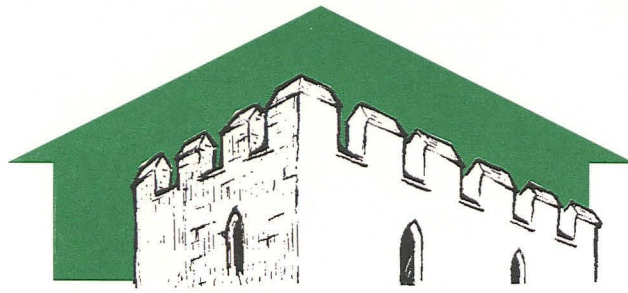


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# PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY L I N C O L N

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED  
ASSESSMENT AND  
METAL DETECTOR SURVEY;  
LAND OFF FOXBY LANE,  
GAINSBOROUGH, LINCOLNSHIRE  
NGR: SK 829 887





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METAL DETECTOR SURVEY;  
LAND OFF FOXBY LANE,  
GAINSBOROUGH, LINCOLNSHIRE  
NGR: SK 829 887**

Report prepared for  
West Lindsey District Council  
by Mark Allen  
September 2002

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Conservation  
Services  
12 DEC 2002  
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### *Summary*

- *An archaeological assessment and metal detector survey has been prepared for West Lindsey District Council in respect of land that is earmarked for potential development at Foxby Lane, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.*
- *The assessment will seek to ensure that archaeological resources are not needlessly destroyed as a result of redeveloping the site.*
- *The results presented in this report suggest that the archaeological potential of the site is low. The greatest potential is for the site to contain remnants of medieval ridge and furrow, probably of 13<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century date.*
- *It has not been possible to determine with absolute certainty whether the Battle of Gainsborough (1643) occurred within the site environs, although a programme of metal detecting suggests that the battle took place closer to Gainsborough. Later conflict during the Civil War may have had some impact on the site, such as the positioning of ordnance during the various sieges of the town.*
- *It is suggested that no further archaeological intervention will be required in advance of development.*

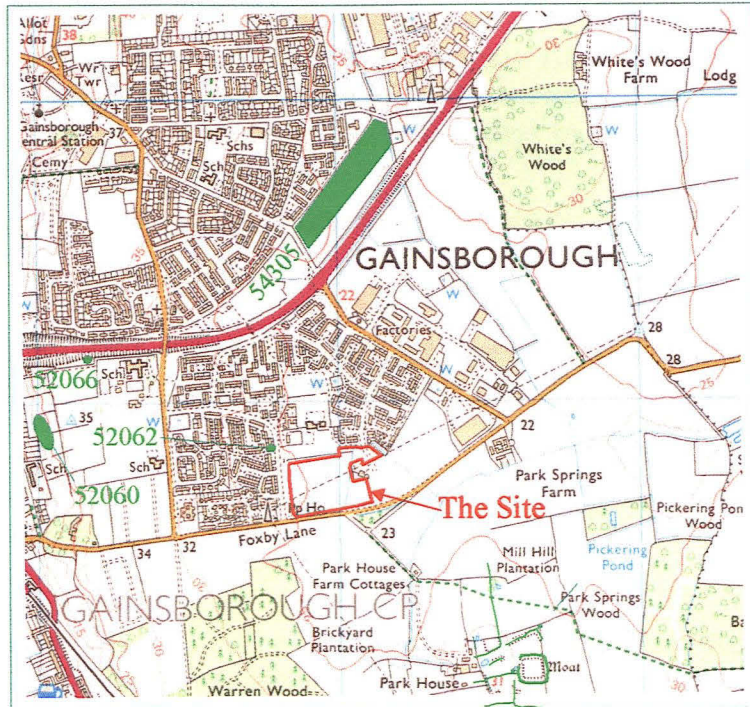


Figure 1: Site location at Scale 1:25,000. Cropmarks are green lines and solid green areas are SMR entries. (OS Copyright License Number A1 515 21 A0001)



## 1.0 Introduction

West Lindsey District Council commissioned this desk-based study and metal detector survey. Its purpose is to assess the overall archaeological potential of a proposed development site, and to assess the potential impacts that may be posed by development of land at Foxby Lane, Gainsborough.

The framework for this document has been based on current national guidelines, as produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1994), and it has been researched and compiled by Mark Allen of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln). The metal detector survey was carried out over four days by S. Savage and R. Gardner, also of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln).

## 2.0 Location and description

Gainsborough is on the east bank of the River Trent, within the administrative district of West Lindsey, approximately 30km north-west of Lincoln, and 19km north-east of East Retford.

The site of proposed development comprises a sub-rectangular field that has been set aside for a number of years, and is approximately 5,500m<sup>2</sup> in size (fig. 1). The central national grid reference is SK 829 887.

The site is bounded to the west by Park Springs Road, with Foxby Road to the south. To the north of the field is a clinic, community centre and residential development. At the eastern edge of the site is the Nodding Donkey Public House, with a large open field beyond. The land slopes down gradually from west to east.

## 3.0 Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology comprises the Permo-Triassic Keuper Marl bed (BGS 1967). Glacial sand and gravel drift is present to the east, although the site itself appears to be clear of drift deposits

Gainsborough is situated upon an area of relatively high ground on the bank of a large meander of the River Trent. The site itself is south-east of the town, adjacent to a series of low hills at approximately 25m OD.

## 4.0 Planning background

West Lindsey District Council is seeking to make the site available for development. As part of this process, the archaeological advisor to the District Council, the Lincolnshire County Council Built Environment Team, has recommended the undertaking of an assessment to determine the overall archaeological potential of the site, without the use of intrusive techniques. This approach is consistent with the recommendations that are set out in *Archaeology and Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16*, 1990.



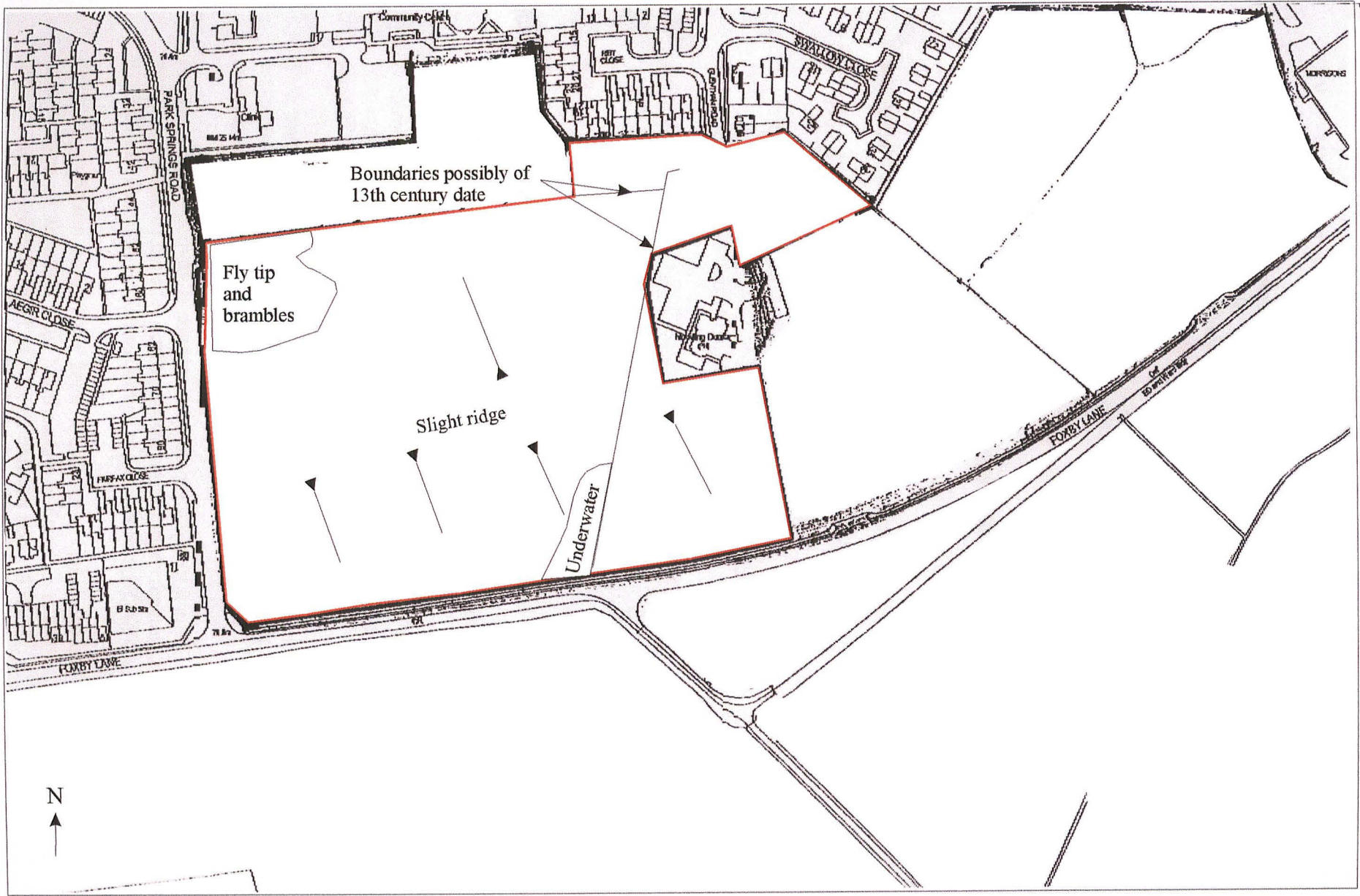


Figure 2: Site location at scale 1:500.



## 5.0 Objectives and methods

The purpose of this report is to identify and assess archaeological remains that may be at risk from construction works associated with development of the site and, if necessary, to suggest methods by which the site may be evaluated in advance of any works to determine this potential in absolute terms

Data for this report was, for the most part, obtained for a 1km radius, centred on the application area itself. This was drawn from the following sources:

- Records held by the County Sites and Monuments Record for Lincolnshire (SMR)
- Records held at the Lincoln Archives Office (LAO)
- Records held at the Lincolnshire Local Studies Library (LLSL)
- Aerial photographs held by the National Monuments Record, Swindon (NMR)
- Published and unpublished sources
- Information supplied by the client
- A detailed inspection of the site (undertaken by the author on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2002)
- A controlled metal detector survey

## 6.0 Archaeological and historical background

The earliest archaeological evidence of relevance to the area consists of isolated unprovenanced finds of prehistoric date. These include a Bronze Age palstave, two socketed axes (also Bronze Age), a flint axe, and a prehistoric dugout canoe. The latter presumably was recovered from the Trent floodplain.

A number of Neolithic worked flints and a hammerstone have been found on the Nottinghamshire side of the Trent (west bank), although these are almost 2km to the west of the site.

Two undated cropmark sites may be evidence of later prehistoric or Romano-British settlement enclosures. One site lies approximately 750m to the north-west of the current site, the other c.1km to the north-east.

Romano-British activity is suggested by the presence of a possible kiln c.1.2km to the north-north-east of the site. Further to the north (approximately 2km from the site) lies a substantial Romano-British settlement at Gainsborough Golf Club, Thonock.

Two Anglo-Saxon coins have been found 'near Gainsborough' (Blackburn 1993). One, a styca of Æthelred II of Northumbria is dated to c. 840 – 848 AD, whilst the other, a lunette of Æthelred I of Wessex dates to 866 – 871 AD.



In 1013, the Danish king, Swein Forkbeard, came to Gainsborough as part of a determined effort to conquer the whole kingdom (Sawyer 1998). At Gainsborough he left his ships and hostages that had been delivered to him in the hands of his son, Cnut, before heading south to conquer the rest of the country.

Place-name evidence suggests that Gainsborough derives from the Old English elements *Gægn* and *burgh*, possibly meaning 'Gægn's fortified place', referring to the settlement's dominance on the right bank of the Trent (Cameron 1998). The settlement was listed in the Domesday Book of 1086, and had certainly emerged by the later Saxon period, as it was here in 868 that Alfred the Great married Ealswitha, the daughter of the chief of the local Gaina tribe that gives the town its name (Mee, 1970). In the late 11<sup>th</sup> century, Geoffery of La Geurche was the principal landowner (Morris 1986).

Soon after 1066, a motte and bailey castle was built to the north-east of the town (Everson et al. 1991). By 1086 the castle was held by Roger of Poitou, and around 1115 by the Count of Mortain. It was not until the later 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> century that the castle became a residence, notably of Edward I's brother, Edmund Earl of Cornwall, and a barony (*ibid.*).

By the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the regionally important settlement of Torksey (12km to the south) began to decline, being superseded by Gainsborough (Everson et al. 1991). At this point Gainsborough became a medieval planned town.

Prior to 1218 Richard of Gainsborough granted lands to the north-east of the site to the canons of Torksey Priory (Beckwith 1972).

A deer park occupied woodland to the immediate south-east of the site, perhaps as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century, as indicated by a grant of free warren (Everson et al. 1991). By the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was disparted and divided into closes (*ibid.*). Elements of the park survive today as areas of ancient woodland. Free Warren was granted to John Talebot and his heirs in all his demesne lands (Beckwith 1972). This stipulated that no one was to hunt there and take anything belonging to the warren without the licence of John Talebot or his heirs, on payment of ten pounds (*ibid.*).

During the Wars of the Roses in 1469, a private quarrel between Sir Thomas de Burgh of Gainsborough (of Edwards household) and Lord Welles was upheld by the duke of Clarence, Warwick and others, pushing it into the war (Hill 1965). King Edward IV heard on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1470 that Robert Welles (Lord Welles' son) rallied men from the area to fight for the cause of the deposed king, Henry VI. Sir Welles at the time was said to have proclaimed Edward was coming to hang and draw large numbers of the commons (*ibid.*). Edward later routed the rebels, and Robert Welles was executed at Grantham a few days later.

The de Burgh family thus prospered and by the time of John Leland's travels through Tudor England in the 1530's and 1540's, the Lord de Burgh owned Gainsborough (Chandler 1993).

It would appear that a considerable proportion of the Lordship of Gainsborough had been enclosed by the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, apparently by the lord of the manor, and was



then let in leases (Beckwith 1971). Some of this took place before 1596, when Lord Burgh sold the estate to William Hickman.

Shortly before 1601 a close was made in the 'Furrs', which Thomas Adamson held on a lease from Sir William Hickman

When Civil War broke out in 1642 Gainsborough appears to have attempted to remain neutral to both causes. On the eve of the War a Gainsborough man, Simon Patrick, wrote that the townsmen 'declared neither for King or Parliament; intending only to stand upon their guard against rovers' (Beckwith 1969). He further went on to say that 'thy cast up some works round the town, and got fire arms, and formed themselves into a Company of 6 score men' (*ibid.*). These defences comprised the River Trent to the west and a morass to the east that was drained by a ditch that also protected the town to the north. It has been suggested the ditch was probably widened and deepened and a gate added across the road to Morton (Beckwith 1991). With no natural defences to the south it has been presumed that 'bullworks' were thrown up. These remains were still visible at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid.*).

The fortification of Gainsborough and its strategic position made its control valuable to both the Parliamentarians and the Royalists throughout the war. Soon after the defences were put up by the townspeople in 1642, a Royalist force from Newark arrived (possibly in March 1643) and demanded it should be immediately surrendered to the king (Moor 1904). This was done without resistance, threatening the eastern counties under Parliament control, and especially the important centre of Hull (Beckwith 1969). Soon the Earl of Kingston came to Gainsborough to take control of the King's forces in Lincolnshire and the midland counties. From here he directed attacks against the Parliamentary forces, including an unsuccessful attack against Lincoln, though his troops numbered some '20 cornets of horses, and about 400 or 500 foot' (Moor 1904). During the Earl of Kingston's occupation more careful defences were erected and the town became more securely fortified against attack.

The need for Parliament to capture Gainsborough was further emphasised when powder destined for the Parliamentary garrison at Rotherham was captured at Gainsborough (Beckwith 1991). On the 20<sup>th</sup> July 1643 Lord Willoughby of Parham surprised the Royalist garrison at Gainsborough and took it without any bloodshed. Over three hundred men were taken prisoner, including some '60 knights, gentlemen, and commanders, all men of good worth, and chief agents of the war in those parts, together with about 250 others, and great stores of arms and ammunition' (Moor 1904).

Immediately after Parliament captured Gainsborough, General King (the Governor of Royalist Newark) attempted to retake the town. In Lord Willoughby's own words 'the same day I tooke it I was besieged before night, and there kept in some 10 days before I had any release' (Beckwith 1991). General King was unsuccessful and there were a number of casualties. Sir Charles Cavendish however soon joined him with a strong body of cavalry to assist with the siege. Parliament hastened to meet this threat by sending Sir John Meldrum with his forces at Nottingham and Colonel Cromwell, who was at Cambridge with his cavalry (Beckwith 1969).

Around July 28<sup>th</sup> of that year Sir Meldrum and Cromwell arrived to relieve the



beleaguered defendants. Initially they encountered a small Royalist force of 100 horses about a mile and a half outside the town, close to the village of Lea (Beckwith 1991). Upon putting the cavaliers to flight, the parliamentary force advanced north towards the town, making their way up the slopes of the low-lying hills to the east of Gainsborough, presumably in the vicinity of Foxby Hill (*ibid.*). The young general, Charles Cavendish, a godson of Charles I, faced him with a detachment of the Earl of Newcastle's army. The Royalists charged as the Parliamentarians came into view, but a counter charge broke them. Cromwell then pursued the enemy for over five miles (Beckwith 1969). The battle, which would have taken place across a wide front, may have taken place in the vicinity of the site, although this is not clear.

As the victorious Parliamentary troops entered the town, news was forthcoming that a force of six troops of horse and 300 foot was 'a little on the other side of the town' (Beckwith 1969). As Cromwell lacked foot soldiers, Lord Willoughby allowed him to draw 600 musketeers from the Gainsborough garrison. This hastily formed force then immediately moved on the Royalists who had been on the hills to the north of the town. Cromwell reported that 'we saw 2 troops towards the Mill; which my men drove down into a little village at the bottom of the hill' (Beckwith 1991). Several windmills that stood along the low ridge of hills to the east of the town may be candidates for this skirmish.

It was at this point that Cromwell realised the enemy was only a small contingent of a much larger force led by the Earl of Newcastle (Moor 1904). He immediately retreated back to Gainsborough, fighting a rearguard action. Lord Willoughby then requested that his 600 musketeers were returned to aid in the defence of the town. From here, Cromwell and Sir Meldrum beat a hasty retreat, as their cavalry would be useless in defending the town. This was done with some difficulty as much of the lordship had been enclosed with hedge boundaries (Beckwith 1991).

Lord Willoughby held out for three days, while the Earl of Newcastle surrounded the town and attacked with ordnance (cannon) and mortars (Beckwith 1991). Lord Willoughby reported that the town was set alight from the firing. The parliamentary forces relinquished Gainsborough to the Earl, who put Colonel St George in charge of its defence (*ibid.*).

Three months later, Sir John Meldrum returned with an army from Hull and attacked the town, supported by a parliamentary fleet with cannon from the River Trent (Beckwith 1991). The town once again fell into roundhead hands, and was this time held for around four months (Beckwith 1969). When Sir Meldrum abandoned Gainsborough he 'razed it' (presumably destroying the fortifications) to prevent the Royalist forces from gaining control of the stronghold.

The following year, in 1644, the Earl of Manchester's parliamentary army passed through Gainsborough on their way to victory at the Battle of Marsden Moor (Beckwith 1991).

During the Second Civil War (in 1648), Royalists returning from Lincoln to Doncaster were met by a parliamentary force led by Sir Henry Cholmeley at Gainsborough (Beckwith 1991). The Royalists then fled south along the bank of the



River Trent towards Newark; they were caught and crushed at Willoughby, near Nottingham. It is not clear whether any conflict occurred at Gainsborough at this time.

The lands surrounding the town were enclosed c. 1795 (Awarded in 1803), although this included new enclosed land with existing areas that dated back to before the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century.

Pre-enclosure closing of the land had occurred earlier in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (see above), however the clearing of the oak woodland to provide cultivatable, if heavy and clayey, land began as far back as the Anglo-Saxon period, when Gainsborough was founded (Beckwith 1972).

Gainsborough became less isolated, and travel across the river was eased, by the building of the Trent Bridge in 1787 (Rogers 1985). This aided the growth and expansion of the town from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and through the 19<sup>th</sup>.

From the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Gainsborough was flourishing through river trade between Nottingham and Hull, and shipbuilding (Rogers 1985). Iron foundries and engineering works were established at this time, with the main engineering works at Gainsborough (Marshalls, founded in 1842) producing farm engines. The coming of the railway before the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century impacted upon the river trade, although growth picked up again with mills, maltings and breweries appearing (*ibid.*).

## 7.0 Archaeological potential

Information that is presented below derives from a variety of sources: published and unpublished accounts, aerial photographs, and an inspection of the site itself. Sub-sections describe the information obtained from each source, and an assessment of the overall archaeological potential is considered.

### 7.1 Cartographic and aerial photographic information

There are a number of maps held at the Lincolnshire Archives Office (LAO) for the land to the south-east of Gainsborough. The earliest is a pre-enclosure mid 17<sup>th</sup> century map (fig. 3). The depicted boundaries are likely to be a continuation of previous medieval field systems. The map also shows the orientation of the ploughing, again possibly a reflection of medieval ridge and furrow farming. The site lies mostly within a large L-shaped field that was ploughed east – west. A north-north-east – south-south-west field boundary that defines the easternmost extent of the cultivated area is still visible today and lies within the eastern half of the site (see fig. 2). The west half of the site is also traversed by an L-shaped boundary no longer in existence. It is possible that both boundaries date as far back as the initial clearance of land during the Anglo-Saxon period, although more likely candidates would be land grants of the 13<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> century (see Section 6.0 above). Foxby Lane was not in existence when this map was produced.

In 1803 a plan was produced depicting the enclosure of the parish (from 1795) (Fig. 4). Foxby Lane (or 'Foxby Lane Road') was probably added at this time as part of the



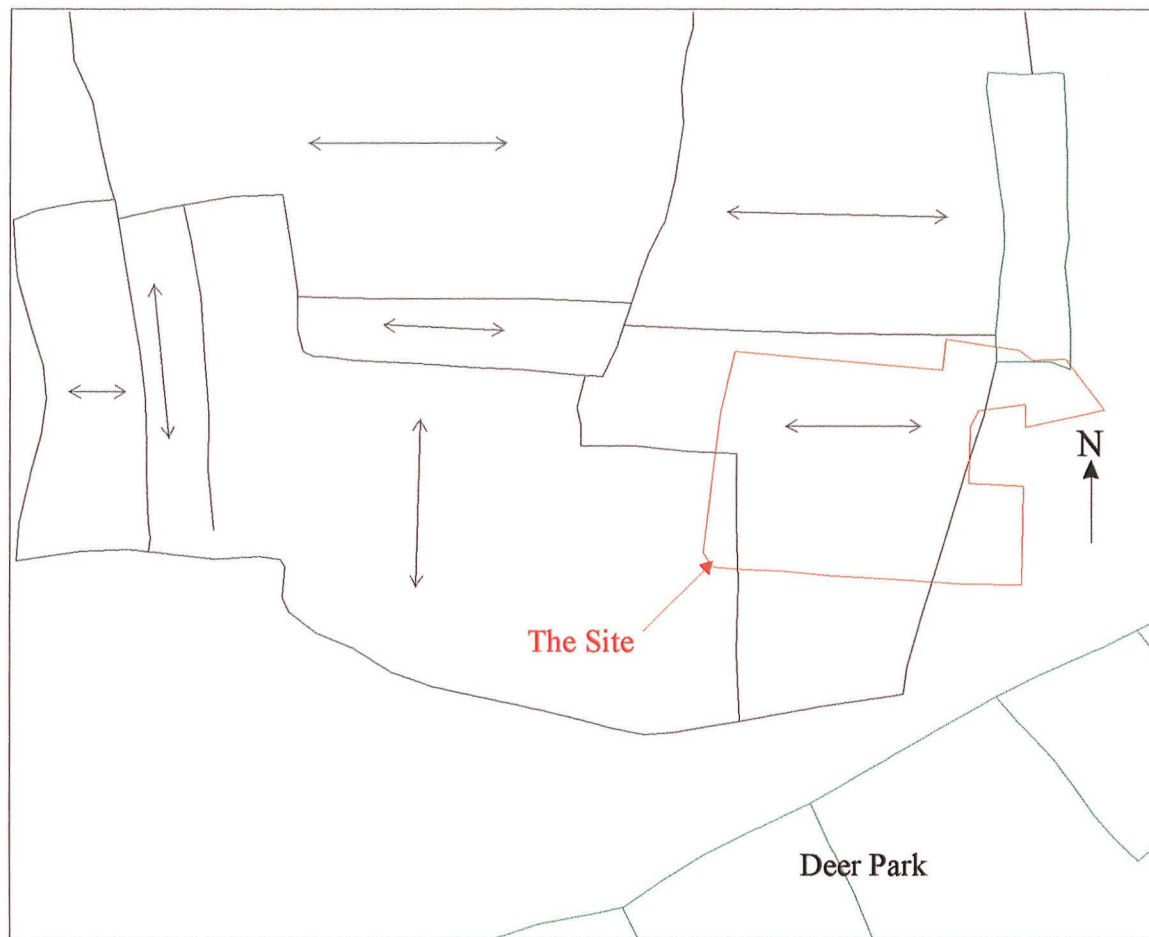





Figure 3: Map of mid 17th century fields and deer park of Gainsborough. Scale 8 chains to one inch.

-  Hedge Boundary (field)
-  Hedge Boundary (pasture)
-  Orientation of ploughing



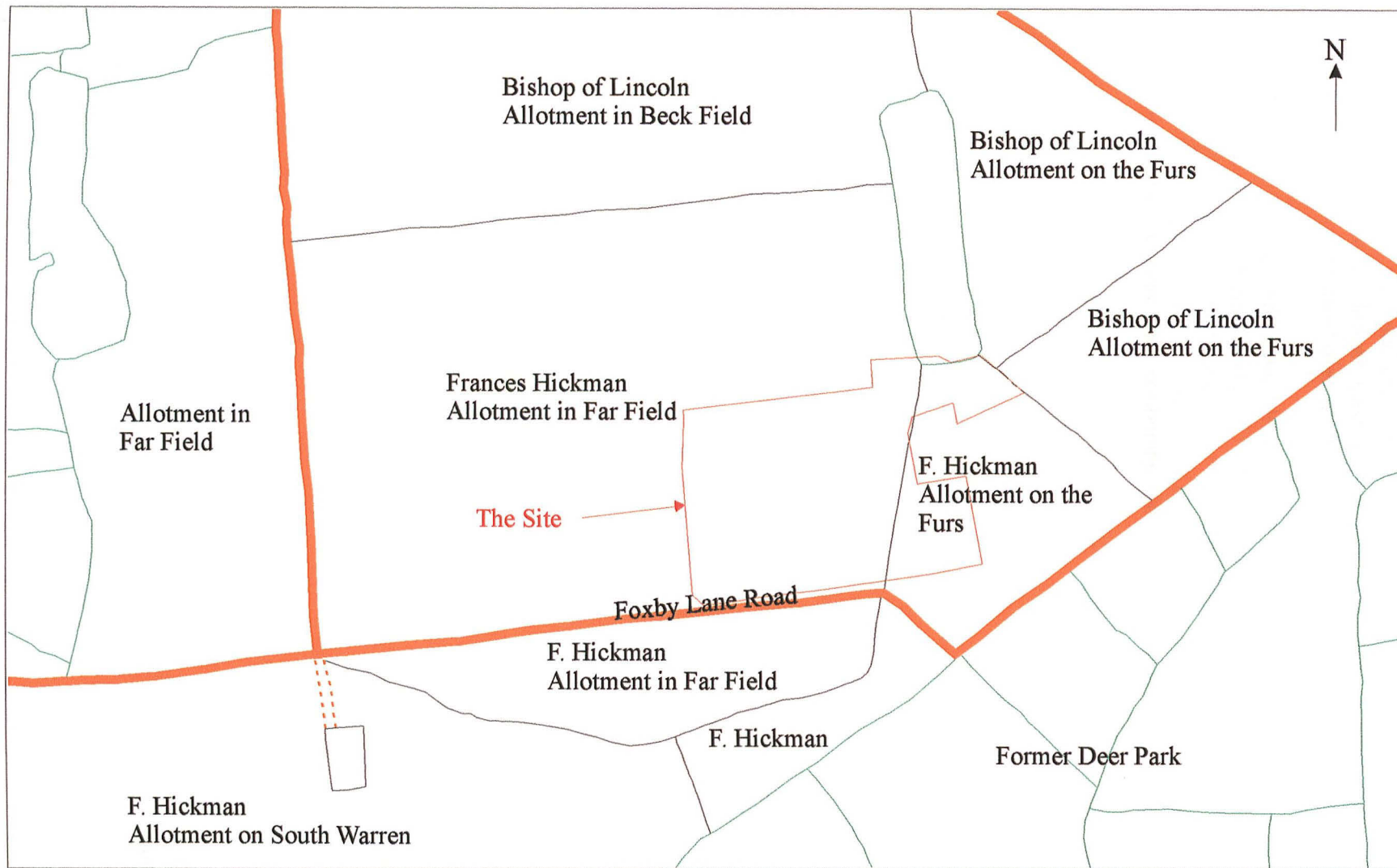





Figure 4: Enclosure of Gainsborough (1795 - 1803). At scale 7.5 chains to 1 inch

-  Hedge Boundary (field)
-  Hedge Boundary (pasture)
-  Road/Track



enclosure act. Note that the road cuts across the southern end of the large field depicted in the earlier mid 17<sup>th</sup> century (see fig. 3). The site was part of a much larger field owned by Frances Hickman, the lady of the manor. The field, along with fields to the north, south, west and east, are reported as being allotments. The deer park to the south-east was no longer used for hunting, it appears to have been utilised as pasture, and was not turned over to the plough.

A map dating before 1862 was drawn up during dispute as to where to route the railway near Gainsborough (fig. 5) (Ref.: Bacon Plans 18). This plan shows a proposed tunnel that would have run to the immediate north of the site. This proposed route was scrapped at a later date. By 1862, some 60 years after the enclosure plan was produced, the large field containing the site had been split into four equal parts. The south-east quadrant (containing the site), was also sub-divided into two using an L-shaped boundary. This may equate to a slight ridge that runs east – west across the site today (see 7.3 Site Visit below).

Once the Lincolnshire railway line was built towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a further plan was drawn up of the parish (fig. 6) (Ref.: Bacon Plans 35). This shows that the L-shaped boundary that existed on the previous map (see above) had by now disappeared. An east – west boundary was now in existence in the east half of the site.

Unfortunately, the Lincolnshire Archives Office did not hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map for Gainsborough.

A comprehensive NMR/EH aerial photographic cover search was undertaken as part of this study. This resulted in a list of twenty-one vertical, but no oblique, aerial photographs for the parish. After discarding those that did not cover the site itself, three vertical shots were selected; based on year and date (cropmarks are more pronounced during hot, dry summers following a damp spring).

Photo 58/B/30, taken on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1948 (fig. 7), shows the site to have been utilised as agricultural land, along with fields to the south, east and north. A field to the west of the site contains allotments. A boundary at the south-west corner of the field appears to have cordoned off a triangular unit that was used as an allotment.

Photo OS/74043 was taken on the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1974 (fig. 8). This was taken during the construction of the residential development to the west and north of the site. Construction debris and soil tipping associated with the development appears to have occurred along the west edge of the site, especially at the north-west corner. The triangular plot of land in the south-west corner of the site had disappeared. It is not clear whether the land use was agricultural, set-aside or pasture.

Photo OS/85244 was taken eleven years later, on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 1985 (fig. 9). By this time the Nodding Donkey Public House had been built, and the development to the north and west had been completed. The disturbance to the west end of the field (shown on the 1974 aerial photograph) had resulted in an area that had been left as waste ground. The rest of the field contained a cereal crop.





Figure 5: Plan drawn to show proposed route of railway tunnel (later scrapped).  
Plan drawn before 1862. Scale not known.





-  Hedge Boundary (field)
-  Hedge Boundary (pasture)
-  Proposed railway tunnel
-  Road/Track





Figure 6: Plan of Gainsborough fields showing orientation of ploughing. Drawn after completion of railway in the late 19th century. Scale not known.





-  Hedge Boundary (field)
-  Hedge Boundary (pasture)
-  Orientation of ploughing
-  Road/Track





Figure 7: Aerial photograph taken on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1948. The site is outlined in red. North is to the top of the picture. Ref: 58/B/30. Frame No. 5173.



Figure 8: Aerial photograph taken on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1974. The site is outlined in red. North-west is to the top of the picture. Ref: OS/74043. Frame No. 008.



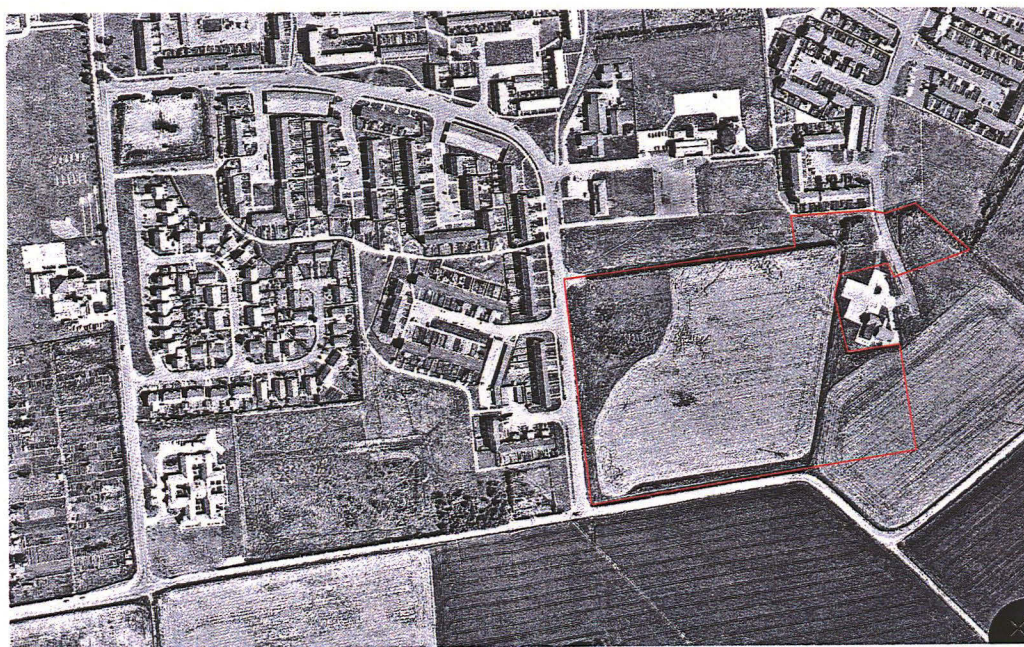


Figure 9: Aerial photograph taken on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1985. The site is outlined in red. North is to the top of the picture. Ref: OS/85244. Frame No. 244



## 7.2 The County Sites and Monuments Record

Seventeen records of direct or indirect relevance to the proposed scheme are incorporated as part of the SMR for Lincolnshire (locations indicated on fig. 1). Some of these have been described in Section 6.0 above, and each is summarily described below:

SMR Ref.	NGR	Description
50289	SK83628810	Medieval moated site at Park House. Presumably park-keeper's house or lodge.
50405	SK83508850	Medieval deer park.
50649	SK83708980	Ancient woodland covering 22 hectares.
51468	SK81508990	Post-medieval settlement remains at Gainsborough.
52048	SK83258992	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – early 19 <sup>th</sup> century debris associated with possible Roman kiln.
52060	SK82008888	Two earthwork mounds, probably medieval.
52062	SK82708890	Site of the Battle of Gainsborough, 1643.
52066	SK82158916	Small ditched enclosure on same alignment as headland of ploughed-out ridge and furrow.
52074	SK83258992	Possible Roman kiln ring, though associated with late 18 <sup>th</sup> /early 19 <sup>th</sup> century material.
52081	SK81508990	Medieval settlement of Gainsborough.
52096	SK83508840	Post-medieval windmill at Mill Hill Plantation.
52931	SK83858930	Possible undated cropmark extraction pits.
52932	SK83808935	Undated cropmark enclosures and linear features.
54029	SK82738761	Late medieval ridge and furrow earthworks.
54116	SK885883	Medieval ridge and furrow field system.
54305	SK83008975	Medieval ridge and furrow and a possible trackway.
54592	SK81748902	Church of St. John the Divine.



### 7.3 Site visit

The author visited the site on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2002 (see fig. 2). It comprises a sub-rectangular field bounded to the south and west by a modern ditch and bank that runs parallel with Foxby Lane (south) and Park Springs Road (west). The northern site boundary is a hedge, whilst the eastern boundary is not marked-out, save adjacent to the Nodding Donkey Public House (where there is a wooden fence).

A field boundary runs north-north-east – south-south-west across the east half of the site. The boundary, which comprises a hedge and dyke, dates (based on map evidence) from at least the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, and may be a relic of an earlier medieval series of fields (see figs. 2 and 3). The northern hedge boundary is also shown on the 17<sup>th</sup> century map. Counting the number of plant species that make up boundaries can roughly date them; roughly one additional species per 100 years is the norm. These figures are based on estimates by Beckwith (1972) for other hedge boundaries within the parish of Gainsborough. Both hedges contained at least seven species of plant, suggesting that they are approximately 700 years old, which coincides with clearance and extension of farmland in this part of the parish in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

A slight ridge runs east – west across the site. This feature may equate to a short-lived field boundary that is depicted on a map dating before 1862 (see fig. 5). The boundary appears to have disappeared by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (see fig. 6).

A series of narrow trenches had been recently excavated across the site. These were apparently excavated to deter trespassers with motor vehicles or bicycles. The trenches ran right across the site and were c.30 – 40cm deep.

### 7.4 Metal detector survey

The Assistant Built Environment Officer of Lincolnshire County Council requested the undertaking of a metal detector survey if it was deemed likely the site lay within the environs of engagements fought during the English Civil War at Gainsborough.

The objectives of this survey were to provide conclusive proof (or otherwise) of the exact location of the battle and to recover associated artefacts, such as musket balls, etc.

From the available evidence it was not possible to determine the exact location of the Battle of Gainsborough, or other associated Civil War skirmishes. However, it was a recommendation of the Assistant Built Environment Officer that the survey should be undertaken to clarify the issue.

The survey was undertaken by two members of Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) using Fischer 1266 metal detectors. The field was divided into roughly equal quarters, and each quarter was systematically surveyed by walking in zigzag traverses. Where possible 100% survey was undertaken, however due to local ground conditions this was not possible in some areas.



The ground conditions proved to be problematic, causing some disruption to the survey (fig. 2). Primarily, the north-west corner of the survey was inaccessible due to thick bramble cover and fly-tipping culminating in a surface cover of modern ferrous material that distorted the survey. An area towards the south-east end of the site was also not surveyed as it was under standing water.

The survey identified mainly modern metal refuse, a result of illegal tipping, including bicycle frames, drink cans, car parts, etc. Other ferrous materials included horseshoes and iron nails. No material thought to be associated with the Civil War was recovered.

#### 7.4 General considerations

It is possible to provide a generalised historical context for the site, before consideration is made of the impacts that have taken place in recent times, and which may have affected the quality and survival of any archaeological resources, if present.

For the early prehistoric periods, there is no site-specific information, only isolated and dispersed finds, none of which were recovered in the vicinity of the site. Several cropmark enclosures may be of later prehistoric or Romano-British date, although again, these are some distance from the site. There is a suggested kiln, more than 1km to the north of the site, although this was found with post-medieval material, making its dating suspect. Approximately 2km to the north there is a substantial Romano-British settlement at Thonock.

The later Saxon activities around Gainsborough are unlikely to have significantly affected the site. When King Swein Forkbeard sailed down the River Trent from the Humber and camped at Gainsborough in 1013 he is likely to have set up camp adjacent to the river, where his ships were moored rather than inland nearer to the site.

In the medieval period it would appear that the site was part of a cultivation zone to the south-east of the town, and north-west of a deer park. Several of the boundaries that exist on the site are part of a former landscape that dates back to the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century or perhaps even the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

There are conflicting reports as to the site of Battle of Gainsborough in 1643. The most recent analysis suggests that this took place within the low hills adjacent to Foxby Hill (Beckwith 1991). The battle, which would have taken place over a wide front, may well have encroached onto the site, although by relying on historical accounts with no cartographic evidence it is not possible to say one way or another.

The field boundary that runs diagonally across, and the hedge that defines the northern boundary of the site, is of some interest as it is a relic of a former landscape, dating at least as far back as the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. Indeed the boundary was almost certainly in existence during the Civil War of the 1640's, and may have been one of the hedge barriers that caused Cromwell such difficulties as he fled the Earl of Newcastle's forces in 1643. Pre-enclosure landscapes are often a continuation of earlier medieval systems and the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century map of the area is unlikely to be an exception. If this is so, then east – west orientated ridge and furrow may be preserved



beneath the topsoil to the west of the diagonal boundary. This boundary appears to reflect the easternmost limits of the pre-enclosure fields. A study of both hedge boundaries has indicated they may relate to the 13<sup>th</sup> century clearance and extension of farmland in this part of the Parish. The map does not show what the prevailing ground cover was in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, although it may have been a mixture of woodland and open land.

## **8.0 Impacts to archaeological resources**

If the site does contain archaeological remains, then these may have been affected by the narrow trenches that have been excavated in recent times. Archaeology is unlikely to occur at any great depth beneath the modern ground surface, where features would presumably occur within 30 - 40cm of existing ground level.

The site appears to have been an agricultural unit for a considerable period of time, perhaps as far back as the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

## **9.0 Conclusions**

It is variously concluded that the archaeological potential of the site is **low**. The Battle of Gainsborough may have occurred near to or within the site environs, although archaeologically there would be little trace. The metal detector survey has shown that no material from this period was recovered; perhaps an indication that the battle did not extend this far east.

Several field boundaries on the site are of some archaeological interest, representing relics of a former field system that may date back as far as the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

There is a possibility that *in-situ* medieval ridge and furrow will survive within the site environs, associated with the above field boundaries, although a detailed examination of this may be difficult to justify.

## **10.0 Mitigation**

The possibility of exposing well-preserved and significant archaeological remains at this site would appear to be low. To clarify this situation in absolute terms would require a programme of intrusive archaeological evaluation (ie trial excavation). However, it is the opinion of the author that further archaeological intervention in advance of the development is unlikely to be productive.

## **11.0 Acknowledgements**

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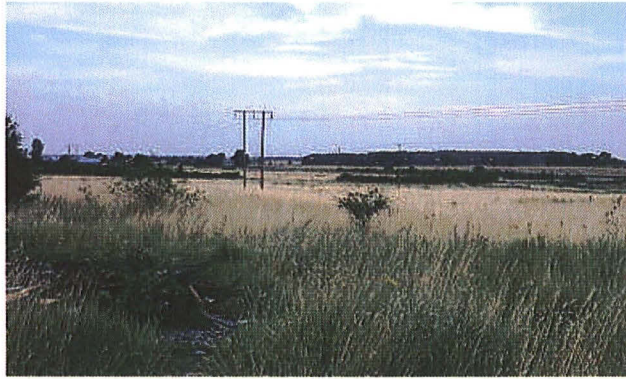
staff at the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, the Lincolnshire Archives Office and the Local Studies Library at Lincolnshire Library.

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APPENDIX 1: Colour Plates



**Pl. 1:** Site location shot looking east from the west edge of site



**Pl. 2:** Site location shot looking north-east from the south-west corner of site



**Pl. 3:** Site location shot looking north-west from the south-east corner of site



**Pl. 4:** The metal detector survey