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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**Land NW of St Peter's Road Scotter
(formerly Home Paddock, Soulby Farm)**

NGR: SE 88466 00784

Site Code: SSPR 02

LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 2002.139

W. Lindsey District Council Planning Application No. M01/P/1180

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

**Report for
Mrs S. Wood**

by G. Tann

LAS Report No. 580

April 2002

Conservation
Services

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Highways & Planning
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Land NW of St Peter's Road, Scotter
(formerly known as Home Paddock, Soulby Farm)
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Summary

During the site walk-over, vestigial medieval ridge and furrow was identified at the SW part of the site, and this has been confirmed from air photographs and a recent geophysical survey. It confirms that much of this site lay outside the medieval settlement and was within the open fields. Earthworks, possibly of medieval house sites, but more probably associated with a putative abandoned medieval lane along the rear of crofts fronting onto High Street, are visible at the NE end of the site.

A sherd of a Bronze Age collared urn and a tenth century pottery sherd have been found on an adjacent plot, and there is therefore potential for Bronze Age cremations and Saxon occupation features on the site which have been masked by the medieval remains.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in March 2002 by M.C. Developments (on behalf of Mrs Wood) to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment of land south of Gainsborough Road, Scotter, 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

Scotter is situated 10km south of Scunthorpe, 13km NE of Gainsborough, and 5.5km NW of Kirton in Lindsey, in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The application site is located immediately outside the existing settlement core but beside twentieth century housing estates and ribbon development. The c. 1ha SW-NE aligned plot is linked by a narrow easement to Gainsborough Road.

Planning Background

The present application (WLDC Application No. M01/P/1180) is for outline planning permission for residential development. The proposal envisages nineteen plots, with 318m² of open space, and 633m² of affordable housing land; a footpath will connect the site with Gainsborough Road, utilising the easement of a proposed sewer. An access road is proposed to extend the existing St. Peter's Road, and to connect with a separate proposed development (Fig. 3).

West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) consulted their archaeological advisors (Archaeology Section,

Conservation Services, Lincolnshire County Council), who identified the site as having significant archaeological potential. A previously submitted archaeological desk-based assessment (for an adjoining, but separate, development proposal) had concluded that there were prehistoric and Saxon remains on that site, and had noted extant earthwork features within the present application site (Tann 2001). WLDC requested further information in order that a better informed planning decision could be made. An archaeological desk-based assessment and a geophysical survey were requested; the geophysical survey is the subject of a separate report.

Methods and Sources

A desk-based assessment 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 between March 25th and April 11th 2002. The following sources were consulted and available information researched:

- Lincolnshire County Council County Archaeology Office (Sites and Monuments Record),
- 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
- Photographs held by Mrs Wood

Topography and Geology

Scotter village lies on the western bank of the River Eau, a SE-NW tributary of the River Trent (5km to the NW). The soils are Cover Sands on gravel, and gravel deposits have been recorded close to the site at depths of up to 4m (Smith 1976a, 52). Gravel was extracted from a pit 100m SE of the application site after Enclosure of the parish in 1808-20 (LAO Lindsey Award 122). The height of the site is about 10m OD.

Archaeological and Historical Background (Fig. 4)

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 the text. A summary list of entries is provided in Appendix 1.

Prehistoric

Flint and stone implements are easily identified in the sandy soils of this area. A flint knife was found 700m NE of the site (SMR 50062) and a polished stone axe has been reported from about 500m to the south (SMR 50061). Close to the River Eau, a prehistoric dug-out boat was found (SMR 50080). During a site visit to adjoining premises in April 2001, a sherd of a Bronze Age collared urn (usually found in cremation contexts) was found on the disturbed ground surface (SMR 54563)(Tann 2001).

Roman

The Sites and Monuments Record has entries for two Roman coins, both mid-fourth century AD, which have been reported from Scotter. One (SMR 50076) is from an unknown location, while the second is from a track through Scotter Wood, 2.5km to the west of the application site (SMR 50067).

Saxon and Medieval

The earliest recorded forms of the place-name are *Scotere* and *Scotre* [both 1086 *Domesday Survey*], *Scottere* and *Scotra* [mid-twelfth century]; the name appears to derive from the Old English elements indicating 'tree of the Scots' (Cameron 1998, 107). The village was in Corringham wapentake, in the West Riding of Lindsey.

At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, land in Scotter was divided between two manors, both of which were held after 1066 by Peterborough Abbey (Foster and Longley 1924, 56). Previously, Alnod and Aschil had held lands there; Aschil was the brother of Brand, a Peterborough monk. In 1066, the lands of Brand's brothers and kinsmen were granted to the Abbey by William I (Foster and Longley 1924, xl-xliv). Three mills and two fisheries are mentioned in the Domesday entry, and the probable site of the water mill (SMR 50051) is known. Values ascribed to holdings in Scotter fell by about 10% between 1066 and 1086. One of the manor sites is believed to have been NW of the church, on the site of the present manor house. A single sherd of tenth century pottery (SMR 54564) was found immediately NE of the application site in 2001 (Tann 2001).

The size of the Scotter settlement was comparatively large at the end of the Saxon period (Everson 1991, 1). Articulated human skeletal remains, thought to be of Saxon or medieval date, have been found on the southern and eastern sides of The Green on several occasions. In about 1810, a 'great many' human bones were found during levelling of a hill on The Green (SMR 50065; Smith 1974, citing Cragg 1820) In 1892, 'many skeletons' were described as having been found in gravelly soil to the east, and were suspected to represent a mass grave from either the Black Death of the mid-fourteenth century, or a medieval conflict (SMR 50050). Some of these, mostly identified as child skeletons, had been found at the time of the report, below a house. Others had been seen in house foundation trenches between the contemporary graveyard and the river, and the stones covering the upper bodies were thought to indicate a Saxon date (SMR 50050). In this context, it was noted that there was a local tradition of an earlier church on or near The Green (Eminson 1892, 3). Further skeletal remains were found, together with animal bones, during excavation of a sewer pipe along the road in front of Tudor Cottage and the National Westminster Bank in 1965 (SMR 50054; Smith 1976b, 47).

In the late twelfth century, the right to an annual fair and weekly market in Scotter was granted. The market was held on a land block which later became the Town Green (which survives in a much reduced form to the west of the manor house). The arrangement of land parcels on nineteenth century maps suggests that the market may have originally occupied a rectangular block of c. 1.1ha,

extending from Church Lane to the NW side of The Green (Everson 1991, 1). As medieval markets often developed in churchyards, this situation would be appropriate, with roads leading from its corners towards neighbouring settlements.

A consideration of the layout of Scotter, as recorded on a plan accompanying the Enclosure Award, suggests that its early nineteenth century arrangement fossilised some elements of a much earlier form (Fig. 5). The principal element was associated with the church and adjacent manorial complex, beside the market area. High Street (previously called South Street), the road to Scotton, was flanked by a very regular 'two-row' property block arrangement, as was also the case with the properties flanking West Street (Everson 1991). At the rear of the West Street properties was a back lane, called Sands Road, which may originally have entered the core of Scotter in the position of the post-Enclosure Gainsborough Road; the present Gainsborough Road junction in the settlement heart is a mid-twentieth century realignment. No similar back lane has been documented along the rear of the High Street premises, but their markedly regular arrangement is conducive to an early linking track. The Enclosure Award plan does indicate a narrow road leading from the then-recently constructed Gainsborough Road along the western and southern edges of the field (equating with the application site), terminating at the rear of the High Street properties. This lane may have been necessary to replace an abandoned medieval back lane.

The application site occupies part of the former grounds of Soulby Farm. The name (which was used in the 1985 DOE *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest*) was the subject of some speculation in a previous archaeological report (Tann 2001). Mrs Wood, owner of the present application site, has explained that the farm name was eponymous with a previous twentieth century owner, Violet Soulby, who was resident in London. Before then, the farm is understood to have been known as Scotter Farm (Mrs Wood, pers. comm.). The former name hints at a well-established farm, which may have been active from the medieval period.

Post-medieval

Lands held in Scotter by Peterborough Abbey were confiscated in 1540 and passed to secular owners. Enclosure of Scotter's open fields had taken place in a piecemeal fashion prior to the 1808 Enclosure Act, but the regular boundaries emanating off either side of Gainsborough Road almost certainly represent an early nineteenth century rearrangement after construction of that road (LAO Lindsey Award 122). The plan which accompanies the **1820** Enclosure Award shows the application site field to the north of (or part of) Rooklands Field, with a narrow road along its western and southern margins. The land block to the north, extending to the rear of properties fronting onto Long Street and High Street, was held by the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral. To the east, the field boundary was staggered, with the northern half corresponding with the rear line of the High Street property block, and the southern half projecting west by about 25m (and conforming to the rear line of properties to the south). This seems to be evidence of an uncompleted process of encroachment by High Street premises onto the former open fields to their rear, although it could conceivably mark the

contraction of properties.

The earliest available Ordnance Survey map to show the application site was surveyed in **1885**, and does not show the lane from Gainsborough Road (Fig. 6; OS 1891). One tree is marked within the site, at the SW corner of the boundary hedge. At the eastern end of the field, it shows a straight boundary, on the northern side flush with the properties extending back from High Street, but set back from those to the south. Beyond the site boundary to the north, strips of land adjoined to the rear of premises off Gainsborough Road seem to reflect an extension of the western of the two rear boundary lines associated with High Street properties. This could be evidence for a medieval back lane which fell out of use, and was partly incorporated by some High Street property owners. The changes between the 1820 and 1885 maps shows that a contraction of High Street properties was taking place at that stage.

The **1905** Ordnance Survey revision shows a further change to the eastern boundary (Fig. 7; OS 1907). At the NE corner of the site, a tongue of land protruded to the NE into the rear of premises fronting onto High Street. This arrangement clearly served to allow access to a shared outbuilding (which is still extant).

An Ordnance Survey revision prior to **1930** shows no change to have occurred on the site (OS 1956). According to Mrs Wood, the NW corner of the field became the grounds of her present house and garden in **1954**, with other dwellings constructed alongside Gainsborough Road on land taken from the field during the **1960s**.

By **1974** the present houses and bungalows had been constructed along the Gainsborough Road frontage, leaving a field entrance between the otherwise solid residential properties (Fig. 4; OS 1975). A housing estate had been constructed to the south, with St Peter's Road and Astley Crescent ending abruptly at the southern field boundary of the application site (presumably anticipating eventual development of the field).

Photographs in Mrs Wood's possession show parts of the application site, probably during the 1970s and 1980s. Two of these illustrate NW-SE aligned banks at the northern and southern sides of the NE end of the site, which have broken the natural slope and therefore cause their height to appear more significant (Pls. 1 and 2). Another, an air photograph, shows the western end of the site, with very slight remains of SW-NE aligned ridge and furrow undulations (Pl. 3). Mrs Wood notes that this field has been known as Home Paddock.

Residential development of the application site was suggested by the local planning authority in the *Scotter Development Guide* in July **1980** (WLDC 1980). It designated the site as part of Site J, zoned for a development of 34 houses.

Site Visit

The application site was visited by G. Tann on 25th March 2002. Access to the site is via a field gate in the Gainsborough Road frontage, between the existing dwellings. A sewer for the proposed development will cross the western edge of this area, but most of this gap lies outside the application site (Pl. 4). The main area of the site is a pasture field, with slopes down to the NE from the western field boundary, and down to the SW from the northern boundary (Pls. 5 and 6). At the time of the visit the field had not recently been grazed.

At the SW end of the site, a low bank was seen at the base of the hedge. Further into the field, slight traces of SW-NE aligned linear depressions were seen, which appear to mark medieval plough furrows. The furrows could be traced to the vicinity of two wooden fences, which cross the site near the gap in the Gainsborough Road frontage. Within the area of ridge and furrow was a later small mound, about 0.6m high, and about 3m x 4m in extent. There was no obvious cause of this feature, which may represent a post-medieval rubbish pile, manure heap, or spoil tip from gravel extraction.

The southern edge of a ditch was seen in places along the northern site boundary. A further possible ditch, about 0.4m deep, snaked irregularly across the centre of the site from north to south. Close to the eastern end of the site were a confused series of earthwork features (Pl. 7). These were interpreted as a NW-SE aligned bank crossing the site, but interrupted in the centre, with a possible pit on its SE side. Traces of a roughly parallel ridge were seen to the NE of the bank. When a site visit was made to adjoining land in April 2001, the application site was well grazed, and undulations visible in the SE corner were photographed (Pl. 8). At the time, it was suspected that these might be medieval house platforms, but this has been discounted after the recent site visit and geophysical survey.

Planning Policies

Scotter is in West Lindsey. The West Lindsey Local Plan for the period to 2001 was adopted in April 1998 (WLDC 1998). An extract relevant to archaeological issues is appended (Appendix 2).

Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the application site or in its vicinity. 100m from the site is a rectangular brick dovecote, thought to be of eighteenth century date, which has the status of a Building Listed as of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, Grade II (DOE 1985).

Archaeological Potential of the Application Site

As with any location on the sandy soils close to the River Eau in Scotter, prehistoric and Roman finds could be present. As an adjoining plot has already produced a sherd of Bronze Age pottery, the potential for further finds of pottery and flints of a similar date is high. The sherd is part of a collared urn, a large diameter vessel frequently found in association with cremated human remains.

The discovery in 2001 of a tenth century pottery sherd, on an adjoining plot, suggests that Saxon occupation remains may be present on this site. The site lies close to the core of the Saxon and medieval settlement. Medieval ridge and furrow survives over half of the site, and the remainder may have been a plough headland and a back lane. Post-medieval use seems to have been as pasture.

The absence of known building on the site increases the potential for survival of archaeological features, but possible small-scale gravel extraction may have damaged earlier deposits in parts of the northern half of the site.

Potential Impact of the Proposed Development on Archaeological Remains

If developed for housing, groundworks for strip foundations, the access road, associated drainage and landscaping would all affect any underlying remains on the site.

Conclusion

This site lies at the edge of the known medieval settlement focus in Scotter, on ground which may have been mostly part of a larger open field. Traces of ridge and furrow from medieval ploughing remain visible across the southern half of the site, but the remaining part of the site is less easily interpreted. This report suggests that some earthworks may represent a medieval back lane separating the open fields from the rear of the land parcels fronting onto High Street. There remains a slight possibility that medieval house platforms are present at the northern end of the site. Since the medieval period, this plot of land may have remained under pasture. Small-scale gravel extraction may have created depressions and irregularities in the ground surface, and a succession of boundary realignments are probably responsible for further undulations. No evidence has been established for any development on the site.

In addition to any medieval remains, the site has potential for prehistoric, and Saxon archaeological remains masked by medieval ploughing, although none have yet been recognised.

Acknowledgements

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Mrs Wood; Michael Connell; staff at West Lindsey District Council (Planning); archaeologists in the Built Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council (Highways and Planning Directorate); staff at the Lincolnshire Archives Office and Lincoln Central Library Reference Collection.

Illustrations were produced by Naomi Field, Mick McDaid and Mark Williams, and the report was collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
15th April 2002

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Archive Summary

Correspondence

Copies of developer's site plans

Field notes

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film no. 02/28/2-20, 24-27 (including those used in this report)

THE APPENDICES

Summary of Reported Sites and Monuments in the Study Area, Scotter

(Source: Lincolnshire County SMR)

SMR No.	NGR (all SE)	Description
50050	8868 0058	Anglo-Saxon burials, found with Anglian knife and other remains on site of new school outside Scotter
50050	888 008	Anglo-Saxon burials, found pre 1892
50051	8888 0074	Probable site of medieval watermill
50054	8861 0085	Human and animal bones found in sewer trench between The Green and the corner of South Street; ?Anglo Saxon cemetery
50063	8875 0081	St. Peter's Church, Norman, but with stonework possibly reused from earlier building
50065	8860 0090	Human bones found during lowering of hill on Town Green
50067	863 013	Roman coin (Magentius, 347-353) found in Scotter Wood
50068	887 009	Site of manor house, demolished in 18thC. Foundations noted 19thC.
50070	8856 0062	Site of post-medieval post mill
50071	886 009	Site of medieval market place
50072	8887 0067	Site of Town Well (or Halliwell)
50073	8865 0085	Brand's Croft: site of medieval sheepfold
50075	8872 0108	Medieval jet crucifix, found 2.4m deep in garden of 6, Riverside
50077	8865 0110	Medieval pottery jug found in River Eau
50080	8887 0090	Dug-out boat, found c. 1836
52140	8872 0082	Watching Briefs, 23 Church Lane. Undated pits or foundation trenches, with mortar and masonry fragments
52142	8872 0082	Medieval pottery
53858	8878 0126	Site of gravel pit
53870	8833 0053	Windmill, built 1874 to replace post mill
54562		dovecote
54563	8850 0080	Bronze Age collared urn sherd, 2001
54564	8850 0080	10thC sherd, 2001
54565	8850 0080	Post-medieval pottery, 2001

Planning Policies

Relevant policy initiatives followed by West Lindsey District Council are detailed in its Local Plan (WLDC 1998):

Ancient Monuments and Sites of Archaeological Importance: Policy SA8

Planning permission will not be granted for development proposals which will detrimentally affect archaeological remains of national importance, which are scheduled or otherwise, or their settings.

In respect of remains which are not of national importance, planning permission will not be granted for development proposals which:

- i. would adversely affect the archaeological remains on, or under, a site, or;*
- ii. would adversely affect the character or setting of an archaeological site, or;*
- iii. are located in an area where there is evidence of archaeological interest and the applicant has provided insufficient information needed to determine whether the proposals will adversely affect that interest, and ;*
- iv. do not indicate how the archaeological interest will be preserved or recorded if planning permission for development which would adversely affect the site were to be granted, and;*
- v. do not indicate what means would be employed to ensure the preservation or recording referred to in iv above, that is conditions, agreements, planning obligations or other means.*

Policy SA8(a)

If proposals for development will have an adverse affect on archaeological remains the authority will take into account any measures that are put forward to lessen that impact. In order of preference, these are:

- i Preservation of site in situ with, or without access to remains, depending on their vulnerability;*
- ii A combination of preservation in situ and excavation according to the extent, nature and characteristics of the remains on site*
- iii Recording and removal of movable artefacts and recording of all other material prior to destruction. Publication of results;*
- iv Recording of all material prior to destruction and publication of results.*

THE FIGURES

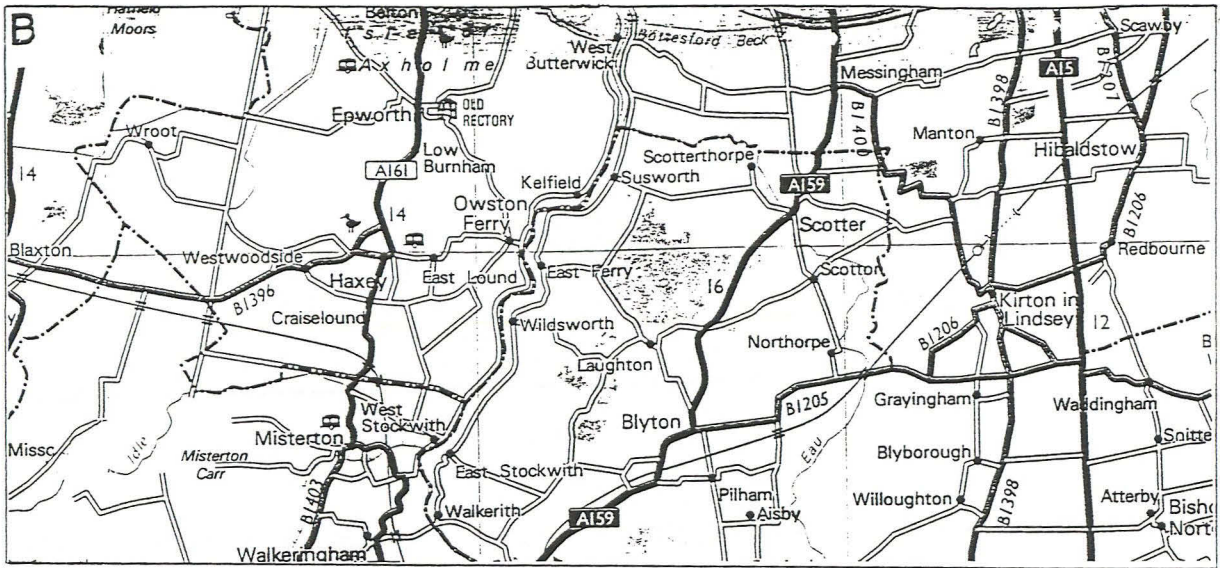


Fig. 1 Location of Scotter (inset C based on the 1975 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map sheet SE 80 SE. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

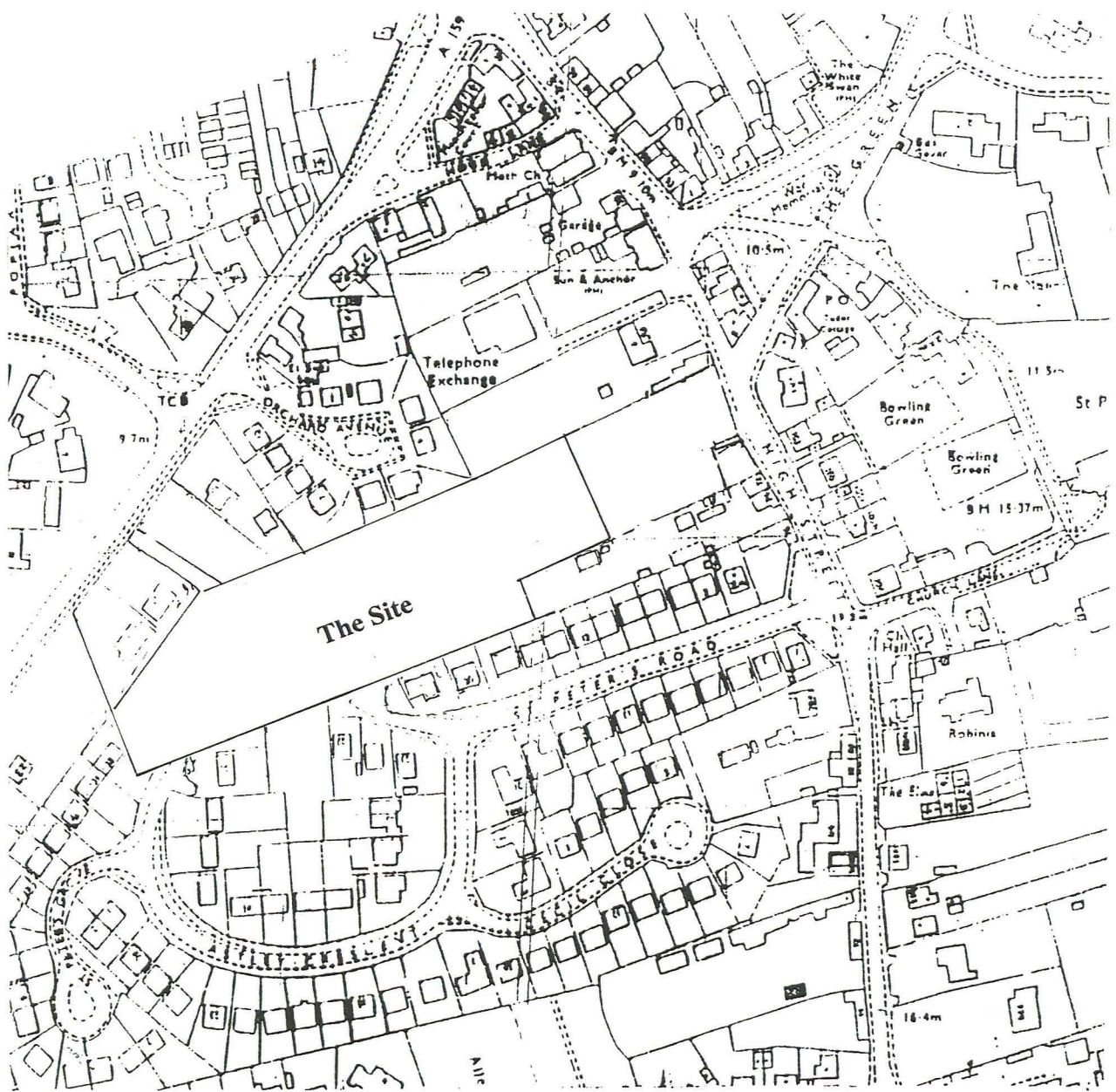


Fig. 2 Location of the Application Site (based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map supplied by the client. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

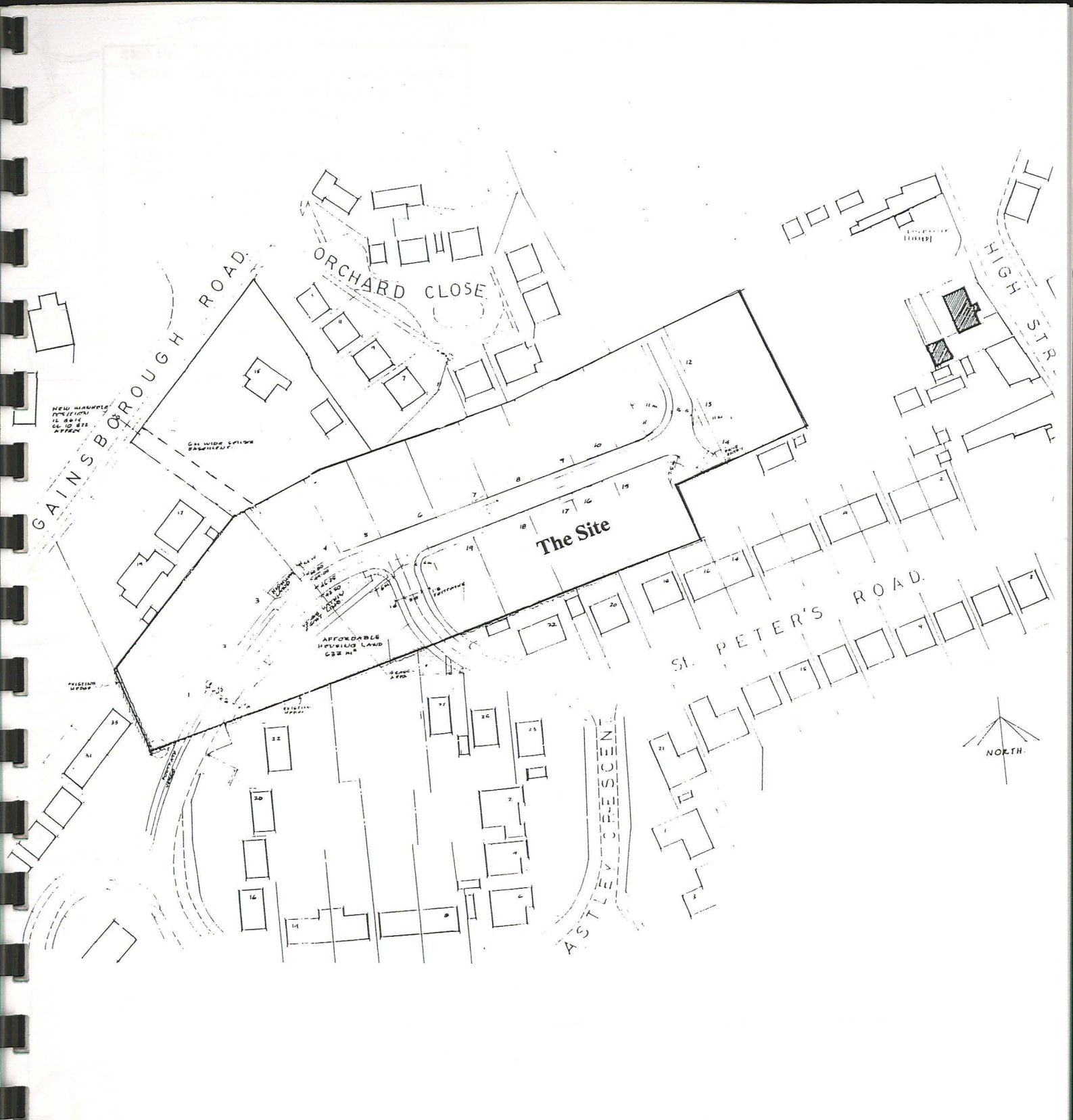


Fig. 3 The Application Site, showing the proposed development (based on a reduced scale copy of the 1:500 plan supplied by the client).

Fig 4

SMR No.	Description
50050	Anglo-Saxon burials, found with Anglian knife and other remains on site of new school outside Scotter
50050	Anglo-Saxon burials, found pre 1892
50051	Probable site of medieval watermill
50054	Human and animal bones found in sewer trench between The Green and the corner of South Street; ?Anglo Saxon cemetery
50063	St. Peter's Church, Norman, but with stonework possibly reused from earlier building
50065	Human bones found during lowering of hill on Town Green
50068	Site of manor house, demolished in 18thC. Foundations noted 19thC.
50071	Site of medieval market place
50073	Brand's Croft: site of medieval sheepfold
52140	Watching Briefs, 23 Church Lane. Undated pits or foundation trenches, with mortar and masonry fragments
52142	Medieval pottery
54562	dovecote
54563	Bronze Age collared urn sherd, 2001
54564	10thC sherd, 2001
54565	Post-medieval pottery, 2001

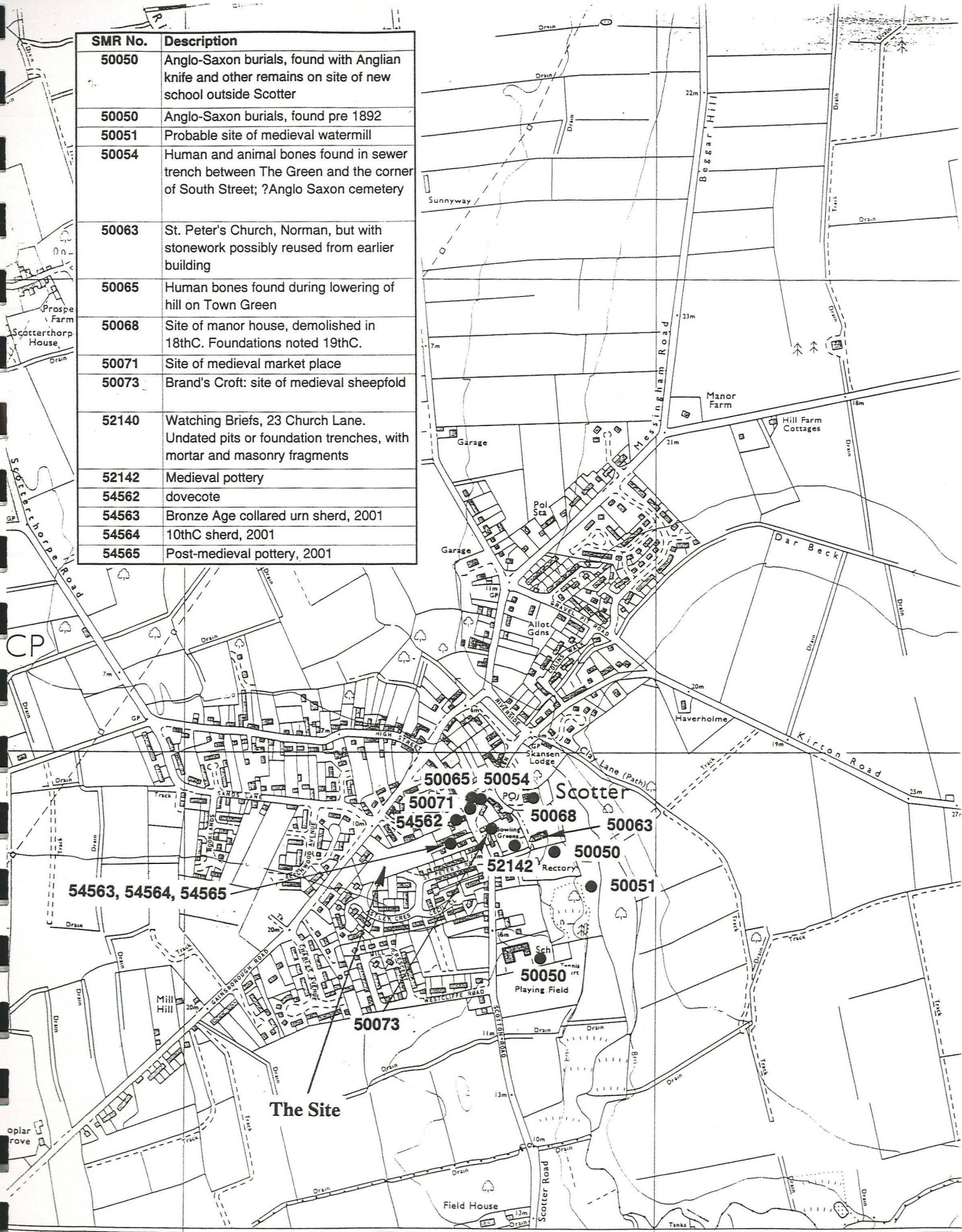


Fig. 4 Recorded archaeological sites and findsspots close to the application site, based on the 1975 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map sheet SE 80 SE. Additional information plotted from Lincolnshire SMR. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).

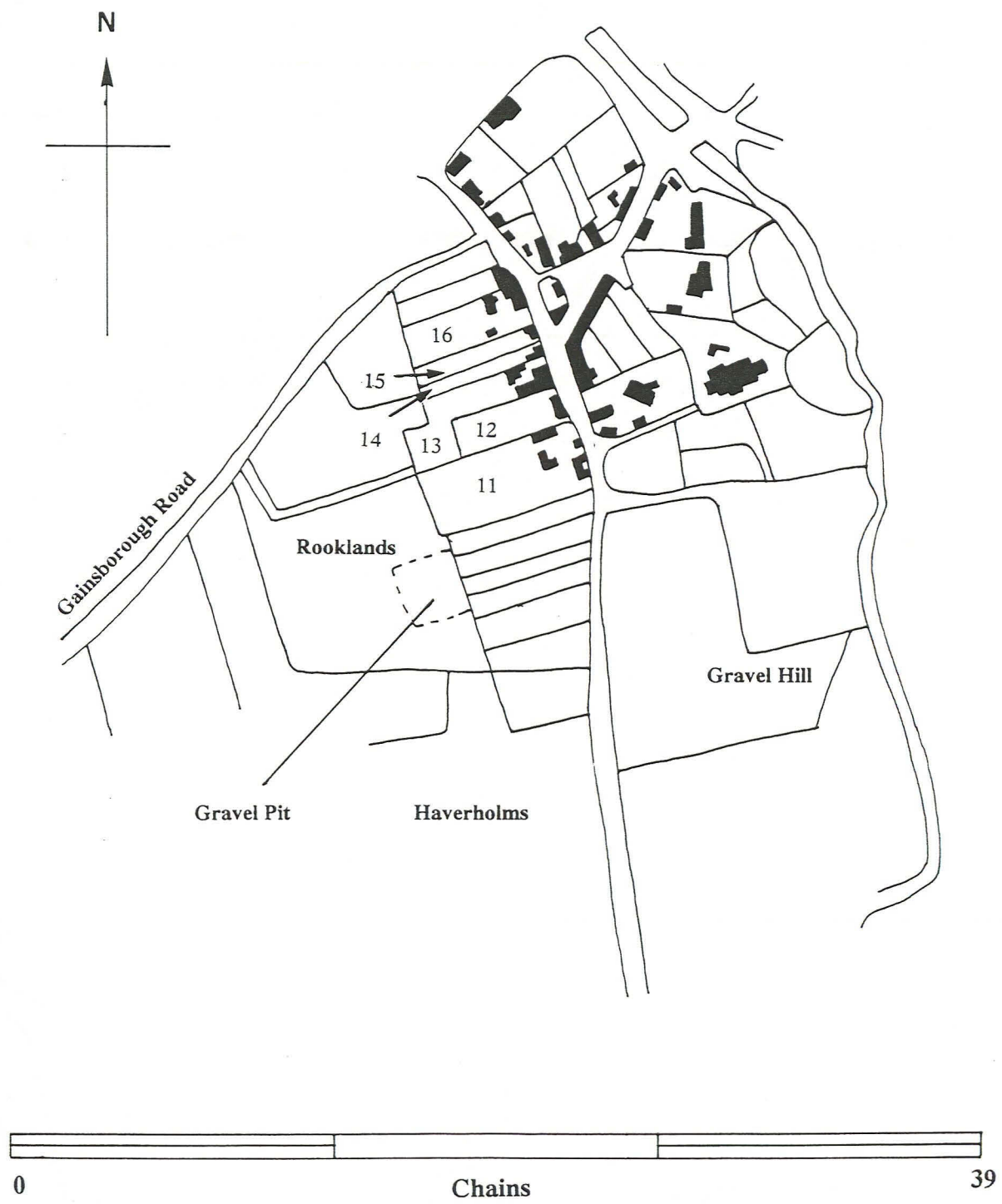


Fig. 5 Extract from the 1820 Scotter Enclosure Map (traced from LAO Lindsey Award 122).

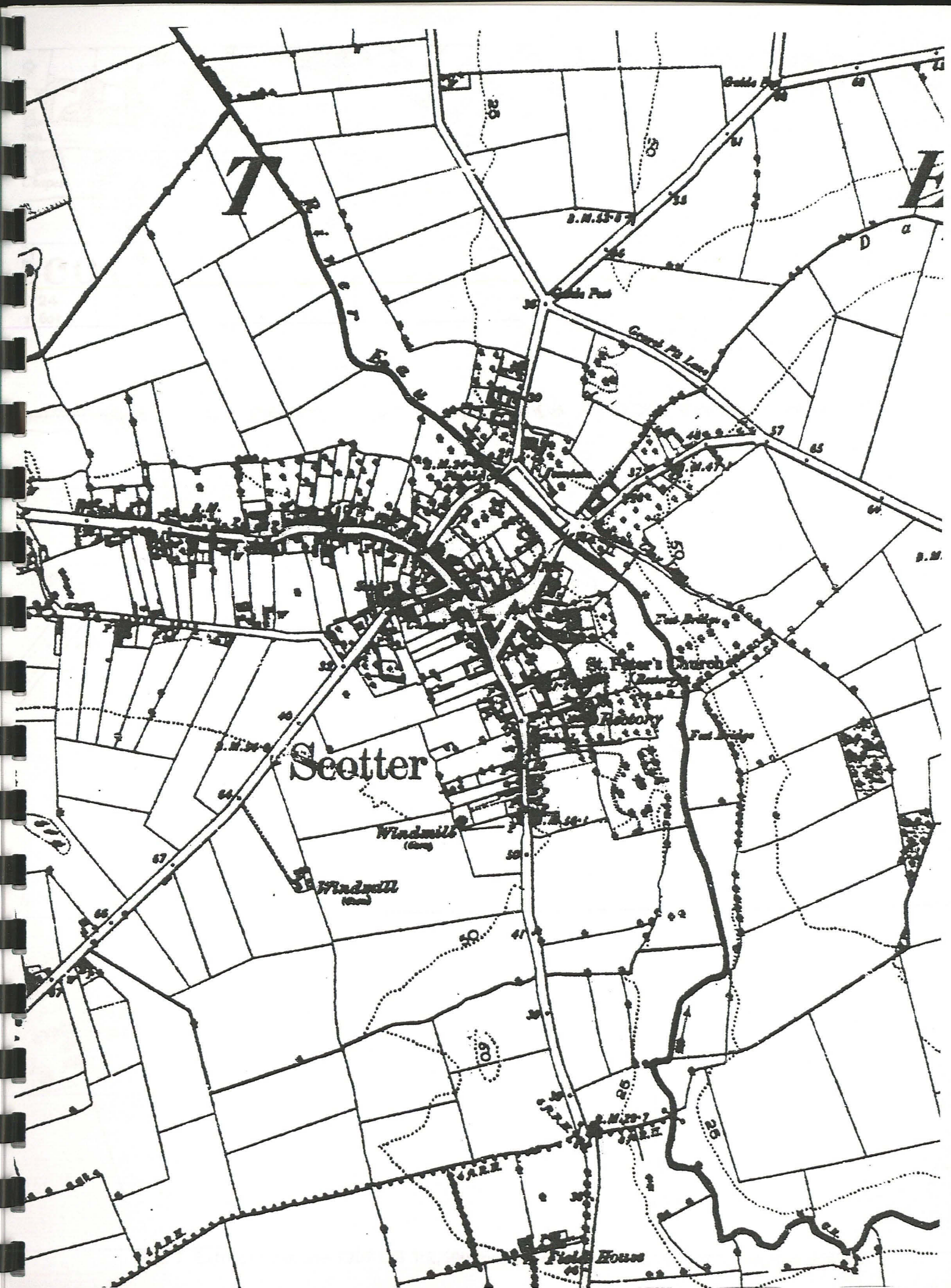


Fig. 6 Extract from the 1891 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map Sheet Lincs. 26SE (reproduced at reduced scale).



Fig. 7 Extract from the 1907 OS 1:2,500 map Sheet Lincs. 26.15 (not to original scale).

THE PLATES



Pl. 1 Photograph of the northern end of the application site in 1970s or 1980s, showing earthworks (looking NE; reproduced with the permission of Mrs Wood).



Pl.2 The NE corner of the application site in the 1970s or 1980s, showing earthworks (looking NE; reproduced with the permission of Mrs Wood).



Pl. 3 Air photograph showing the SW end of the application site c. 1980 (looking SE). Faint lines mark medieval ridge and furrow, and the unexplained small mound is visible to the right of centre. Reproduced with the permission of Mrs Wood.

Pl. 4 Position of the proposed sewer easement to Gainsborough Road (between the fence and the saplings). Looking NW towards Gainsborough Road.





Pl. 5 View of the application site, looking NE.



Pl. 6 View of the application site, looking SW.



Pl. 7 Earthwork features near the NE end of the site (looking NE).



PI. 8 In July 2001, the application site was a grazed pasture field, with the earthworks at the NE end more visible than in 2002 (looking west).