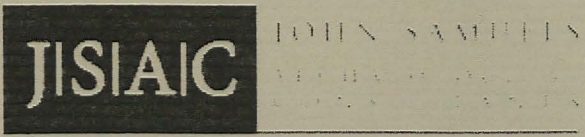


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**An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
of land at Wardentree Lane, Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire
NGR TF 2500 2520**

prepared by
John Samuels Archaeological Consultants

on behalf of

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JSAC 861/01/01

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An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
of land at Wardentree Lane, Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire

Contents

Summary	3
1.0 Introduction	4
2.0 Methodology	5
3.0 Archaeological, Historical and Cartographic Assessment	7
4.0 Conclusions.....	10
5.0 Figures.....	11
6.0 References and Sources Consulted	12

Summary

It is proposed to develop approximately 7ha of agricultural land at Wardentree Lane, Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire (NGR TF 2500 2520). John Samuels Archaeological Consultants were commissioned to undertake a desk-based archaeological assessment of the site by M. Parkers & Son Ltd.

The assessment has revealed that undated cropmarks have been recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record for the study site. Immediately outside the site, archaeological evaluation has recorded remains dating from the medieval period and later.

It is considered that there is a medium-high potential for archaeological remains to exist within the development site. This consideration is based on the recorded archaeological remains close to the site and the cropmarks present on aerial photographs. The site is suitable for non-intrusive survey (i.e. fieldwalking and geophysical survey) and it is recommended that both these techniques are utilised in order to assess the sites archaeological potential further. It is also expected that further evaluation will be required and is likely to be in the form of archaeological trial trenching.

Any further evaluation should assess the condition, importance or significance of any archaeological remains (if any). If any archaeology remains are encountered then an assessment on the likely impact of the development should also be made.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Pinchbeck lies approximately 2km to the north of Spalding, in South Holland District. The site is located to the east of Pinchbeck on the northern side of Wardentree Lane and to the west of Smedleys Food Factory, centred on NGR TF 2500 2520. The Blue Gowt Drain forms the northern boundary with agricultural land to the west.
- 1.2 The area proposed for development covers approximately 7ha of level agricultural land at a height of approximately 3m AOD. Soils at the site are Wisbech Association (812b) comprising stoneless calcareous coarse silty soils overlying marine alluvium (SSEW 1983).
- 1.3 M. Parker & Sons Ltd. commissioned *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* to undertake a desk-based assessment to establish the site's archaeological potential in response to a request from the planning Officer, South Holland District Council. Industrial development is currently planned for the site although no information regarding this or geotechnical data, is yet available.
- 1.4 This assessment was written by Jenny Young BA (Hons), AIFA in consultation with Dan Slatcher BA, MA, AIFA and John Samuels BA, PhD, FSA, MIFA, MLI.

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 This assessment conforms to: Government Guidance to Local Planning Authorities: *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16), DoE 1990; advice from English Heritage: *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage 1991; and is based on the requirements of the professional standards: *Code of Conduct*, Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994; *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*, Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994; rev. 1999.
- 2.2 Desk-top research undertaken by *John Samuels Archaeological Consultants* was based on an area of up to 500m around the proposed development site. It comprised analysis of relevant information contained in and provided by Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR); documentary and cartographic searches of relevant material in published and unpublished sources were undertaken at the Lincoln Record Office and Local Library as well as our own library resources. Information about Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Registered Battlefields and Registered Parks & Gardens was obtained from English Heritage. A visit to the National Monuments Record at Swindon in Gloucestershire was also undertaken.
- 2.3 A site visit and walkover survey was undertaken to examine the topography and current land use of the site, and to identify any previously unrecorded above ground archaeology.
- 2.4 Following the assessment, conclusions were drawn and an indication provided of the archaeological potential of the proposed land for development and the importance of any sites directly affected or where their setting may be a consideration. Where appropriate, recommendations have been made.
- 2.5 At the time of writing there is no nationally agreed method of measuring the relative importance of archaeological monuments. PPG16 (paragraph 8) draws a distinction between nationally important remains and those of lesser distinction. On this basis it is possible to distinguish between monuments of national, regional local or negligible importance.

National Monuments that are scheduled and protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), those suitable for scheduling, or considered to be of

national importance but not covered by the Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling.

Regional

Sites listed in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) or other sources which are of a reasonably well defined extent, nature and date and significant examples in the regional context.

Local

Sites listed in the SMR or other sources which are of very low potential or minor importance.

Negligible

Areas in which investigative techniques have produced negative or minimal evidence of antiquity, or where large scale destruction of deposits has taken place (eg by mineral extraction).

2.6 The potential of a site to contain archaeological remains is based upon a consideration of its topography and the distribution and nature of recorded archaeological finds in the locality. It is measured on the basis of High, Medium, Low and Negligible.

2.7 The setting of a monument is generally considered what can be seen or heard to and from the monument. Its impact can be assessed on the basis of Major, Medium, Minor or Insignificant.

3.0 Archaeological, Historical and Cartographic Assessment

3.1 Archaeological Assessment

- 3.1.1 A search of the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) was made for a radius of up to 1km outside the development site. A distribution plot for those entries appears as Figure-3 and a summary of each entry is to be found in Appendix A. Three Scheduled Ancient Monuments lie within Pinchbeck parish. These include settlement (County List SAM 216), Pinchbeck engine (SAM 248) and the moated site of Newhall Grange (SAM 20818) (English Heritage 1996). The site does not lie within a conservation area (Pearce et al. 1990) and there are no registered parks or gardens within the vicinity (English Heritage 1986).
- 3.1.2 All of these Scheduled Ancient Monuments are located several kilometres away from the study site. The site visit established that these scheduled monuments were not visible from the site at the time of the site visit (September 2001). It is concluded that views to and from these monuments towards the site (and vice-versa) indicate that their setting will not be affected by development.
- 3.1.3 No archaeological remains have been recorded on the study site itself. However, immediately adjacent to the development area, undated cropmarks have been recorded (**SMR 23584**). A vertical aerial photograph of the site held by the sites and monuments record shows a double linear feature (interpreted as a road or track), linear features possibly representing field boundaries and a small enclosure. These are within the proposed development site although the NGR co-ordinates on the SMR, plots them to the east of the site (see Figure 3).
- 3.1.4 Evidence for salting dating from the Roman or medieval period has been recorded to the east of the site (**SMR 23591 & 23592**). During construction of the sugarbeet factory in the early 20th century, remains related to this industry were recovered. However, the remains are tentatively dated by association with Romano-British pottery found nearby as well as being located near medieval salt mounds in Pinchbeck Marsh.
- 3.1.5 To the immediate east of the site, undated and medieval (or later) ditches were recorded during archaeological evaluation and watching brief (**SMR 23716**) which had been identified by earlier geophysical survey. These features are thought to represent drainage and/or agricultural boundaries.

- 3.1.6 Approximately 500m to the north of the site, a medieval moated site has been recorded (**SMR 20144**). The site is recorded at Otway Study House and has since been converted into a ha-ha. The moat is not illustrated on early OS maps.
- 3.2 Historical Assessment
- 3.2.1 Pinchbeck is first mentioned in a Charter made by the Laity in A.D 810 whereby Aeflgar granted land to Siward, Abbot of Crowland Royal Charters dating from AD 851 whereby land was granted land by Berhtwulf, king of Mercia to Siward, abbot of Crowland and the abbey (Sawyer 1968). Further confirmation of land and privileges in Pinchbeck to Crowland Abbey were made in AD 868, 948 and 966.
- 3.2.2 Pinchbeck is not only mentioned in Royal Charters but also in the Domesday Survey of AD 1086 where mention is made of *Pincebec* (Ekwall 1991). The first element *Pince*, is thought to derive from the Old English *pinc* meaning a minnow (Cameron 1998). The second element derives from the Old Norse *bekkr* meaning stream thus giving a translation 'minnow stream' (Cameron 1998).
- 3.2.3 The Domesday Book of AD1086 lists Ivo Taillebois and Guy de Craon as landowners at the time of the Survey. In total, there are 22 freemen, 23 villagers and 12 smallholders with four fisheries rendering 1500 eels listed.
- 3.3 Cartographic Assessment
- 3.3.1 The earliest map consulted dates from 1620 and comprises a map of Pinchbeck (Figure 4). The location of the site on this map is extremely difficult to follow given the lack of locational points (i.e. road names or the shape of field systems). The presence of Henney Gate on the map suggests Hennygate Drove as illustrated on later Ordnance Survey maps (see Figure 5). The course of what is now known as Blue Gowt Drain is also illustrated (see Figure 4). However, it is considered that the site is actually outside the confines of this map and to the west of the Henney Gate shown on the illustration.
- 3.3.2 A map dated 1763 (2Deeping Fen 1/5/1) illustrated land surrounding the site as open fields in Pinchbeck Lordship. This map was not in a condition to trace therefore no copy appears in this

document.

3.3.3 Pinchbeck was enclosed by a private act of land not including open field arable in 1801 (Tate & Turner 1978). The Lincoln Record Office holds the Holland Award 10 (dated 1819), which covers the Pinchbeck and Spalding areas. However, the study site does not appear and therefore was not part of enclosure at this date.

3.3.4 Ordnance survey maps of the site were consulted and include the 2nd Editions 25" and 6" scales dated 1904 and 1906 respectively. Both editions illustrate that the site was divided into two fields at the beginning of the 20th century (see Figure 5). Annotation on the 25" 2nd Edition note that the buildings shown at the southwestern corner of the site (outside the site) have burnt down.

3.4 Topography, geology and soils

3.4.1 The study site is level and at about 3 metres AOD. The soils, of the Wisbech Association, are an extensive type on the fenlands around the Wash. The Soil Survey notes that they are often associated with relatively late reclamation (SSEW 1984: 362).

3.4.2 The drift geology underlying the site is mainly alluvium. The study site was on or close to the coast line during the Roman period (Bennett: 20-21 & Bennett 1993) and the area would have been suitable for salt production. This is confirmed by the presence of evidence for salt making to the east of the site during the Romano medieval periods (see para. 3.1.4 above).

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1.1 The archaeological desk-based assessment has established that archaeological remains dating from the Roman period and later have been recorded close to the site. Although earlier activity can not be ruled out.
- 4.1.2 Aerial photographs provide a further indication of the archaeological potential of the site. Aerial photographic evidence which suggests the presence of linear and enclosure features within the study sites boundaries. Although photographic evidence dates from 1952 there is good reason to suggest that remains are likely to still survive on the site. This assumption is based on later aerial photographs dating from 1982, which also show cropmarks present on the site.
- 4.1.3 Based on a scale of high, medium, low and negligible, the potential of the site to contain archaeological remains is considered to be medium to high. The importance of any remains is unclear. However, it is unlikely that development would be precluded.
- 4.1.4 The site is suitable for non-intrusive survey (i.e. fieldwalking and geophysical survey) and it is recommended that both these techniques are utilised in order to assess the sites archaeological potential further. It is also expected that further evaluation will be required and is likely to be in the form archaeological trial trenching.

5.0 Figures

Figure 1. Site location on Pathfinder 857 Spalding & Holbeach Scale 1: 25 000

Figure 2. Site plan

Figure 3. SMR distribution plot

Figure 4. Tracing of a Plan of land at Pinchbeck dated 1620 (MCD 851/26)

Figure 5. Ordnance Survey 6" 2nd Edition 1906

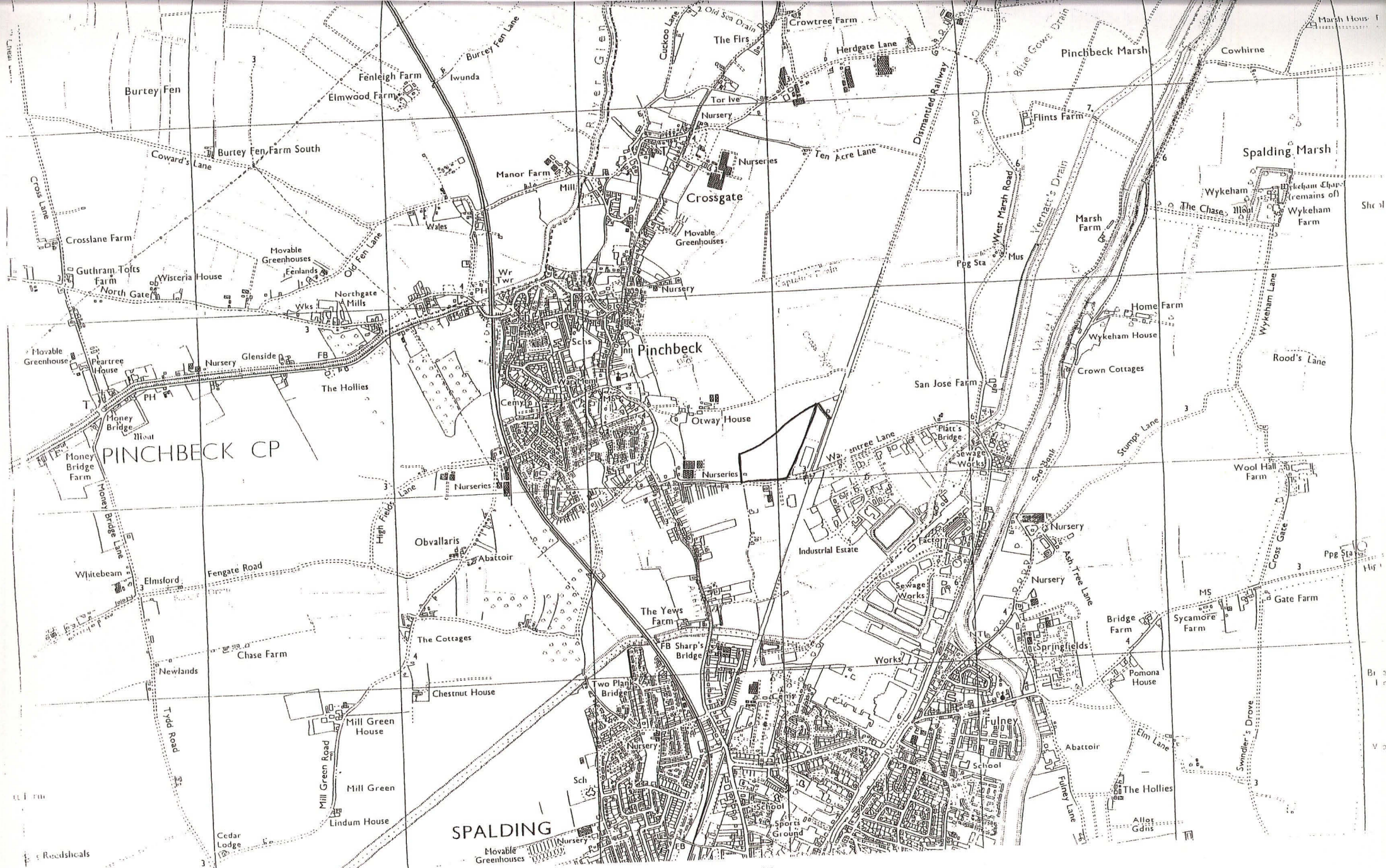
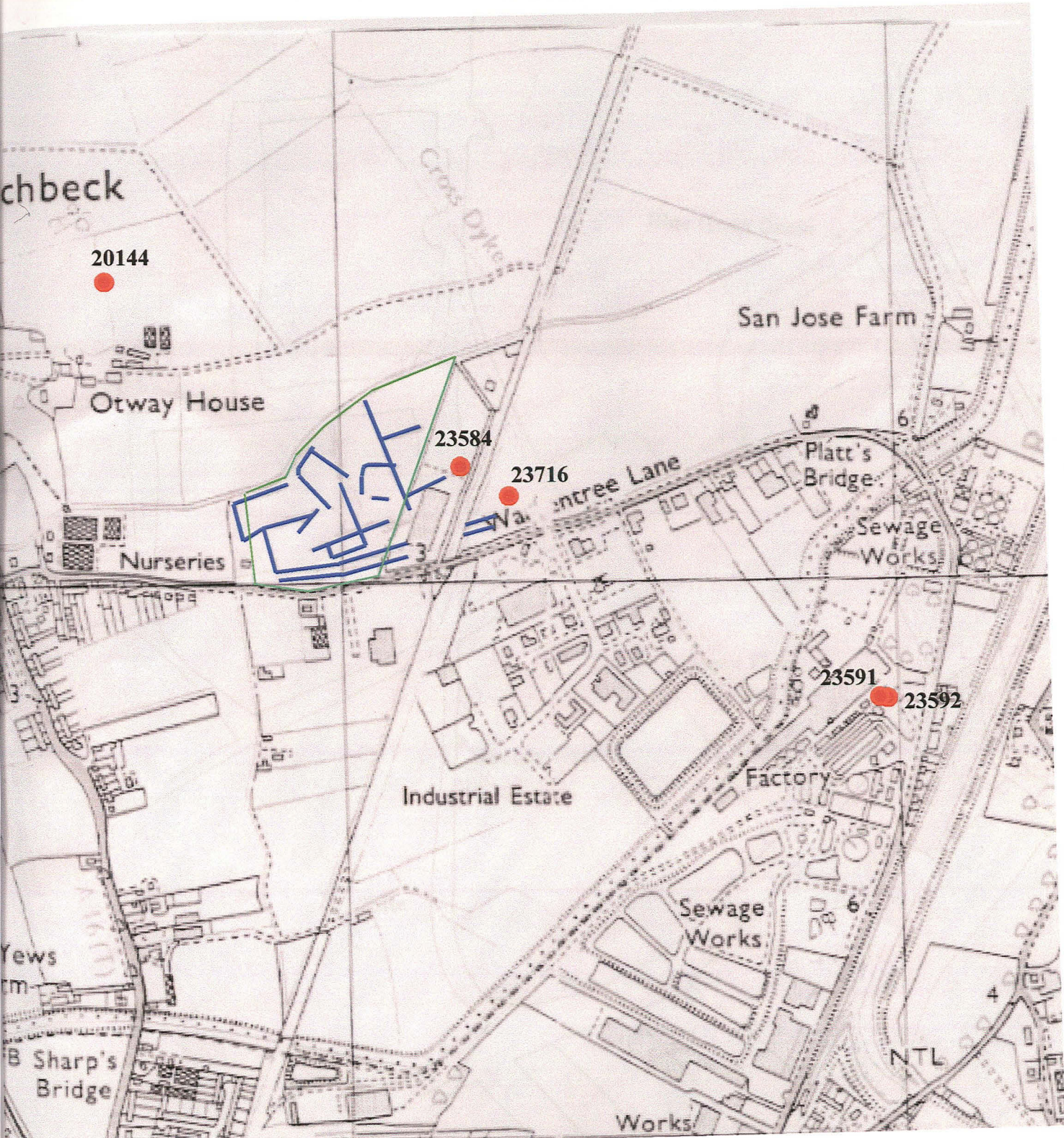


Figure 1. Site location plan on Pathfinder 857 Spalding & Holbeach
Scale 1: 25 000



location plan (not to scale)

Figure 2. Site plan



Note: Map based on Ordnance Survey with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.
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- = SMR entry
- = cropmarks
- = site boundary

Figure 3. SMR Distribution Plot

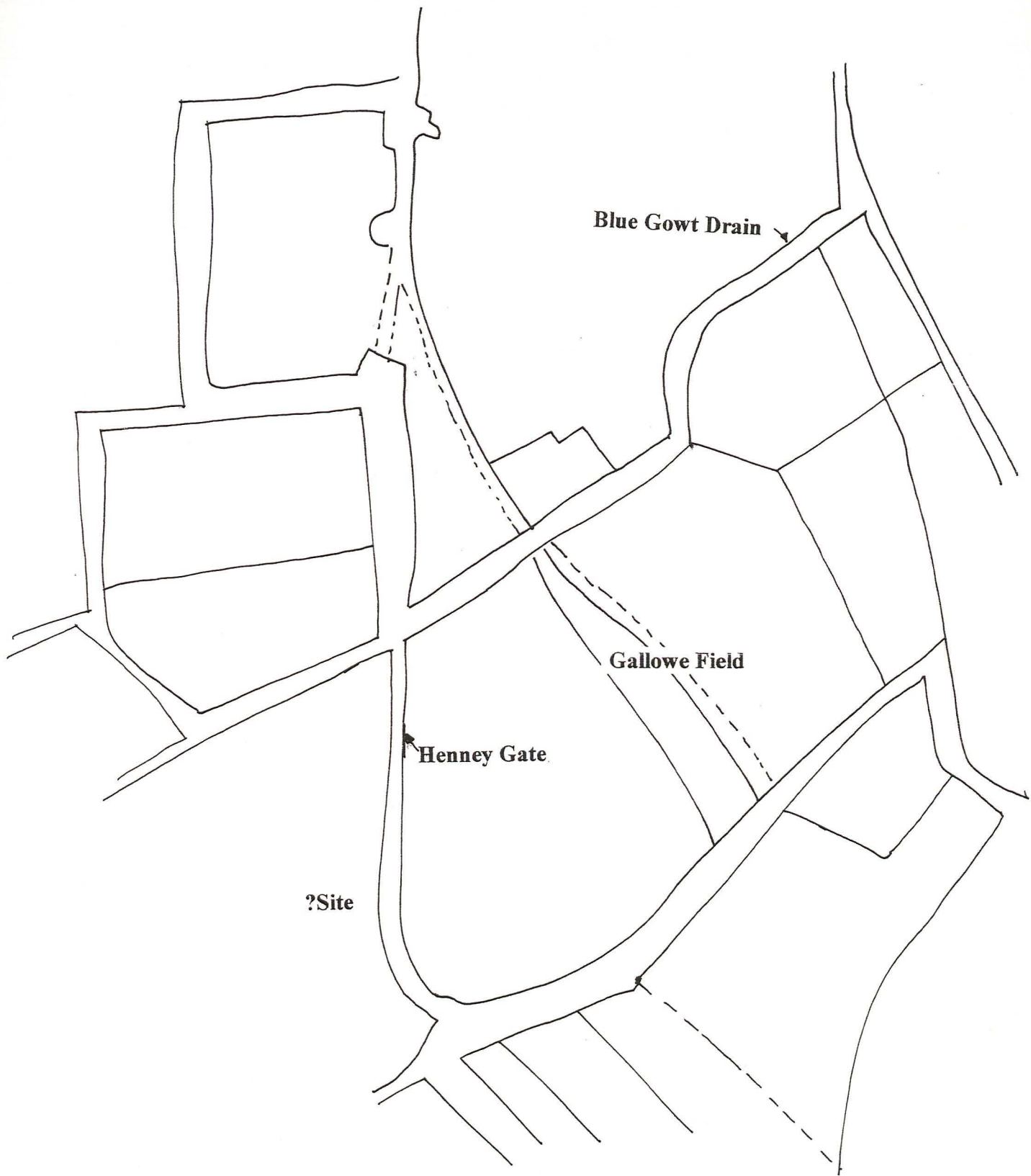


Figure 4. Tracing of a Plan of Land at Pinchbeck dated 1620 (MCD 851/26)



Figure 5. Ordnance Survey six inch 2nd edition dated 1906

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Maps (held by Lincoln Record Office)

Vernatts drain, the reservoir and surrounding area 1774 (2 Deeping Fen 1/5/3)

Hall Estate 1934 (Misc. Dep. 233/7)

Xerox of PRO plan 1620-1 (MCD 851/26)

Drainage and Inclosure Award and Plan 1819 (Holland Award 10)

Estate of Sir Gilbert Heathcote 1792 (Smith 9/1/42)

Map of Deeping Fen area including pinchbeck (2 Deeping Fen 1/5/1)

Maps and Deeds c. 1582-1743 (L.D. 40/36)

Aerial photographs

Cambridge University Collection 1945-84, ZG 76, 1960

National Monuments Record (for listing please see overleaf)

ENGLISH HERITAGE - NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD
National Monuments Record - Air Photos Library

Summary report for specialist collection

Date : 20-Oct-2001 Time : 14:29:26

Customer Enquiry Reference No. 35339

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TF2525/3	NMR 1952	242		CRW	NMR	B 70mm,120,220 Black& white	29-JUN-1981	1	TF250255

Total 4 Records

ENGLISH HERITAGE - NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD
National Monuments Record - Air Photos Library

Summary report for vertical coversearch

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Total 10 Sorties 29 Prints

SMR NO.	NGR	PERIOD	DESCRIPTION
20144	TF 246 255	Medieval	Moated site
23584	TF 2520 2520	Undated	Cropmarks
23591	TF 2591 2480	Medieval	Saltmaking evidence
23592	TF 2591 2480	Roman	Saltmaking
23716	TF 2530 2514	Medieval-Post-medieval	Drainage ditch