistoric finds dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age are known from the parish and this is supplemented by aerial photographs of enclosures and linear boundaries (Everson *et al.*, 1991, 7). Prehistoric flint tools have been found in the town, although their findspots are unknown (West 1994/1995, 13). Additionally, Caistor High Street, the road that connects Horncastle to Caistor and continues to South Ferriby, may have had its origins as a prehistoric route (Margary 1973, 240).

Romano-British Archaeology

Caistor High Street was probably formalised as a Roman road, connecting the town of Horncastle with a military fort and subsequent civilian open settlement at Kirmington, 10km to the north of Caistor.

Although Caistor is known as a Roman town, it is probably a late development and it has been suggested as dating to the reorganisation of towns during the 4th century under Count Theodosius (Whitwell 1970, 135; 1982, 153). Earlier coins, including those of the Emperor Vespasian (AD 69-79), have been found in Caistor and may indicate an earlier settlement in the vicinity (West 1994/1995, 13).

The walls and associated bastions of the late Roman town enclose an irregular polygon some 255m long by 160m wide (Fig. 7, No. 1). The bastions appear to be contemporary with the construction of the wall and were probably used for artillery pieces (Hobley 1983, 83). Outside the wall there might have been an enclosing ditch, particularly on the eastern side where ditches were observed in the Market Place (Whitwell 1970, 70) and a possible ditch was identified on the north side (Field 1993, 70). Part of the interior of the Roman town has been accorded Scheduled Monument Status (English Heritage 1996; County No. 148).

It has been suggested that Bank Lane follows the course of the east road from the fort (Whitwell 1970, 69) and cropmarks have indicated a Roman road connecting to Caistor High Street (Jones 1998, 78).

Not much is known of the interior of the fort and few Romano-British buildings have been revealed, though one was found in 1963 (SMR 54186) and another was identified during a watching brief at Caistor Grammar School (Bennet and Field 1999, 26).

It is not known if there was an extra-mural community associated with the walled town. A few inhumations from north and southwest of the town (Fig. 7, Nos. 6 and 7) may indicate Romano-British cemeteries although these have yet to be dated.

Finds from Caistor have included Romano-British pottery, coins and an inscribed lead casket, possibly indicating a Late Roman Christian community in the town (Whitwell 1982, 148).

Saxon Archaeology

The earliest Saxon remains appear to be associated with formal burial and cemeteries of this period are known from southwest and north of the town, outside the assessment area. It has been suggested that the Saxon occupation of Caistor was contemporary with the later Roman settlement and that the cemeteries were for the *foederati* (Saxon mercenaries), although the evidence for this is restricted to a bronze hanging bowl from a cemetery at Nettleton (Whitwell 1970, 138; Bruce-Mitford 1993, 50). Closer to the town are findspots of a 5th century bowl and a brooch from near the Grammar School (Parsons 1973, 78).

Finds indicate increasing importance of

Caistor during the Middle Saxon period (AD 650-850). Of particular note is a stone sculpture found in 1770 west of the church and which appears to be a dedication stone of a church (Everson and Stocker 1999, 124). This would then indicate that Caistor was an important centre during this period (Stocker 1993, 117). Finds of coins of Middle Saxon date are also known from Caistor (Blackburn 1993, 87).

Historical evidence indicates Caistor was an important Soke centre during the Late Saxon period (850-1066) with, albeit briefly, its own mint. However, archaeological remains of this period are restricted to Late Saxon pits found at the Grammar School and along Bank Lane (Field 1993, 70; Field and George 1997, 47).

Medieval Archaeology

The parish church of SS. Peter and Paul is the only extant structure of this period with the earliest parts of the tower dating to c. 1100 (Taylor and Taylor 1980, 127) and the remainder to the 12th to 15th centuries (DoE 1995, 25).

Much of the present day street layout is also medieval in origin, although elements may incorporate part of the Roman plan. Of particular note is the alignment of Church Street curving south around Castle Hill. This may indicate the location of the Castle built by Stephen in 1143 if it was not a reference to re-fortifying the Roman walls.

Elsewhere in Caistor, excavations have revealed a 12th -13th century stone lined oven (Keith and Hunter 1964) and north of the proposed development area are earthwork remains of medieval ridge and furrow. Finds from Caistor include pottery and also a scallop-shell ampulla or pilgrim flask (Spencer 1971, 59).

Post-medieval Archaeology

There are no post-medieval finds recorded with the Sites and Monuments Record although the extent of the town is recorded (SMR 52692). Within the town are a number of buildings of the post-medieval period, mostly dating from the 17th and 18th century after the fire in the town. However, predating the fire are a number of buildings which include the Grammar School Hall (1631), a house and garage on the High Street, The Red Lion Hotel, two shops and a former house on the Market Place, a house on Plough Hill, a house and shop as well as the former Sessions House on South Street, all of which are 17th century in origin (DoE 1995, 19-50).

5.5 Walkover Survey

The site was visited on the 5th January 2001 to assess the possible level of survival of archaeological deposits.

Fronting North Street the site has a steep bank up to level ground. This bank is 1m high at the west and 0.7m high towards the east end of the site. Set within the bank are numerous stones, possibly indicating a wall but more likely a feature of the bank. There is also a sharp drop down to the west into the adjacent property. The presence of banks to the west and south indicate that some form of landscaping has occurred at the site.

The majority of the proposed development area is level ground and grassed over. Slight earthworks are apparent and suggest areas of former cultivated plots.

Visible services are restricted to an overhead power cable crossing the site at its southeastern corner and a telephone junction box on the pavement to the front. Along the western side of the site is a line of manhole covers marking the position of drains or similar from a concrete block in the adjacent property. There is public access along the east side of the site.

Geophysical survey has limited scope if the ground has been built up. Gardening activities might also affect results.

6. CONSTRAINTS

6.1 Heritage Constraints

The Roman town of Caistor is a Scheduled Ancient Monument protected by the 1979 Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act (HMSO 1979) although this is located south of the site and does not affect development proposals. Consequently, all archaeological remains are protected only through the implementation of PPG16 (DoE 1990).

Significant historic buildings within the assessment area are 'listed' and consequently protected by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act of 1990.

6.2 Other Constraints

Although no specific checks were carried out for the presence of active services (gas, water, electricity *etc.*) across the site, observations were made during the walkover survey. The following risks have been identified.

- a) Drain/water, electric and telephone services were noted either crossing the proposed development site or immediately adjacent to it. Other services might exist in proximity of the site.
- b) If further archaeological intervention is required, the excavation of trenches would entail a certain degree of risk which would be

enhanced by the use of a mechanical excavator.

c) At present there is public access along the eastern and southern part of the site. Any trenches would need to be secured for Health and Safety reasons.

7. A S S E S S M E N T O F SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the *Secretary* of *State's criteria for scheduling ancient* monuments has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; See Appendix 2).

Period

Activity dateable from the Romano-British to modern periods has been recognised within the assessment area. The absence of prehistoric remains may be attributed to a lack of intensive archaeological survey.

The Romano-British period is represented by a fortified late Roman town. Furthermore, the presence of burials south of the site may indicate the presence of a Romano-British cemetery.

Rarity

Romano-British remains identified in proximity to the site are not rare and are period specific. However, they may contain rare or unusual features. Saxon remains are generally rare, although these are likely to be clustered close to the town centre.

Documentation

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the assessment area are kept in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record.

No contemporary documentation has been examined. There are few generalised histories of Caistor although notes on the town appear in a number of other publications.

This report provides the first site-specific consideration of the archaeological and historical aspects of the proposed development area.

Group value

High group value can be placed on the association of Romano-British, Saxon and medieval remains clustered at Caistor.

Survival/Condition

All archaeological features potentially existing within the assessment area will only survive as buried remains. Land build up may have helped to preserve earlier remains.

Fragility/Vulnerability

As the proposed development will impact the investigation area, any and all archaeological deposits present at the site are extremely vulnerable. However, the apparent ground raising at the site is likely to reduce the impact of development groundworks on any archaeological remains.

Diversity

High period diversity is represented by the identified archaeological remains. Sites relating to settlement, burial, agriculture and communications were identified and can be awarded moderate functional diversity.

Potential

There is moderate potential for archaeological remains associated with Romano-British and later activity in the vicinity. In particular, there is potential for funerary remains of probable Romano-British date to occur in the area.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The assessment has identified evidence

relating to the Romano-British, Saxon, medieval, post-medieval and modern activity within the assessment area.

The site lies adjacent to the Late Romano-British fortified town of Caistor close to an area where inhumations have been recovered and suggesting the possibility of an extramural cemetery.

During the Saxon period, Caistor grew in prominence and probably had a church during the 8th or 9th century. Subsequently, it became the centre of a Soke which extended north and west of the town. Medieval remains are restricted to the church, although there is evidence indicating the presence of a castle here in the 12th century. Earthworks of ridge and furrow were identified north of the proposed development area.

Map evidence appears to indicate that the land was maintained as open ground during the later post-medieval and modern periods.

Site conditions are largely unsuitable for geophysical survey due to building up of the land that is believed to have occurred at the site. Fieldwalking cannot be undertaken as the site is largely under grass cover.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

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| APS | Archaeological Project Services |
|------|------------------------------------|
| CBA | Council for British Archaeology |
| DoE | Department of the Environment |
| GSGB | Geological Survey of Great Britain |
| HMSO | Her Majesties' Stationery Office |
| IFA | Institute of Field Archaeologists |
| LAO | Lincolnshire Archives Office |
| | |

SMR Sites and Monuments Record Office



Figure 1 - General location map

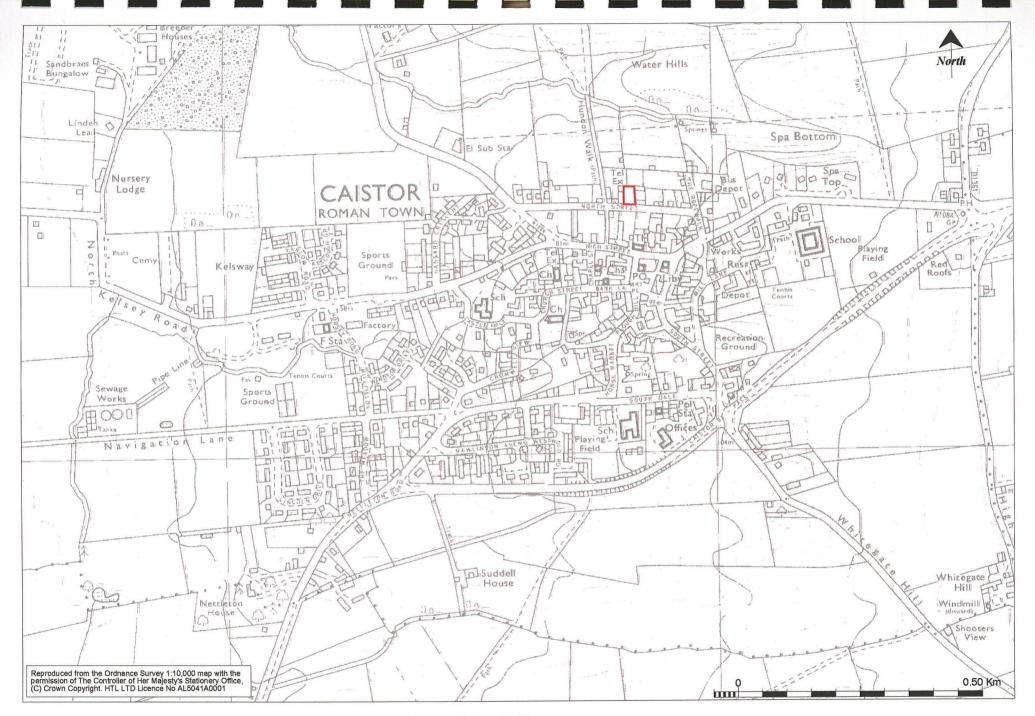


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

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Figure 3 - Extract from Armstrong's 'Map of the County of Lincoln', 1778

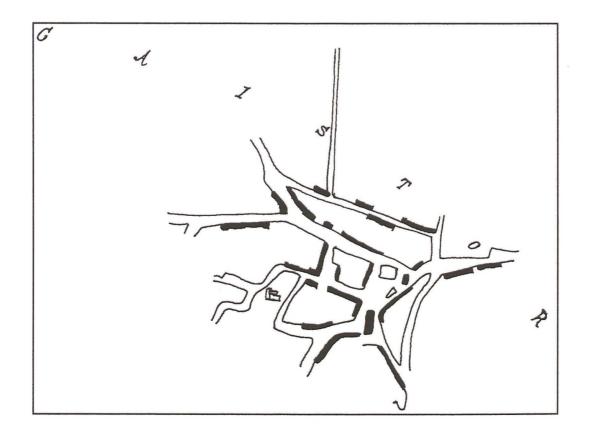
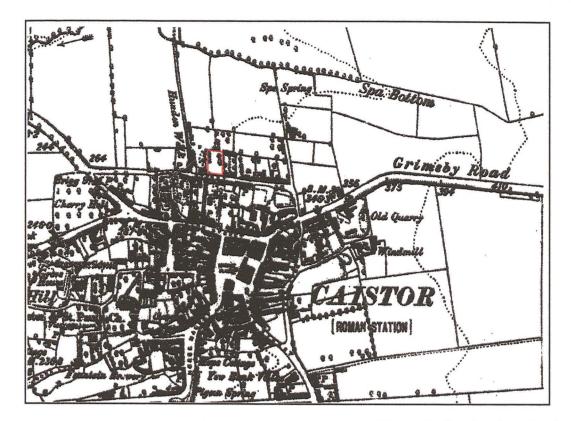


Figure 4 - Extract from 'Plan of Hundon and Fonaby in the parish of Caistor, Lincolnshire', 1840



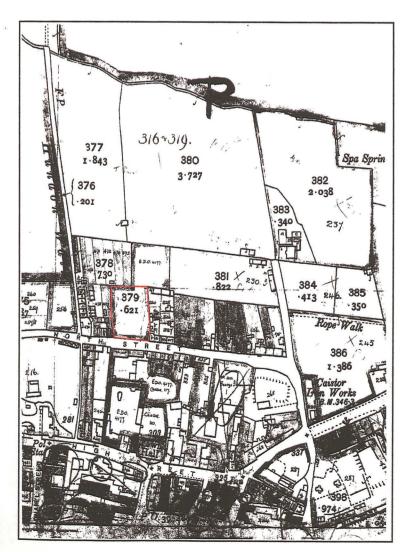
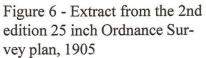


Figure 5 - Extract from the 1st edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey plan, 1886



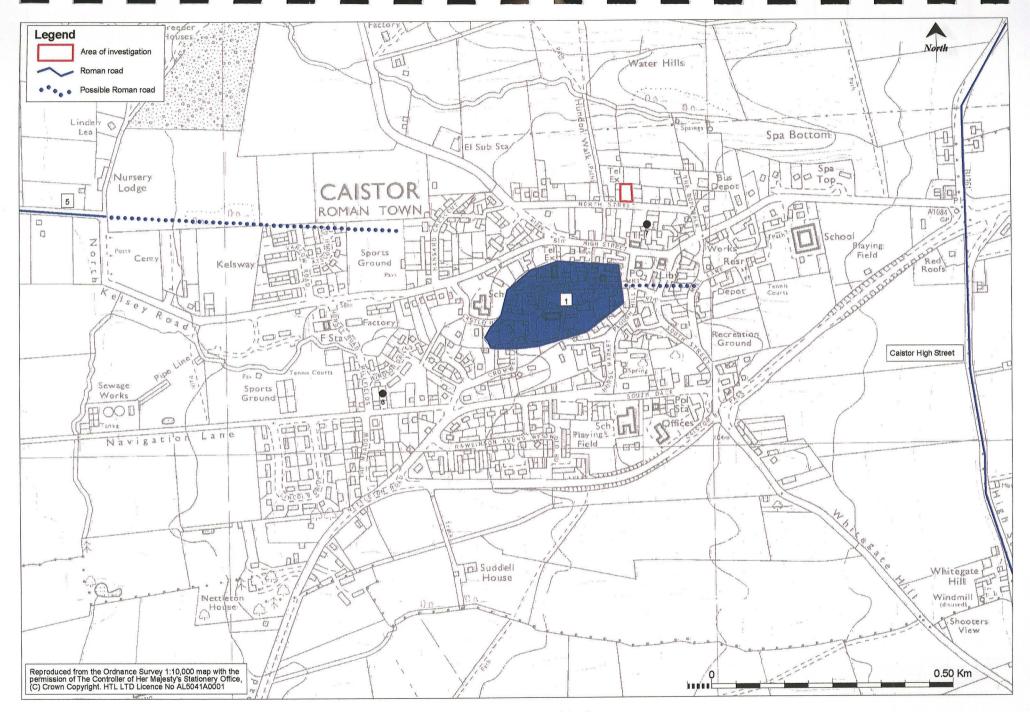


Figure 7 - Roman sites in the vicinity of the proposed development

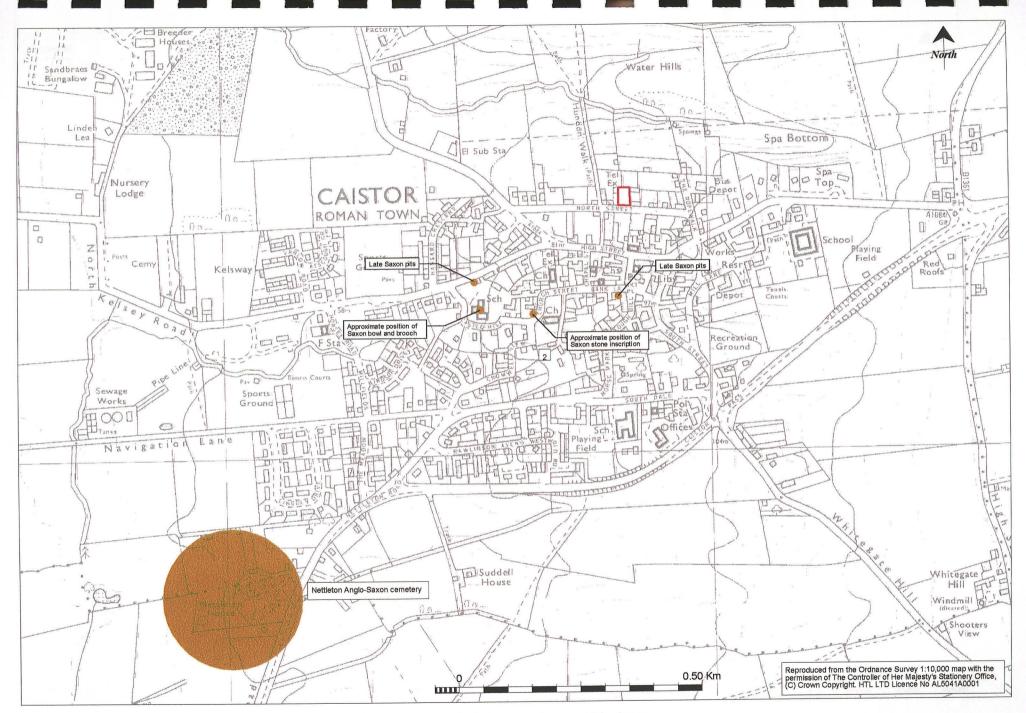


Figure 8 - Saxon sites in the vicinity of the proposed development

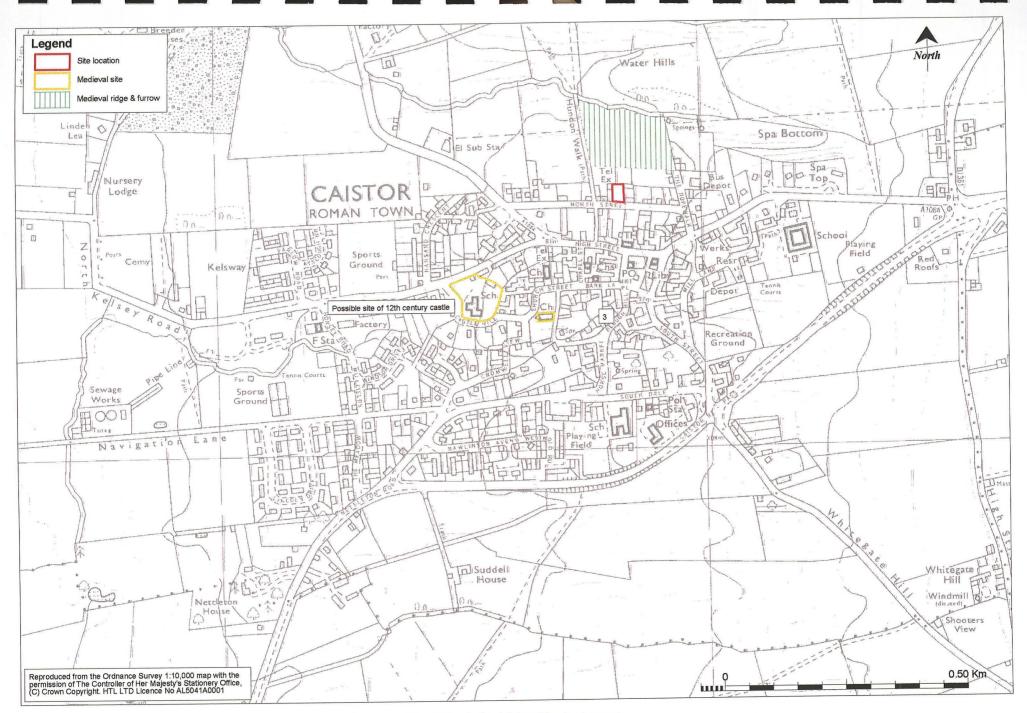
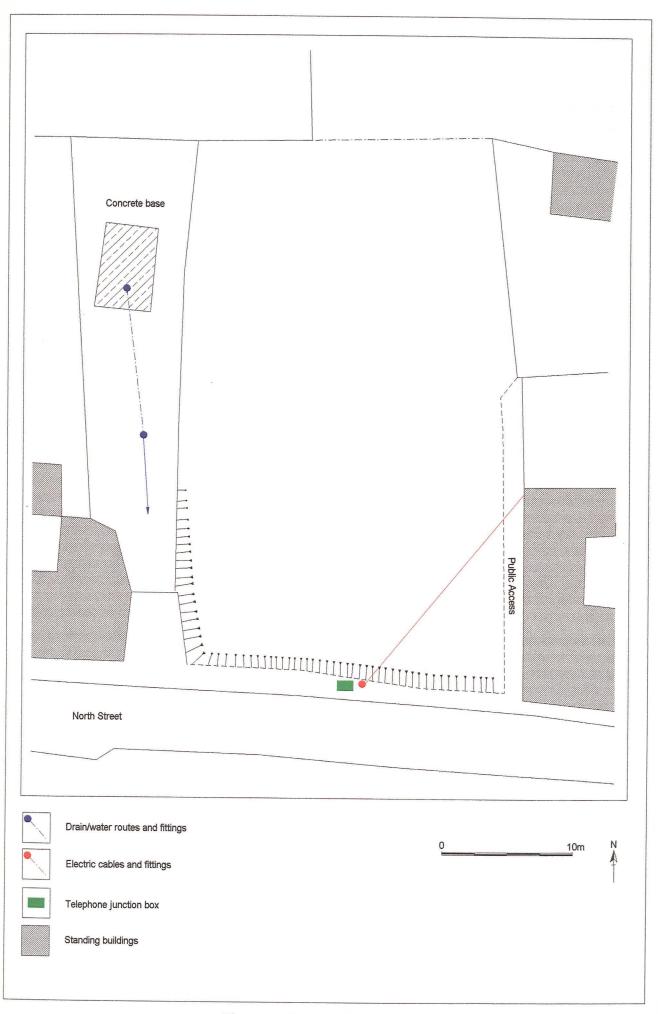


Figure 9 - Medieval sites in the vicinity of the development



Appendix 1

SECRETARY OF STATE'S CRITERIA FOR SCHEDULING ANCIENT MONUMENTS -Extract From *Archaeology And Planning* Doe Planning Policy Guidance Note 16, November 1990

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

i Period:

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

ii Rarity:

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

iii Documentation:

v Survival/Condition:

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

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

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

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

vii Diversity:

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

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

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

| Bronze Age | A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC. |
|--------------------|---|
| Cropmark | A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop. |
| Geophysical Survey | Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey. |
| Iron Age | A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50. |
| Medieval | The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500. |
| Mesolithic | The 'Middle Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 8200-4500 BC. |
| Neolithic | The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC. |
| Post-medieval | The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800. |
| Prehistoric | The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about $500,000$ BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1 st century AD. |
| Romano-British | Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain. |
| Saxon | Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany. |