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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Clapgate Farm, Greetham with Somersby, Lincs.  
Proposed Reservoir**

*NGR: TF 3225 7263*

*Site Code: SCFR 02*

*LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 2002.450*

*ELDC Planning Application No. S/066/1638/02*

**Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment**

**Report for**

**Hugh Massingberd Mundy (Bashfarms)**

**by G. Tann**

Conservation  
Services

21 OCT 2002

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

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## **Contents**

### **List of Figures and Plates**

<b>Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>The Site</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Topography and Geology</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Archaeological and Historical Background</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Site Visit</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Archaeological Potential of the Site</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Potential Archaeological Impact of the Proposed Development</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Options for Further Investigation</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>References and Background Sources</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Archive Summary</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Summary List of Archaeological Sites and Finds (Source: Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record)</b>	

## List of Figures and Plates

### Figures

- Fig. 1** Location of Greetham with Somersby. (C based on the 1987 Ordnance Survey Pathfinder map, Sheet 766. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).
- Fig. 2** Location of the proposed reservoir site, showing archaeological sites and findspots in the vicinity (information from Lincs. County SMR, based on the 1983 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheet TF 37 SW. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).
- Fig. 3** Proposed site of the new reservoir (reproduced from a plan supplied by the client. © Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).
- Fig. 4** Traced extract from the 1849 Ashby Puerorum Tithe Map (LAO E601).
- Fig. 5** Traced extract from an undated plan of lands in Ashby Puerorum (LAO PSJ 13/7).
- Fig. 6** The site in 1887 (reproduced at enlarged scale from the 1891 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map Sheet Lincs. 74 NW).
- Fig. 7** The site in 1904 (reproduced from the 1907 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map Sheet Lincs. 74 NW).

### Plates

- Pl. 1** Air photograph, c.1999, showing the site of the proposed reservoir (looking north). The Salmonby parish boundary crosses from the roadside tree (left) to above the angle in the eastern boundary hedge (right). Faint north-south ridge and furrow cropmarks may be present between the parish boundary and the former stream channel (which shows as a dark sinuous NE-SW line). (© Getmapping plc, reproduced by permission).
- Pl. 2** The proposed site of the reservoir, looking north.
- Pl. 3** The backfilled trial hole marks the SW extent of the proposed reservoir (looking east from the Horncastle/Tetford road).
- Pl. 4** The reservoir is intended to use an existing dry valley leading towards a stream. Close to the junction of these features, the valley is obstructed by a raised area which may be natural deposition or an artificial feature (looking east).



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**Summary**

*The proposed reservoir site is in a natural valley close to a stream, with springs issuing within the site. Local deposits are sandstones (which outcrop immediately beyond the site) but limestone brash is visible on nearby disturbed ground. There may be an island of deposition, or an artificial low flat-topped mound, close to the stream.*

*No archaeological finds have been reported from the site, but prehistoric flint implements and medieval pottery have been found within the field. Numerous Neolithic and Bronze Age finds have been found in fields nearby.*

*There is no evidence that the site has been damaged by the twentieth century farming activities which affected adjacent fields. In the nineteenth century the field was called The Quarries, but the position of these is unknown.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in October 2002 by Hugh Massingberd Mundy (Bashfarms Ltd) to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment of land to the NE of Clapgate Lodge, Greetham with Somersby, Lincs. (Figs. 1 - 3). The site has previously been known as part of Clapgate Farm.

The purpose of this desk-based assessment is to identify the archaeological potential of the application site by collating available existing information.

**Methods and Sources**

A desk-based assessment of the 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 October 10th-14th 2002. The following sources were consulted and available information researched:

- Lincolnshire County Council County Archaeology Office (Sites and Monuments Record; National Mapping Programme overlays)
- Lincolnshire Archives Office (Tithe map, Ordnance Survey maps, manuscript maps and other documentary and published sources)
- Lincoln Central Library Reference Department, Local Studies Collection (Ordnance Survey

maps and press cuttings folder)

- Site visit

### **The Site**

The site lies within a pasture field, east of the Horncastle - Tetford Road. For administrative purposes it lies within the combined parish of Greetham with Somersby; Ordnance Survey maps have placed it within Somersby parish, and in the nineteenth century it was within Ashby Puerorum parish.

The proposed rectangular reservoir is envisaged as 120m x 70m, sited in a dry valley curving down a slope towards a small stream. In the recent past, this land was under arable use.

### **Topography and Geology**

The soils are sands on Spilsby sandstone deposits; sandstone outcrops are exposed on higher land to the south of the site. The Soil Survey of England and Wales mapped this area as brown sands of the Cuckney 2 Association.

Inspection of deposits around a backfilled trial pit, at the SW corner of the proposed reservoir, showed that fine dark grey silty clay is present below the sands. The site is at about 60m OD.

### **Archaeological and Historical Background (Fig. 2)**

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

#### ***Prehistoric***

Neolithic or Bronze Age flint and stone artefacts have been reported from near the proposed reservoir. Axe-hammer type implements have been found 200m to the south (SMR **42391**). On higher ground to the east, a flint scraper (SMR **42390**) was found in 1954. In Salmonby parish, about 100m north of the site, a flint scatter was identified in the 1970s (SMR **42651**).

West of the road, numerous flints were collected by a former landowner between 1949 and 1961, and are retained by City and County Museum, Lincoln, as the Hooton Collection. The assemblage includes waste material, indicative of tool manufacturing sites, and the finder reported quantities of suitable unworked flint 1.3km SW of the proposed reservoir site. He noted that worked flints had been found in all the Holbeck Manor fields west of the road (SMR Somersby parish file).

Hoe Hill, 1km NW of the site, is a naturally prominent hill which may have been used as a prehistoric occupation site (SMR **44030**). An Iron Age occupation site is known from air



photographs 400m east of the proposed reservoir (LI 73.2).

### ***Roman***

Cropmarks of Roman enclosures and a possible villa site have been identified (from a study of past air photographs by the Lincolnshire National Mapping Programme) on the higher ground 400m east of the proposed reservoir (LI 73.1.1). This site has now been developed without opportunity to confirm these interpretations. Further significant Roman remains have been recorded around the settlement of Ashby Puerorum, 1km south of the reservoir site.

### ***Saxon and Medieval***

A scatter of medieval pottery has been recorded 100m north of the proposed reservoir, at the southern edge of Salmonby parish. It is unclear whether this represents a dwelling site or a manuring spread derived from the village. Possible north-south aligned ridge and furrow cropmarks can be seen on the Getmapping air photograph, extending southwards from the parish boundary to the former stream channel (Pl. 1).

### ***Post-medieval and Modern***

Landuse on the site is first recorded in 1849, when it formed part of a large arable field called 'The Quarries', owned by the Revd. Thomas Wickham (Fig. 4; LAO E601). A stream flowed along the SE field boundary, into Salmonby parish, with two watercourses within the field itself. These appear to have been at least partly artificial channels, but do not extend into the SW corner of the field. As this is the higher land, earlier quarries may have been located at that corner of the field, and not across the entire area.

An undated map shows a similar arrangement within the field, with a description of the field as under arable and grass (Fig. 5; LAO PSJ 13/7). Pecked lines close to the tributary watercourses are not explained.

An irregular pond is shown on the Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1887, in the position of the eastern end of the proposed reservoir (Fig. 6; OS 1891). This could represent a backfilled stone quarry, although its position on the lower ground near the stream suggests that this was not its origin. Revisions of this map omitted this feature.

The field boundary along the parish boundary with Salmonby was removed prior to 1975. The previous landowner, Franz Butilaar, maintained an extensive pastoral enterprise on the farm. During his tenure of the land, considerable earthmoving was undertaken to provide sheltered cattle corrals. This landscape adaptation is known to have occurred on the higher ground east of the stream, but no major changes to the proposed reservoir site are known. An air photograph supplied by Getmapping plc, shows poor crop growth on what could be recently disturbed ground on the reservoir location (Pl. 1).

### **Site Visit**

The site was visited by G. Tann on October 11th 2002 in dry, overcast conditions. Access to the field is from the Horncastle-Tetford Road via a farm track opposite the grounds of Holbeck Manor. A side turning on the track leads down a slope to the field.

The field is currently grazed by cattle, enclosed by electric fencing (Pl. 2). The southern fence is set about 15m into the field from the mature hedgerow. Alongside the fence is a relatively recent ditch, alongside which limestone rubble (apparently natural brash) is visible. The eastern boundary is a hedge, behind which is a small stream which flows north to join Salmonby Beck.

A backfilled trial pit near the SW corner of the site was inspected (Pl. 3). A fragment of land drain pipe was the only visible artefact. The materials spread around the pit were clay and sands, with a dark grey silty clay apparently representing the lowest undisturbed layer. There was no sign of any archaeological feature in this area.

The intended site of the reservoir utilises the existing topography near the SE side of the field, where a broad dry valley with sloping sides, leading towards the stream, interrupts the higher ground to either side. Where the dry valley approaches the southern hedge boundary, a triangular raised area is visible, which may be natural deposition at a former stream confluence, or an artificial feature (Pl. 4). Several springs issue from the field surface near the SW corner of the proposed reservoir.

### **Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings**

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the application site or in its vicinity. A gateway, formerly from Eastgate House, Lincoln, and now sited on the drive to Holbeck Manor, is Listed Grade II.

### **Archaeological Potential of the Site**

The site lies on sandy soils, close to springs and near a small stream. These are favourable elements for an occupation site, although no finds have been reported. Post-medieval sandstone quarrying may have occurred in this field, and some adaptation by the previous landowner is possible but not certain. These activities would have removed or masked archaeological remains.

The site is in an area where prehistoric remains are widespread. Hoe Hill is a prominent landscape feature, 1km to the NW. Previous casual fieldwalking of land around Holbeck, west of the road, produced numerous worked flints in all the fields visited.

The extent of the Saxon or medieval settlement associated with Holbeck Manor has not been



determined, although it seems probable that habitation sites lay to the west of the Tetford-Horncastle road.

### **Potential Archaeological Impact of the Proposed Development**

Construction of the reservoir will remove or damage any archaeological deposits remaining on its site. Plant movement, stockpiling of excavated soil and associated landscaping may also have some impact on shallow remains.

### **Options for Further Investigation**

As the field is under pasture, fieldwalking is not an appropriate option. Geophysical survey could be undertaken across the site, testing for the presence of below-ground archaeological remains. Following any non-intrusive investigation, evaluation trenching may be required to identify and examine any possible features and confirm their date.

### **Conclusion**

The site is known to have been ploughed since the nineteenth century and possibly in the medieval period, but no archaeological finds have been reported. The field was not part of Mr Hooton's survey area when prehistoric worked flints were found in every surveyed field west of the Horncastle-Tetford road. Flints have been found within this field, but north of the reservoir site. There is a high probability that further flints could be present, but this need not indicate the presence of archaeological features.

The only other finds from the immediate vicinity are from a scatter of medieval pottery. These finds were from the Salmonby side of the parish boundary, which passes to the north of the site. There is no reason to expect medieval occupation remains on the site.

The low, flat-topped, area of raised ground at the foot of the dry valley represents the only identified possible archaeological feature which would be affected by construction of the reservoir. This could be the site of a barn (or just possibly a watermill) but its location also supports a natural deposition interpretation as local soils are sandstones. The nineteenth century name for the field was The Quarries, but these may have been to the SW of the site on the higher ground.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank the following organisations and individuals for their help during the preparation of this assessment:

Hugh Massingberd Mundy; the Built Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council, especially Dr. Beryl Lott and Jill Stephenson; staff at the Lincolnshire Archives Office and Lincoln Central Library Reference Collection. Getmapping plc gave permission for reproduction of the air photograph in this report. Illustrations were produced by Mark Williams, and the report was

collated and produced by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
18th October 2002

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### Archive Summary

Correspondence

Field notes

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film no. 02/105/0-10 (including those used in this report)



## APPENDIX 1



## Summary of Archaeological Sites and Finds from the Vicinity

(Source: Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record)

PRN = Sites and Monuments Primary Record Number

NMP = National Mapping Programme Code (air photographs)

PRN	NGR (all TF)	NMP	Description
42390	328 726		Bronze Age flint scraper, found 1954
42391	3217 7247 and 3220 7240		Bronze Age axe hammers
44185	3167 7132	LI 69.3.1	Cropmark site of Bronze Age barrow
42651	323 728		Prehistoric flint tools from field surface
44030	31085 72871		Hoe Hill, natural prominence, possibly used as occupation site
42394	319 713		Early Bronze Age flint tools, scattered south of Ashby Puerorum road
42652	323 728		Medieval pottery sherds from field surface
	3269 7246	LI 73.1	Cropmark site of Roman villa
	3255 7239	LI 73.2	Cropmark site of prehistoric settlement



## THE FIGURES







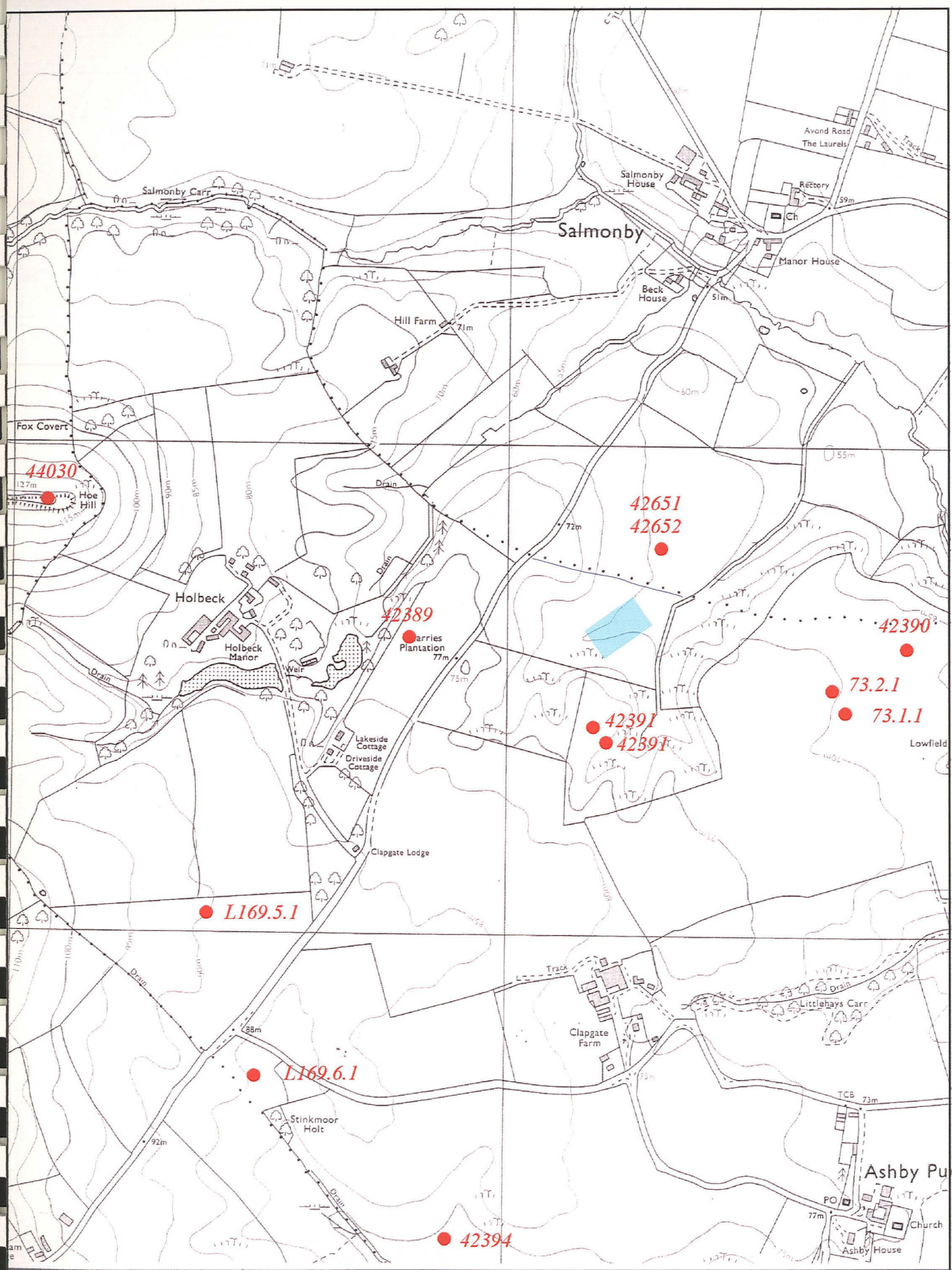


Fig. 2 Location of the proposed reservoir site, showing archaeological sites and findspots in the vicinity (information from Lincs. County SMR, based on the 1983 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheet TF 37 SW. Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).



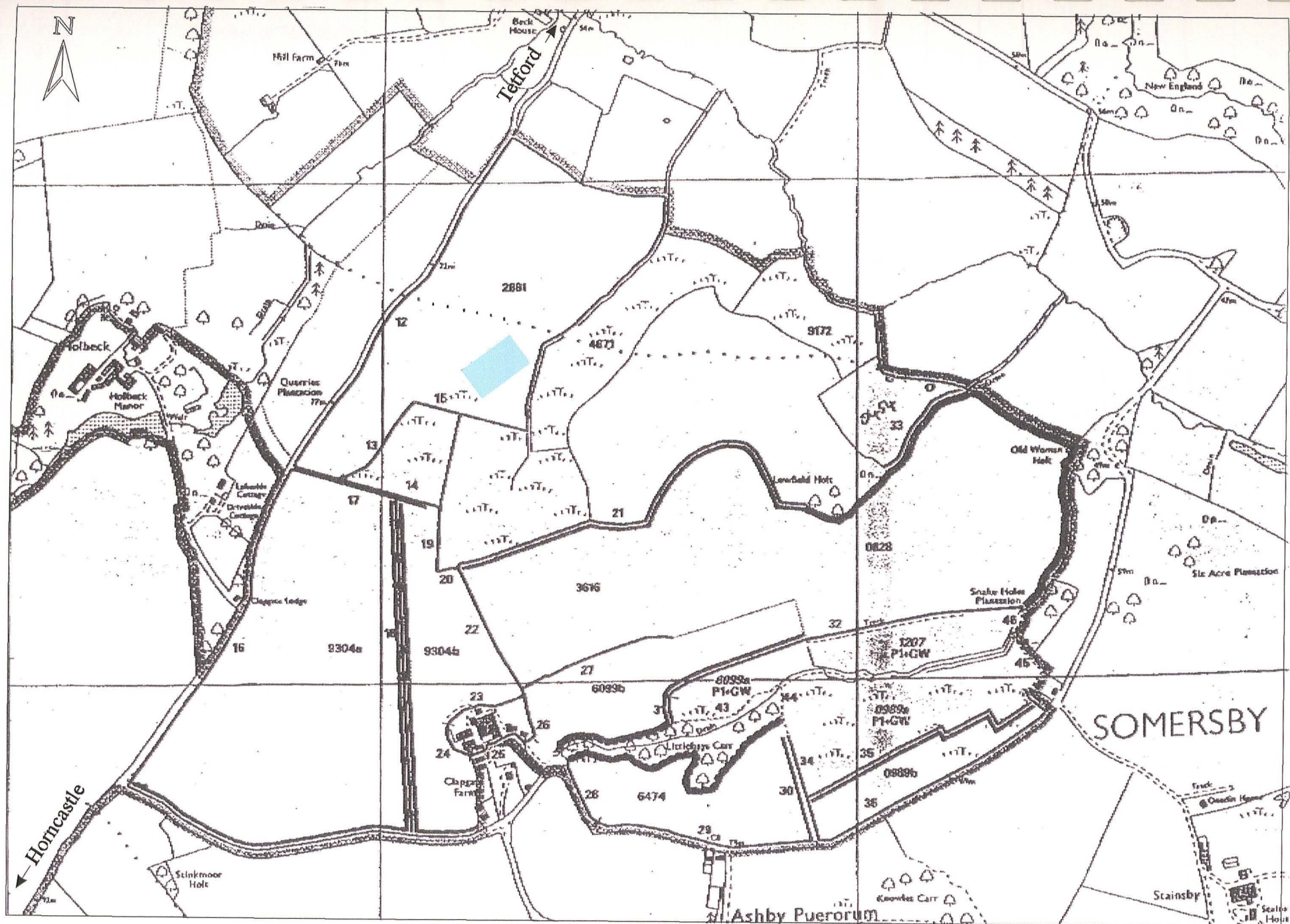
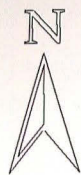


Fig. 3 Proposed site of the new reservoir (reproduced from a plan supplied by the client. Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).





Hamlet of Holbecks

From Horncastle

To Louth and Tedford

102  
Clapgate Piece

20 Acres

Salmonby  
Landslip

New Brunsett

18 Acres

Fig. 4 Traced extract from the 1849 Ashby Puerorum Tithe Map (LAO E601).

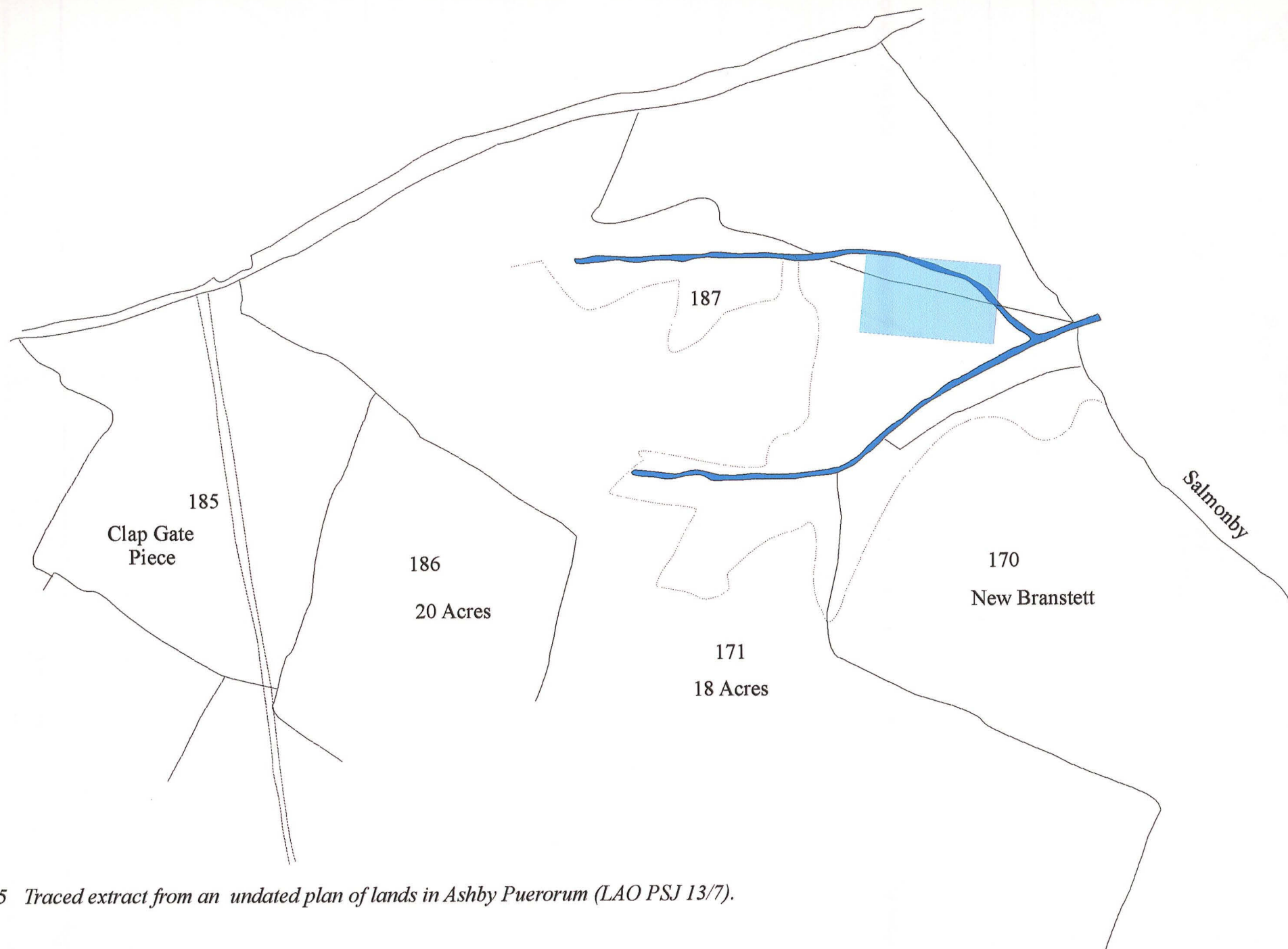


Fig. 5 Traced extract from an undated plan of lands in Ashby Puerorum (LAO PSJ 13/7).



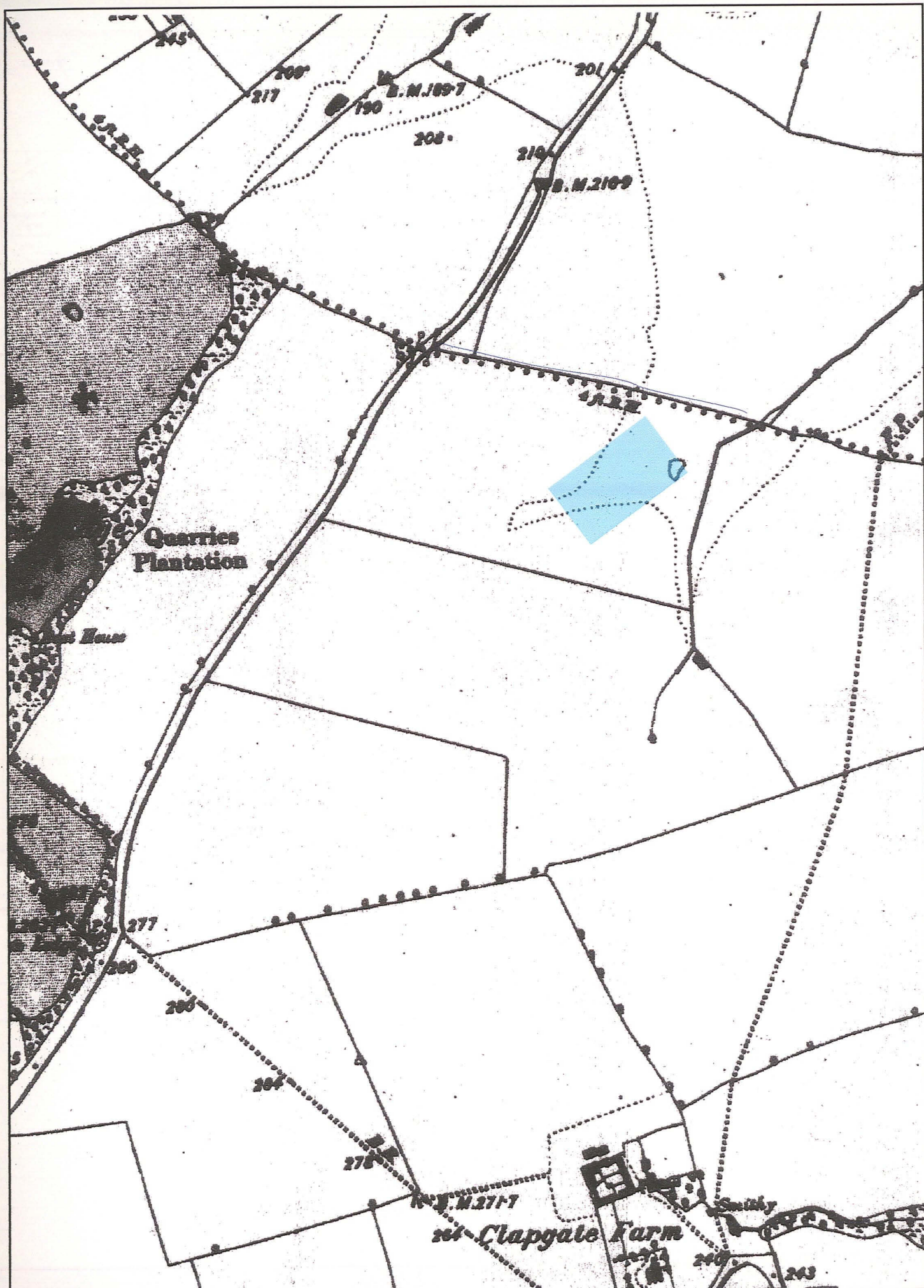


Fig. 6 The site in 1887 (reproduced at enlarged scale from the 1891 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map Sheet Lincs. 74 NW).





Fig. 7 The site in 1904 (reproduced from the 1907 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map Sheet Linc. 74 NW)



## THE PLATES





*Pl. 1 Air photograph, c. 1999, showing the site of the proposed reservoir (looking north). The Salmonby parish boundary crosses from the roadside tree (left) to above the angle in the eastern boundary hedge (right). Faint north-south ridge and furrow cropmarks may be present between the parish boundary and the former stream channel (which shows as a dark sinuous NE-SW line). (Copyright Getmapping plc, reproduced with permission).*





*Pl. 2 The proposed site of the reservoir, looking north*





*Pl. 3 The backfilled trial hole marks the SW extent of the proposed reservoir (looking east from the Horncastle/Tetford road).*



*Pl. 4 The reservoir is intended to use an existing dry valley leading towards a stream. Close to the junction of these features, the valley is obstructed by a raised area which may be natural deposition or an artificial feature (looking east).*