

LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**LINWOOD RD MARKET RASEN
Archaeological Evaluation**

LINCOLN COUNTY
28 APR 1982
CITY AND COUNTY
MUSEUM

Event L12699
Source L17334
Negative

LINWOOD RD MARKET RASEN Archaeological Evaluation

INTRODUCTION

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Mr K. Barrass to undertake a Desk Top Study to assess the archaeological potential of land off Linwood Rd, Market Rasen. This has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Lincolnshire County Archaeological Officer as outlined in the Brief dated March 1994.

Site Location TF 1087 8860

The proposed development area comprises a grass paddock c.65 x 40m to the north of Fairfield on Linwood Rd (Fig. 1). The site lies east of known Roman remains and kilns recorded in the 1960s.

METHOD

Records from Market Rasen parish lodged at the Lincoln Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) were examined and sites plotted onto an O.S. map (Fig. 2). A few additional records, held at the offices of LAS, were also incorporated into the list- see Appendix I.

Visits were made to the Lincolnshire Archives Office and the Local Collections Library at Lincoln Castle.

The records of the Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs (CUCAP) and National Air Photographic Library (Swindon) were investigated but neither had oblique specialist coverage of the proposed development site.

BACKGROUND

Market Rasen's origins are unknown although there are suggestions of Roman activity in the area. All that is certain is its existence by 1066 when, according to the Domesday survey of 1086, the manor belonged to Alfred of Lincoln. Historically Market Rasen's importance lay in its position on the River Rase and is recorded as having a mill in the Domesday Book. Market Rasen was never was a town of major importance and has probably always been a small market centre serving the local community.

Prehistory

No prehistoric finds from the town have been recorded to date.

The Roman Period

There was a thriving pottery industry with kiln sites of the late 3rd-4th centuries on the south side of the present town and in neighbouring Linwood parish. Scatters of Romano-British pottery, indicating associated settlement remains have also been found west of Linwood Road, on both sides of the railway line. The precise character and extent of the settlement is unknown.

The Saxon and Danish Periods

Even less is known about any early Saxon presence at Market Rasen. Unfortunately there is little evidence of any kind (documentary or archaeological) to indicate where the core of the Anglo-Saxon settlement lay. Two escutcheons from a Saxon hanging bowl, said to have come from Market Rasen, were acquired by Hull Museum in the 1950s but their provenance is not known.

The presence of a Market place adjacent to the church is often an indication of its early origin (e.g. at Boston, Horncastle and Caistor). In the absence of any other data it is suggested that the earliest part of the settlement must lie within this area and close to the river. It is very likely that some sort of wharfage would have been provided at an early date, presumably along the stretch of river to the north of the church and market place.

The Medieval Town

The street pattern is often one of the oldest surviving elements in a town and may antedate by many centuries the oldest of the standing buildings which survive within it. Medieval plots of land in towns were known as burgage plots and were characteristically long with narrow street frontages. They were frequently set out in blocks demarcated by a back lane, providing rear access. The original size of these plots varied from town to town.

The Enclosure Award for the town dates to 1780 and shows housing flanking the east side of the Market Place and along Queen and King Street (Figs 3 and 4). There is little indication of development north of the river crossing except for the almshouses, which were built in 1612. The eastern limit of settlement in 1780 is along Jameson Bridge Street and Oxford Street (formerly Pinfold Street). A survey of 1676 records that the population of Market Rasen over the age of 16 numbered 220. It is not known if the medieval settlement was more extensive.

THE DEVELOPMENT SITE

The proposed development site lies outside the medieval core of the town and beyond the late 18th century limit of settlement. The enclosure survey shows that the site lay within an old enclosure south of the Lammas Leas. Linwood Road was one of four public roads laid out by the Enclosure Commissioners in 1780. It forms the western boundary of the development site. The most likely archaeological remains on the site are thought to be of Roman date. Kilns excavated in 1965 south of Highfield lay about 100m south-west of the site.

FIELD EVALUATION

Geophysical Survey

The proposed development site is currently under pasture and not suitable for fieldwalking. The purpose of the geophysical survey was to establish the presence of archaeological remains, in particular pottery kilns, within the proposed development area.

It is possible to define areas of human activity using geophysical survey, taking measurements at regular intervals on a measured grid. Under favourable conditions areas of interest can be accurately located and targeted for further investigations reducing the necessity for random exploratory trenching. Large areas can be assessed quickly and the method is non-destructive.

Magnetometry measures magnetic anomalies in the soil caused by human activity and although results will vary according to the local geology and soils as well as past and present agricultural practices it can identify buried ditches, pits, hearths, kilns etc.

Given the small area involved a survey of the total area was carried out covering 60 x 40m (maximum) using a Geoscan FM36 magnetometer. Readings were taken at 1m intervals and computer-logged on site (Fig. 5). The results of the survey were supplied by Scott Birch.

There were numerous obstructions including a fence cutting off the south-east corner of the site, a horse jump and the stable. The north-east corner of the field was covered in rubbish, including house bricks. Readings from this corner of the field were very high, in keeping with its use as a rubbish dump. High reading also occurred along the fenceline and around the obstructions, almost certainly the result of debris accumulating in these spots.

Three areas of high readings were recorded in the paddock (Fig. 6). These were investigated by hand-digging small holes in the turf.

- A. Excavation revealed wire embedded in the soil, the remains of a chicken pen
- B. Depression in the ground recently filled with rubbish
- C. A further trial hole was excavated close to two adjacent high readings. No trace of burnt clay or burnt subsoil was encountered, the only find being a piece of post-medieval pottery.

DISCUSSION

The geophysical survey did not locate any archaeological features. Three areas of high readings were found to be from ferrous metals in the topsoil, probably the result of recent activity on the site.

Cartographic evidence shows that medieval remains are unlikely to be found on the proposed development site. Despite the proximity of Roman remains west of Linwood Rd, the negative results of the geophysical survey suggest that the site is of limited archaeological potential.

Naomi Field
April 20th 1994

Reference

Russell, Rex C., 1969 The Enclosures of Market Rasen 1779-81 and of Wrawby cum Brigg 1800-1805. (Market Rasen WEA)

APPENDIX 1
Archaeological remains in the vicinity of the proposed
development site

No known archaeological finds have been recorded from the site itself

Abbreviations

NGR National Grid Reference

SMR Sites and Monuments Record Lincoln

R-B Romano-British

CUCAP=Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs
(Ref. given = film and negative numbers).

Ordnance Survey Map TF18NW

No.	NGR	SMR Ref.	Description
1	1000 8745- 1213 8780	A	Parish boundary, possible Roman road
2	129 875	B	R-B pottery, possible kiln on stream bank, found 1957
3	129 877	C	R-B pottery kiln 1957
4	1290 8766 1288 8764	E	R-B greyware pottery kilns 3rd century, found 1941 and 1950
5	107 883	G	R-B Pottery kiln, excavated 1965
6	104 884	T	R-B pottery scatter
7	1070 8854	AG	R-B pottery scatter including Samian ware
8	1071 8855	AH	R-B pottery, kiln material at Highfield, 1963

No provenance

Z	2 Copper alloy mounts from Anglo-Saxon hanging bowl with enamel inlay
AE	2 4th century R-B coins, 1977



Fig. 1 Site location and archaeological finds in the vicinity. Reproduced from the 1:2500 O.S. 1970 map with permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright (Licence AL50424A)

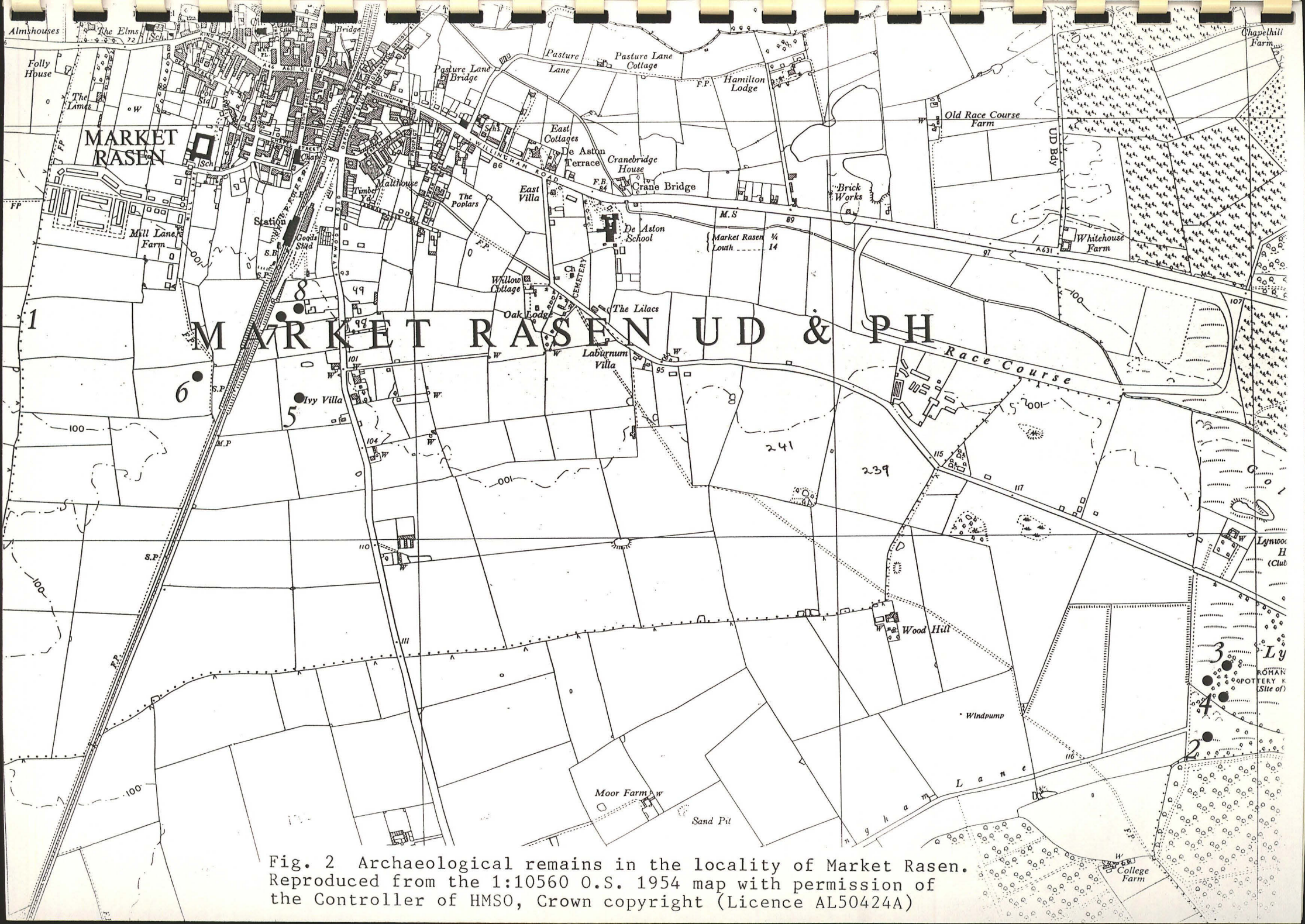
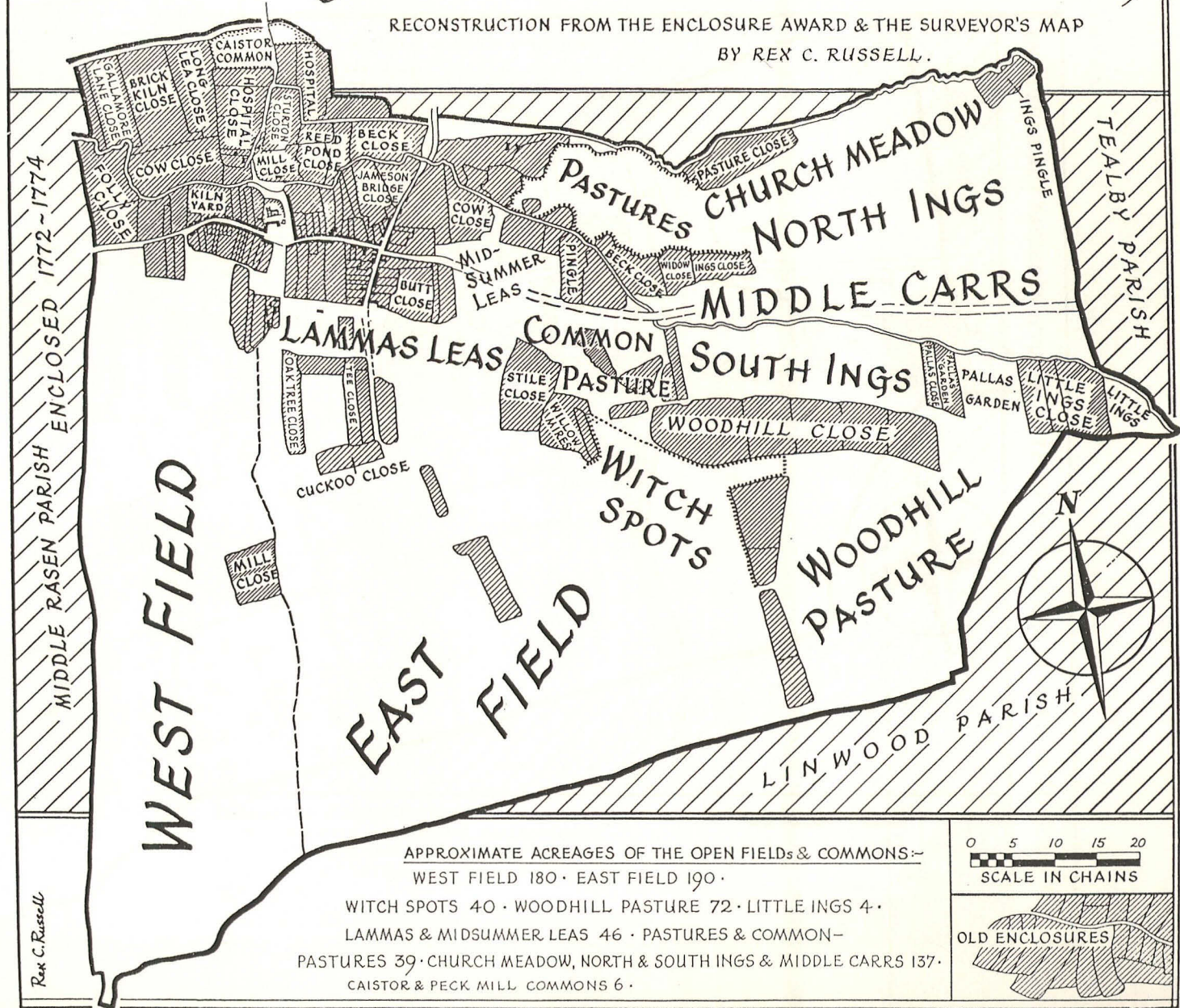


Fig. 2 Archaeological remains in the locality of Market Rasen. Reproduced from the 1:10560 O.S. 1954 map with permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright (Licence AL50424A)

MARKET RASEN ~ THE OPEN FIELD SYSTEM · 1779

RECONSTRUCTION FROM THE ENCLOSURE AWARD & THE SURVEYOR'S MAP

BY REX C. RUSSELL.



Rex C. Russell

APPROXIMATE ACREAGES OF THE OPEN FIELDS & COMMONS:-

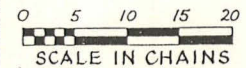
WEST FIELD 180 · EAST FIELD 190 ·

WITCH SPOTS 40 · WOODHILL PASTURE 72 · LITTLE INGS 4 ·

LAMMAS & MIDSUMMER LEAS 46 · PASTURES & COMMON-

PASTURES 39 · CHURCH MEADOW, NORTH & SOUTH INGS & MIDDLE CARRS 137 ·

CAISTOR & PECK MILL COMMONS 6 ·



OLD ENCLOSURES

Fig. 3 Market Rasen, prior to enclosure. (R. Russell)

MARKET RASEN AFTER ENCLOSURE IN 1780.

FROM THE AWARD MAP BY JOHN HUDSON OF LOUTH

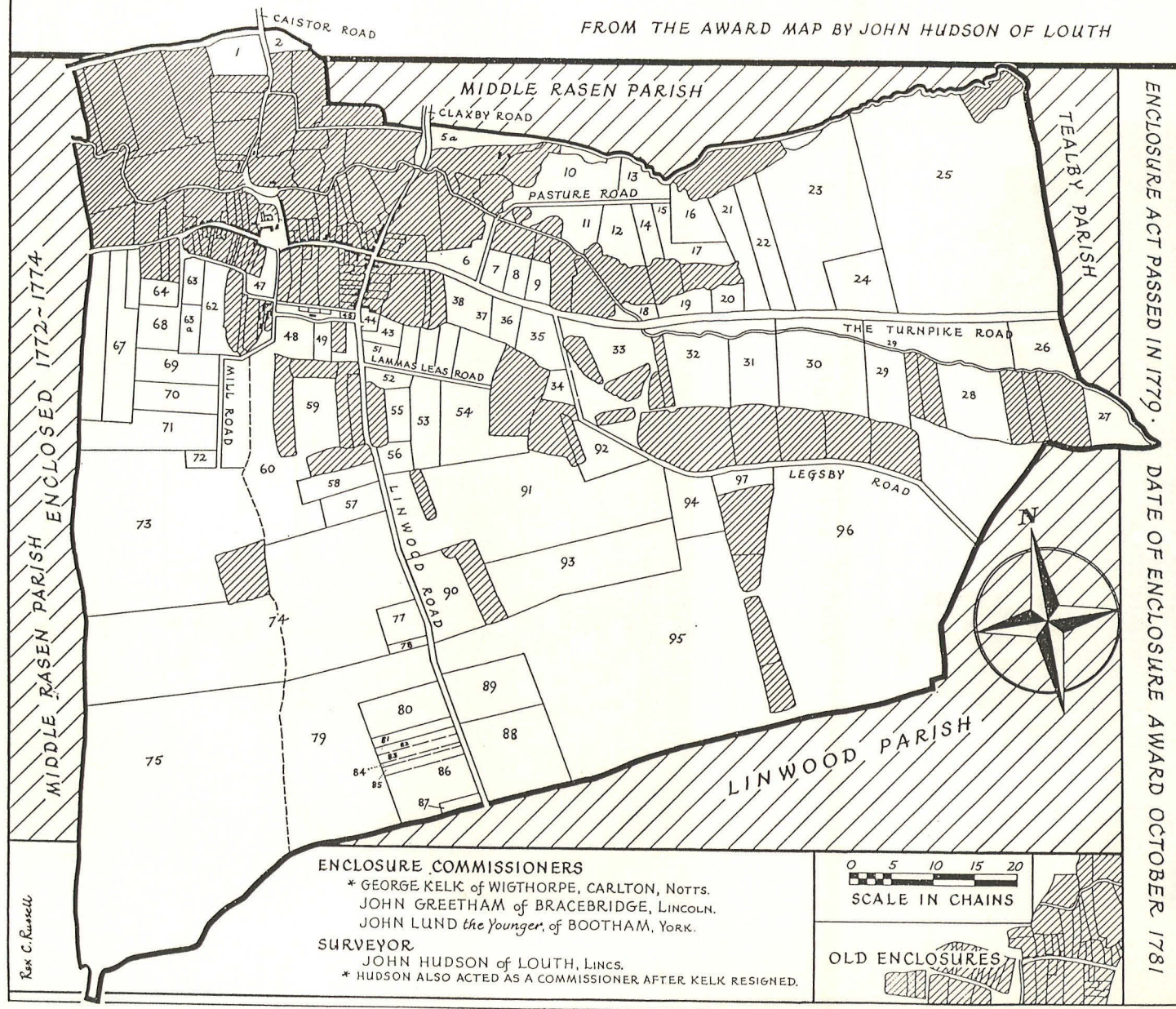


Fig. 4 Market Rasen after enclosure in 1780 (R.Russell)

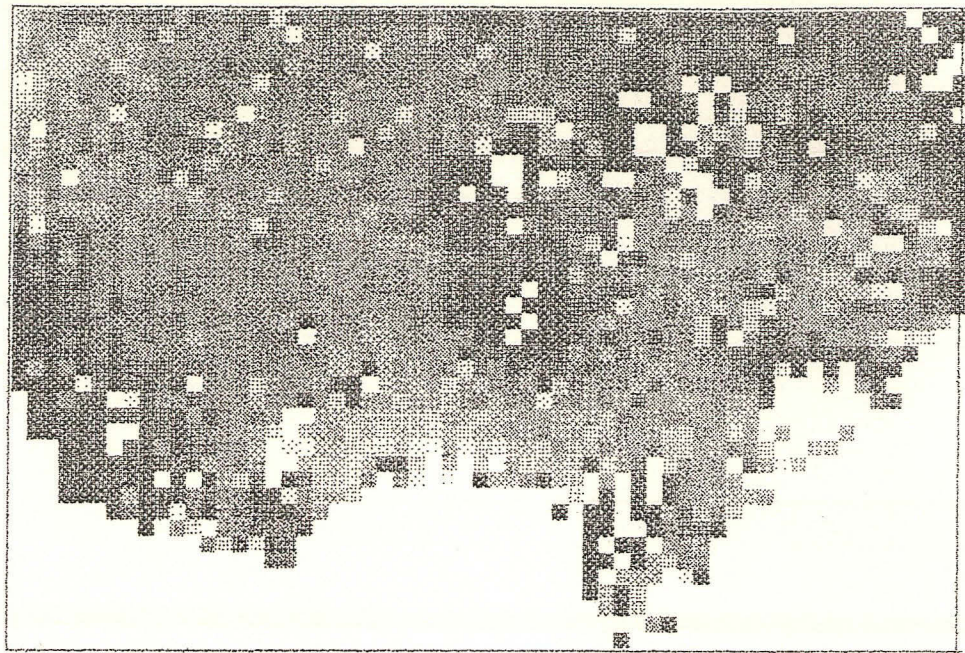


Fig. 5 Results of magnetometer survey

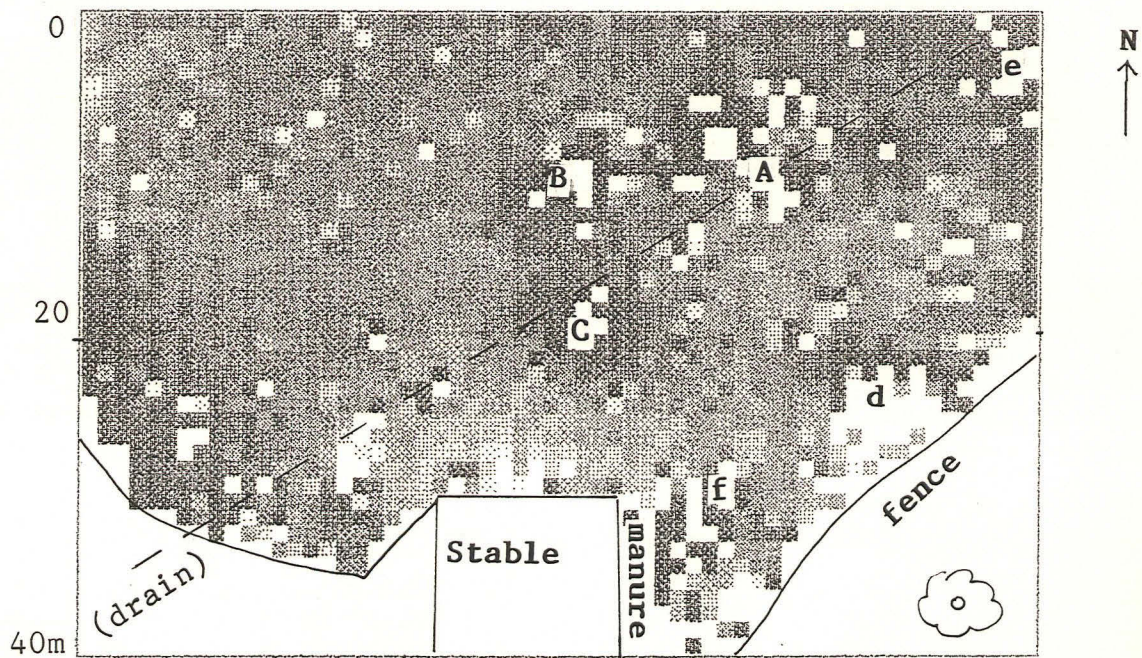


Fig. 6 interpretation of magnetometer survey results

A Site of old chicken pen

B Depression in ground filled with rubbish

d Horse jump

e rubbish heap- high ferrous readings

f obstruction