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**DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF  
LAND AT 8 CHURCH LANE,  
SOUTH WITHAM,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SWC00) X**



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**DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF  
LAND AT 8 CHURCH LANE,  
SOUTH WITHAM,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(SWC00) \***

Work Undertaken For  
Clive T. Breakspere  
Chartered Architect

May 2000

Report Compiled by  
James Albone BSc PIFA

\* 500/0194/68

National Grid Reference: SK 9277 1929



Conservation  
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A.P.S. Report No. 071/00 \*

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A desk-based assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of a proposed residential development on land at 8 Church Lane, South Witham, Lincolnshire. Archaeological evidence dating from the Neolithic to post-medieval periods has been identified within c.500m of the proposed development site. However, no archaeological remains have previously been identified within the boundaries of the site itself.*

*The site consists of a former orchard and garden area lying to the east of the present village of South Witham. It is situated on an east facing slope leading down to Fishpool Dike.*

*Finds of Romano-British date have been made around the village suggesting the presence of an unidentified site in the vicinity. Consequently, there is a moderate potential that remains from this period may exist at the proposed development site.*

*There is some potential for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval settlement evidence at the site due to its proximity to the church. The name of the adjacent Fishpool Dike may indicate that medieval fishponds existed somewhere along its course. There is limited potential for the existence of unidentified prehistoric and remains at the site.*

*Cartographic sources do not indicate any buildings at the site between the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This lack of previous development at the site means that any archaeological remains which may be present are likely to be relatively well-preserved.*

*A walkover survey was carried out at the site to assess ground conditions and the presence of archaeological remains. The majority of the site is covered with dense weed vegetation and trees, with standing buildings present at the western end. No soil exposures or artefacts were observed. Due to the presence of the buildings and the vegetation cover, the site would not be*

*suitable for fieldwalking or geophysical investigations.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

Outline planning permission for residential development, consisting of 19 dwellings, at 8 Church Lane, South Witham has been submitted to South Kesteven District Council (Planning ref. S00/0194/68). As the site lay close to the core of the village, within an area of potential archaeological interest, the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist recommended that an archaeological evaluation be carried out. The first phase of this process consists of a desk-based assessment.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Clive T. Breakspeare (Chartered Architect) to undertake a desk-based assessment of the proposed development site. The archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with a project brief issued by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist (Appendix 1) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the Preparation of Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 1999).

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

South Witham village is situated in the South Kesteven district of Lincolnshire, approximately 16km south of Grantham (Fig. 1). The village lies mainly to the south of the River Witham and just west of the Great North Road.

The site is located to the west of Church Lane on the eastern side of the village. It comprises a former orchard and garden area with several empty and derelict buildings. The site lies on an east facing slope at a height of c. 105m above OD and centred on NGR SK 9277 1929.

Brashy calcareous fine loamy soil of the Elmton 1 Association soil developed on Jurassic limestone is present at the site (Hodge *et al.*

1984, 179).

### 2.3 Definition of a Desk-Based Assessment

A desk-based assessment is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) as an 'assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. It consists of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IFA 1999).

## 3. PROJECT AIMS

The purpose of the desk-based assessment is to obtain information about the known and potential archaeological resource of the proposed development site. In order to achieve this the assessment considers all archaeological remains within c.500m of the site. The condition and extent of any remains at the site is then clarified to enable suitable mitigation measures to be devised to minimise their disturbance. In addition to the above, statutory and advisory heritage constraints are identified.

## 4. METHODS

All archaeological remains or documentary evidence relating to the area within c.500m of the proposed development site were considered. Compilation of the archaeological and historical data relevant to the area of the proposed development site involved examination of all appropriate primary and secondary sources available. These have included:

- Historical documents, held in Lincolnshire Archives Office.
- Enclosure, tithe, parish and other maps and plans, held in Lincolnshire Archives Office.
- Recent and old Ordnance Survey maps.

- Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- Parish files held by Heritage Lincolnshire.
- Aerial photographs.
- Archaeological books and journals.

Information obtained from the literature and cartographic examination was supplemented by a walkover survey of the site to assess present land-use and ground conditions.

Results of the archival research were committed to scale plans of the area.

## 5. RESULTS

### 5.1 Historical Data

The place-name South Witham is taken from that of the river which flows through the northern part of the village. It is recorded as *Wimme* in the Domesday Book of 1086 and first appears as *Suthwyme* in 1231 (Cameron 1998, 141).

In the Domesday Book of 1086, land at South Witham was held by Alfred of Lincoln, Countess Judith and Earnewine the priest (Morris 1986).

South Witham is well known for the site of the Knights Templar preceptory which was founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The site lies to the north of the village beyond the area of assessment and need not be considered in detail here. However, the foundation of the preceptory did have an impact on the village. The Templars were given a mediety, or half share, of the parish church and lands. During the 15<sup>th</sup> century land in the parish was also held by Owston Abbey in Leicestershire (Ronayne & Irving c.1950, 6-7).

Records of Court Sessions held in Sleaford in 1683 show that John Miller was accused of establishing a Quaker conventicle at South Witham. It appears that there was also a Quaker burial ground in the parish, but the location of this is not known (*ibid.*, 8).

South Witham was a postal stage on the route

between Berwick and London from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards. A Post Office was established there in 1635 and the village became known as Post Witham. It was effectively bypassed when a turnpike road was created along Ermine Street in 1739. However, some travellers continued to use the old route through the village to avoid the toll barr on Witham Common (*ibid.*, 9; Wright, 1993, 78).

The parish was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1794 (Ronayne & Irving *c.*1950, 10-11). A century later the Saxby and Bourne Railway, which passed by the southern side of the village, was opened. The Holwell Iron Co began mining ironstone alongside this railway the following year (Wright 1982, 171). A second quarry was opened in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and this is still being expanded.

## 5.2 Cartographic Data

The proposed development site is located on the eastern side of South Witham village. Appropriate maps of the vicinity were examined. No Tithe map exists for the village (Kain & Oliver 1995).

Armstrong's *'Map of Lincoln-shire'* (Fig. 3), which dates from 1778, was the earliest relevant map examined. The drain which forms the eastern boundary of the site is shown as a stream but Church Lane is not depicted. The map clearly shows the 'Old Post Road' leading south from the village and the newer turnpike road across Witham Common.

The South Witham enclosure plan of 1794 is the first to show the proposed development site in detail (LAO S. Witham par. dep). The site lies within an area of Old Enclosures to the west of the drain and an unnamed lane. No buildings were indicated at the site on this plan (Fig. 4). The drain which forms the eastern boundary of the site is referred to in the Enclosure Award as follows; *'One other drain or watercourse of a breadth of six feet beginning at the Lordship of Thisleton aforesaid and running northwards along the western boundary of an allotment hereinafter awarded to the said Richard*

*Lluellyn No. 66 to an ancient homestead belong to the said Richard Lluellyn'*. Further references in the Award seem to indicate that the 'ancient homestead' mentioned was located at the northeast corner of the village where the drain meets the river Witham. A Richard Llewellyn, probably the father of the man referred to in the Enclosure Award, was lord of the manor between 1743 and 1777 (Ronayne & Irving *c.*1950, 10).

The 1" to the mile Ordnance Survey map, first produced in 1824, and Bryant's 1828 *'Map of the County of Lincoln'* (Fig. 5) do not show any buildings at the proposed development site.

Clear details of the site and its surroundings are shown on the second edition 25" Ordnance Survey map dating to 1904 (Fig. 6). A single structure is indicated in the northwest part of the site on this map. The drain which forms the eastern boundary of the proposed development site is labelled *'Fishpool Dike'*. This name could refer to medieval fishponds in the vicinity. *Tanyard House*, located a short distance to the northeast, suggests the presence of a tannery.

The 1958 edition of the 6" Ordnance Survey map, show a further large building and enclosures at the western end of the site (Fig. 7).

Only minor changes appear to have occurred during the late 20th century and these are evident on the 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map of 1983 (Fig. 2). Further expansion of the buildings at the western end of the site had occurred and a track was shown along the northern boundary linking them to Church Lane. This is the earliest map examined on which Church Lane is referred to by name.

## 5.3 Aerial Photograph Data

Only one aerial photograph relevant to the assessment area was available for examination in collections held by Heritage Lincolnshire. This was an undated vertical view which showed a group of buildings on the western part of the site with the remainder under grass and trees (HTL parish file, photo B25).

No relevant aerial photographs are held in the collections at the Lincolnshire SMR or Cambridge University. A request has been made to the National Monuments Record for details of aerial photographic coverage of the South Witham area. However, at the time of writing the information had not been received.

Map overlays of cropmarks, soilmarks and earthworks produced by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments were examined at the SMR. These are composites of all aerial photographs available to RCHM up to c.5 years ago and are, therefore, regarded as fairly comprehensive. Significant remains of medieval ridge and furrow were recorded around South Witham village (Fig.2). A small spread of rubble was shown at the site of a former windmill to the southwest of the proposed development site (Fig.2, No.8).

Map overlays held by Heritage Lincolnshire revealed further evidence of ridge and furrow but no other archaeological features. The photographic sources used in the compilation of these overlays is not known and it is possible that the photographs used were in private collections not available to RCHM.

#### 5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds are held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record. Other sources, including parish files held by Heritage Lincolnshire, were also examined. Details of archaeological and historical remains falling within c.500m of the proposed development site are collated in Table 1 and located on Figure 2.

##### *Prehistoric Archaeology*

The earliest archaeological evidence from the assessment area dates from the Neolithic period (4000 - 2250 BC). A flint axe with a polished cutting edge has been found c.350m southeast of the proposed development site (Fig.2, No.1). A small quantity of worked flints (Fig.2, No.2) was found to the northwest of the site during a watching brief (Young 1998).

##### *Romano-British Archaeology*

The Romano-British period (50 - 410 AD) is represented by several burials and isolated finds. A lead-lined stone coffin, which appeared to be of Romano-British date, was found to the north of the proposed development site in 1967 (Fig.2, No.3). A small quantity of Roman pottery, including colour-coated ware, was later found in the vicinity. An area of iron slag was also recorded between the location of the burial and the river Witham.

Burials had previously been discovered at an unknown site in South Witham during gravel quarrying in 1746 (Fig. 2, No.3). These were found with pottery and a javelin believed to be of Romano-British date, although these artefacts do not survive to confirm this.

Two Romano-British coins have been found in South Witham village. A Sesterius of Domitian (81-96 AD) has been found in the southern part of the village (Fig. 2, No.4) and a Denarius of Trajan (97-117 AD) in the north (Fig.2, No.5). Although these are isolated finds they may be indicative of further activity in the vicinity.

A small quantity of Romano-British pottery was found during a watching brief to the northwest of the proposed development site (Fig.2, No.6).

The proposed development site lies 1km west of the major Roman road of Ermine Street.

##### *Saxon Archaeology*

No archaeological evidence from this period was identified within the assessment area. However, the place-name suggests that the village evolved during this period. The description of the unlocated burials found in 1746 could equally indicate an Anglo-Saxon, rather than Romano-British, date.

##### *Medieval Archaeology*

The Church of St. John the Baptist represents the principal medieval (1066-1500 AD) evidence from South Witham village (Fig.2, No.7).

A small quantity of medieval pottery was found during a watching brief to the northwest of the



Map Code No.	SMR Ref.	Description	National Grid Reference
1	33696	Neolithic flint axe	SK 931190
2	----	Worked flints	SK 9255 1965
3	33692	Romano-British burial and pottery	SK 928 196
-	33690	Possible Romano-British burials	unlocated
4	33689	Roman coin. Sesterius of Domitian	SK 9273 1954
5	33689	Roman coin. Denarius of Trajan	SK 9249 1919
6	----	Romano-British pottery	SK 9255 1965
7	33694	Church of St. John the Baptist	SK 9271 1940
8	----	Medieval pottery	SK 9255 1965.
9	33621	Post-medieval windmill	SK 9241 1918
10	34813	Undated stone foundations	SK9256 1954

Table 1: Known archaeological sites and finds within the c. 500m assessment area around the proposed development site.

proposed development site (Fig.2, No.8). As noted above, evidence of ridge and furrow has been recorded at various locations around the village (Fig.2).

#### *Post-medieval Archaeology*

The site of a post-medieval (1500 - 1900 AD) windmill has been recorded to the southwest of the village (Fig.2, No.9).

#### *Undated Archaeology*

A number of undated stone wall foundations were identified during a watching brief in the northwest part of the village in 1993 (Fig.2, No.10). A fragment of a millstone was found associated with these remains and it was suggested that the site may be a medieval or post-medieval watermill (Healey 1993).

### 5.5 Historic Buildings Data

A number of listed historic buildings are recorded at South Witham (DoE 1987, 79-83).

The Church of St. John the Baptist is the only grade I listed building in the parish. It dates from the late 12<sup>th</sup> century with a bellcote in the Early English style. Other parts of the structure are in the Decorated and Perpendicular styles. It was restored in 1900 and the chancel was rebuilt in 1930 (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 669).

Tanyard House, farmhouse and barn are located on Church Lane to the northeast of the proposed development site and are all grade II listed. The main house is built of squared limestone and is of late 18<sup>th</sup> century date. The farmhouse and barn are also of limestone construction but date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Four grade II listed buildings are recorded on Church Street at South Witham. The Angel Inn is of limestone construction with a slate roof and dates from c.1700 and No. 14 is a 17<sup>th</sup> century limestone farmhouse with a pantile roof. Coverley House is of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and has a 17<sup>th</sup> century barn.

On the High Street is a 17<sup>th</sup> century limestone built house which is now divided into two along with Priory farmhouse, which dates from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## 5.6 Walkover Survey

A walkover survey of the proposed development site was undertaken on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2000. The site lies on an east facing slope and covers a former orchard and garden (Fig. 8). Several platforms or possible terraces appeared to be present down the slope on the southern part of the site. These features may be of natural or human origin.

A group of buildings were present at the top of the slope on the western part of the site. These consist of a c. 1970s brick bungalow, a brick and wooden chalet type bungalow of c. 1920s date and various sheds.

The main part of the site was covered with dense weed vegetation and trees (Pl.2). No areas of exposed soil were observed and no artefacts, of any date, were identified.

The present ground and vegetation conditions at the site preclude further evaluation by fieldwalking or geophysical surveys.

## 6. CONSTRAINTS

### 6.1 Heritage Constraints

#### *Statutory and Advisory Constraints*

No Scheduled Ancient Monuments protected by the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 (HMSO 1979) are located within the assessment area. As a result, archaeological remains within the assessment area are protected only through the implementation of PPG16 (DoE 1990).

Significant historic buildings within the assessment area have listed building status and, consequently, are protected by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act of 1990.

### 6.2 Other Constraints

No specific checks were carried out for the presence of active services (gas, water, electricity etc.) across the site. However, as a modern bungalow is present at the site it is expected that services will be present and some of these may still be active.

## 7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the *Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments* has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; See Appendix 1).

### Period

Activity dateable to the prehistoric, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods has been recognised within the c. 500m assessment area around the proposed development site. No archaeological remains have been identified within the boundaries of the site, although remains of modern (1800-2000 AD) buildings are known to exist.

Prehistoric activity is represented by the Neolithic flint axe and finds of worked flints. The Romano-British period is represented by at least one burial to the north of the site with others possibly having been found in the village. Other finds of pottery, coins and iron slag have been recorded around the village.

No certain archaeological evidence for the Saxon period was identified within the assessment area. However, the unlocated burials with grave goods recorded as Romano-British could possibly be of Anglo-Saxon date. The place-name and Domesday Book evidence indicates that a settlement was present at South Witham by the late Saxon period.

The medieval period is only represented by the church, isolated pottery finds and evidence of ridge and furrow.

Post-medieval remains recorded within the assessment area are currently confined to standing buildings and the site of a windmill to

the southwest of the village.

Stone foundations of unknown date have been recorded close to the river Witham on the northeast side of the village. It has been suggested that these may be associated with a medieval or post-medieval watermill (Healey 1993).

#### **Rarity**

Isolated finds of prehistoric artefacts such as the worked flints are relatively common. Although not rare, Neolithic axes are less abundant in the southwest part of Lincolnshire than they are in the north of the county (May 1993, 11).

Roman sites and burials are reasonably common throughout Lincolnshire. Most burials are probably associated with the known towns of the period. The two Roman coins from South Witham are of a late 1<sup>st</sup> / early 2<sup>nd</sup> century date making them more unusual finds.

Medieval evidence is representative of settlement activity from this period. The church, pottery finds and ridge and furrow earthworks are typical remains from this period. The possible watermill site is one of a number of known along the river Witham.

The recorded post-medieval buildings within the assessment area are all sufficiently interesting or unusual to warrant listed status.

#### **Documentation**

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the assessment area are kept in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, Lincolnshire Archives Office and in parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire. This assessment represents the only modern archaeological research to have been carried out within the assessment area.

#### **Group value**

Prehistoric evidence from South Witham is limited and dispersed. Consequently it has a relatively low group value.

The Romano-British burial and finds within the assessment area may be associated with domestic

and industrial activity. Although the exact nature of these remains is unclear, they have a moderate group value because of their variety.

Medieval remains at South Witham are comparatively sparse but have a moderate group value. Recorded post-medieval buildings within the assessment area represent the development of the village during that period and have a moderate group value.

#### **Survival/Condition**

The prehistoric artefacts from the assessment area are all isolated finds and are probably not associated with any surviving buried remains.

Any Romano-British and medieval remains which underlie built areas of the present village will have been affected by its development. Any archaeological remains which may exist in areas of the village not developed during the later post-medieval and modern periods may be comparatively well preserved.

The western part of the site appears to have seen limited development from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century onwards. As a result ground disturbance will have occurred in this area. However, the majority of the site appears to have remained undeveloped for at least the last 200 years. Consequently, if any unidentified archaeological remains are present it is likely that they may be relatively well preserved.

#### **Fragility/Vulnerability**

Any unidentified archaeological remains present at the proposed development site are likely to be at risk from development activity.

#### **Diversity**

A moderate to high period diversity is represented by the archaeological remains identified within the assessment area. Sites relating to settlement, religion, burial, agriculture and industry were identified, representing a high functional diversity.

#### **Potential**

Although prehistoric evidence from South Witham is limited, there is some potential for the

discovery of artefacts and unidentified buried remains from this period.

A variety of Romano-British remains have been identified at South Witham. The few isolated finds from around the village support the possibility of a site of this period in the immediate vicinity. It is not possible to determine a clear focus for any activity or the nature of the site. However, it is probable that any Romano-British remains underlying the present village area will be of a domestic or industrial nature. In view of the presence of these remains in the vicinity there is a moderate potential that unidentified Romano-British remains may exist at the proposed development site.

No conclusive archaeological evidence of Saxon date was identified within the assessment area although it is clear from other sources that a settlement existed at South Witham by the latter part of this period.

The site lies 90m south of the church which may have represented the core of the medieval village. It is possible that unidentified remains associated with Saxon, medieval and early post-medieval settlement activity exist at the proposed development site. Cartographic sources seem to indicate that there were no structures on the site during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological remains have previously been recorded at the proposed development site. However, evidence of Neolithic to post-medieval activity has been identified within the surrounding c. 500m assessment area.

Prehistoric and Romano-British material has been found at various locations around the village, though in insufficient quantity for patterns of settlement or other utilization to be established. However, these past discoveries indicate that there is some possibility, probably low to moderate but presently of indeterminate potential, that prehistoric and Roman remains may occur in the proposed development area.

The proposed development site is located a short distance south of the church which is the probable core of the Saxon and medieval settlement. There is a moderate to high potential that remains from these periods of the village's development will exist at the site.

Cartographic sources show a range of buildings were constructed at the western end of the site at various times during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. No structures are indicated at the site on earlier maps dating back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The apparent lack of development over much of the site during the later post-medieval and modern periods means that any earlier remains present at the site may be relatively well-preserved.

The presence of dense weed vegetation and trees across the site precludes further evaluation in the form of fieldwalking or geophysical survey. No soil exposures or artefactual remains were observed during the walkover survey.

## 9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr C.T. Breakspeare (Chartered Architect) who commissioned this report. The work was coordinated by Steve Malone who jointly edited this report with Tom Lane. Research at Lincolnshire Archives Office was carried out by Gary Taylor and maps were drawn and computerised by Dave Hopkins and Phil Mills. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was kindly provided by Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Jo Simpson, the Community Archaeologist for South Kesteven District Council, permitted access to the parish files maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire. Thanks are also due to the staff of the Lincolnshire Archives Office and Lincoln Central Library.

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

DoE	Department of the Environment
HMSO	Her Majesties' Stationary Office
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LAO	Lincolnshire Archive Office
OS	Ordnance Survey
RCHM	Royal Commission on Historic Monuments
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record Office

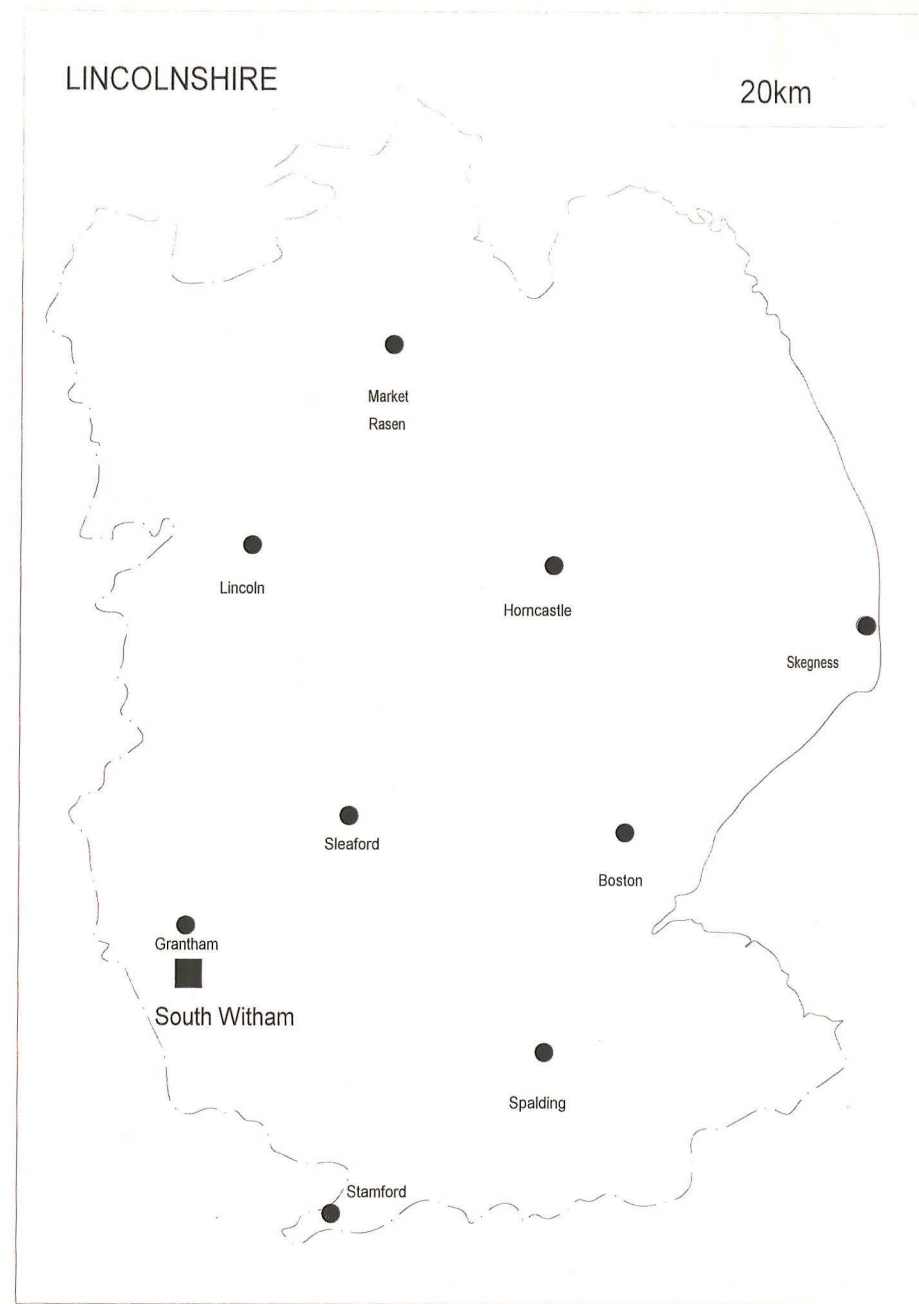


Figure 1 General Location Plan

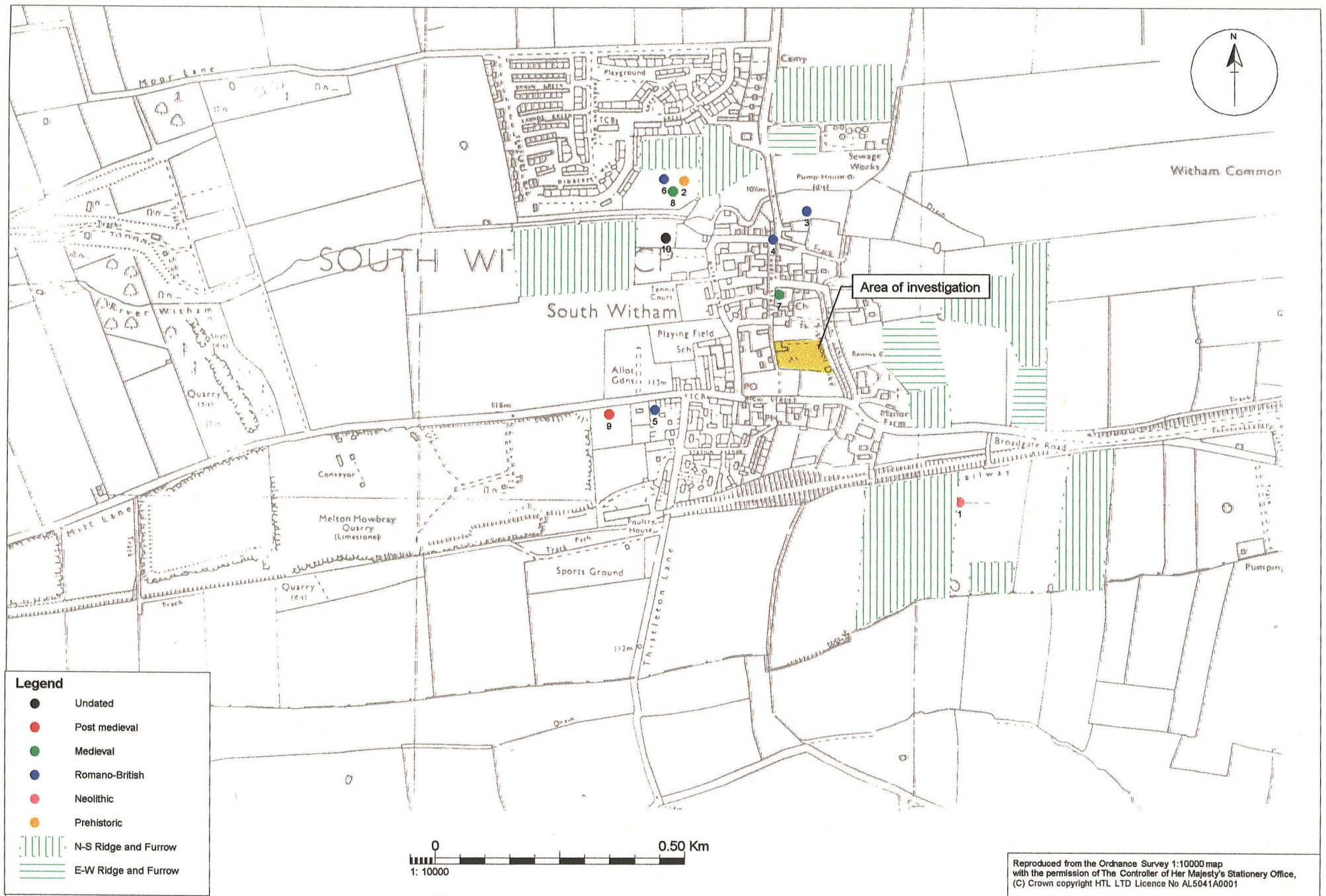


Figure 2 Known archaeological sites and finds within c. 500m of the proposed development site

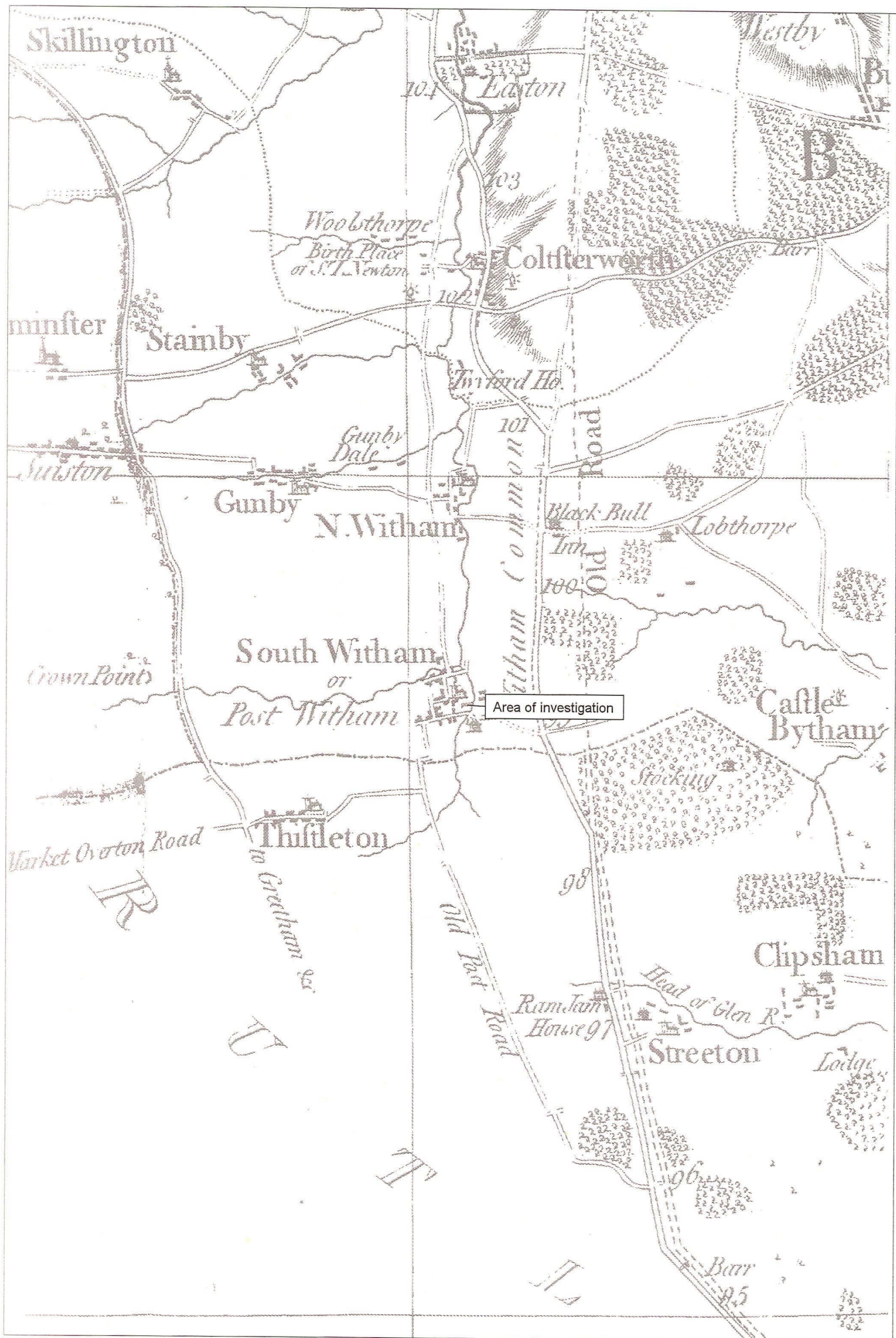


Figure 3 Extract from Armstrong's 1778 'Map of Lincolnshire' showing the site location



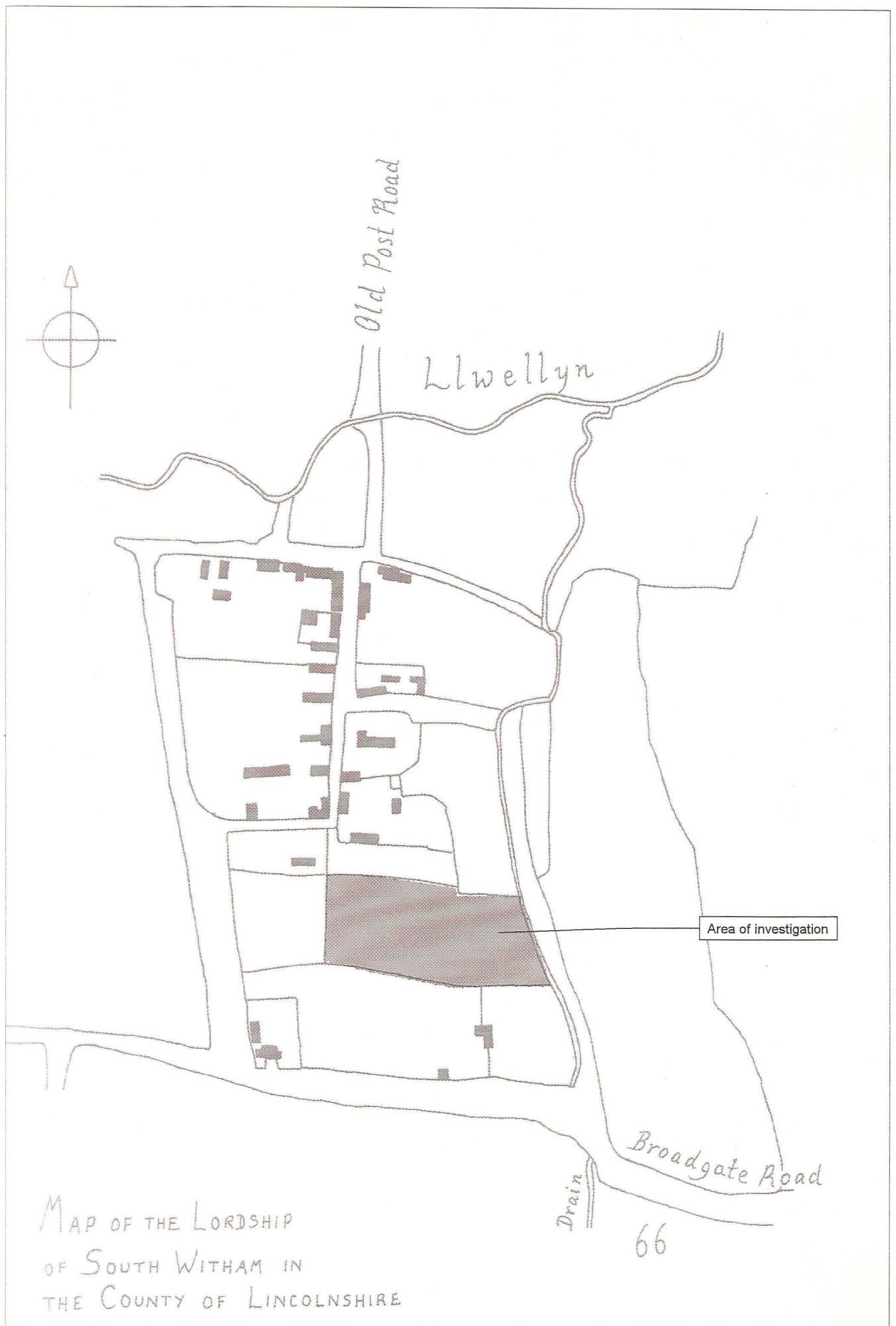


Figure 4 Extract from South Witham Enclosure Map 1794 (LAO. S. Witham Par. coun. dep), showing site location



Figure 5 Extract from Bryant's 1828 'Map of the County of Lincoln' showing site location

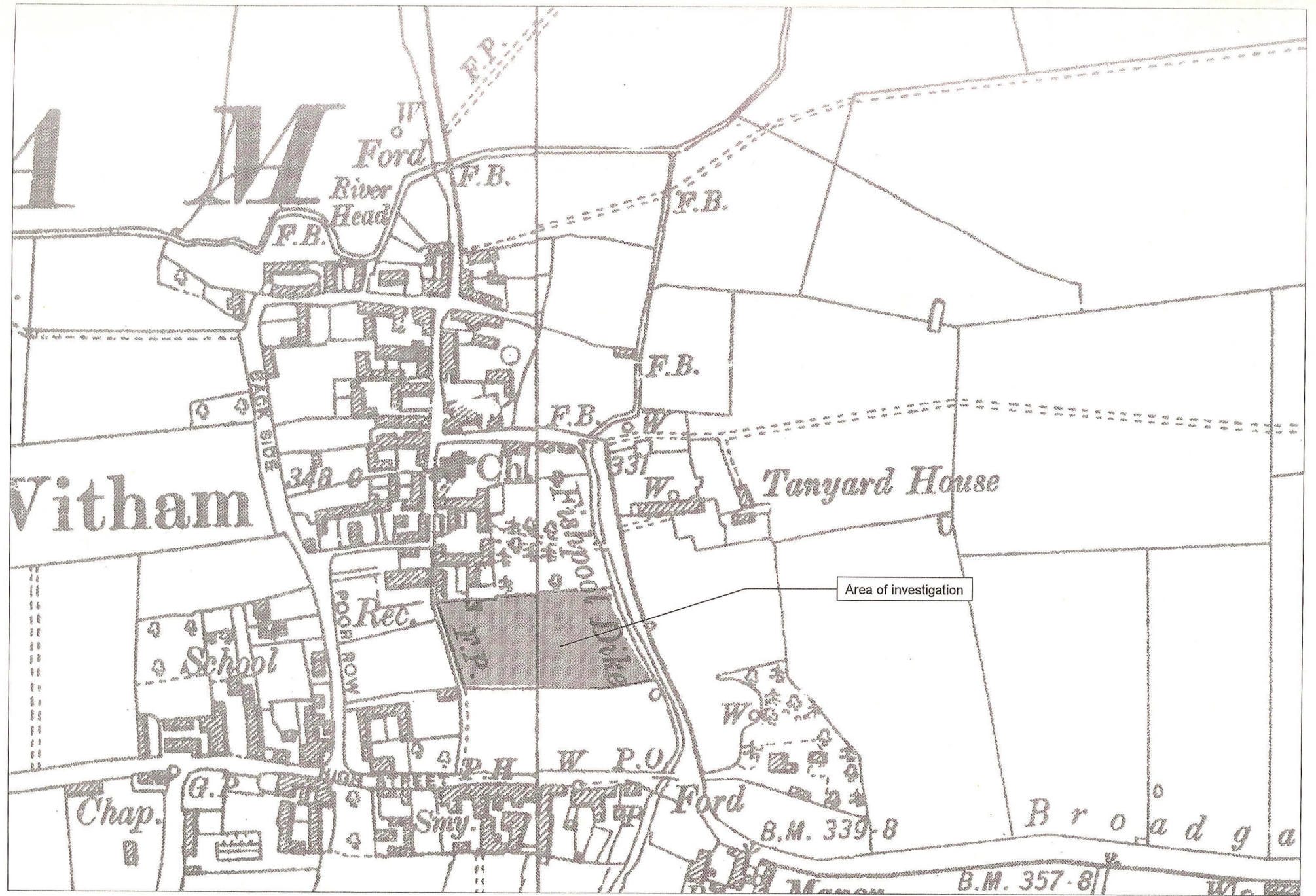


Figure 6 Extract from second edition 25" Ordnance Survey map (1904) showing site location



Figure 7 Extract from 6" Ordnance Survey map (1958) showing site location

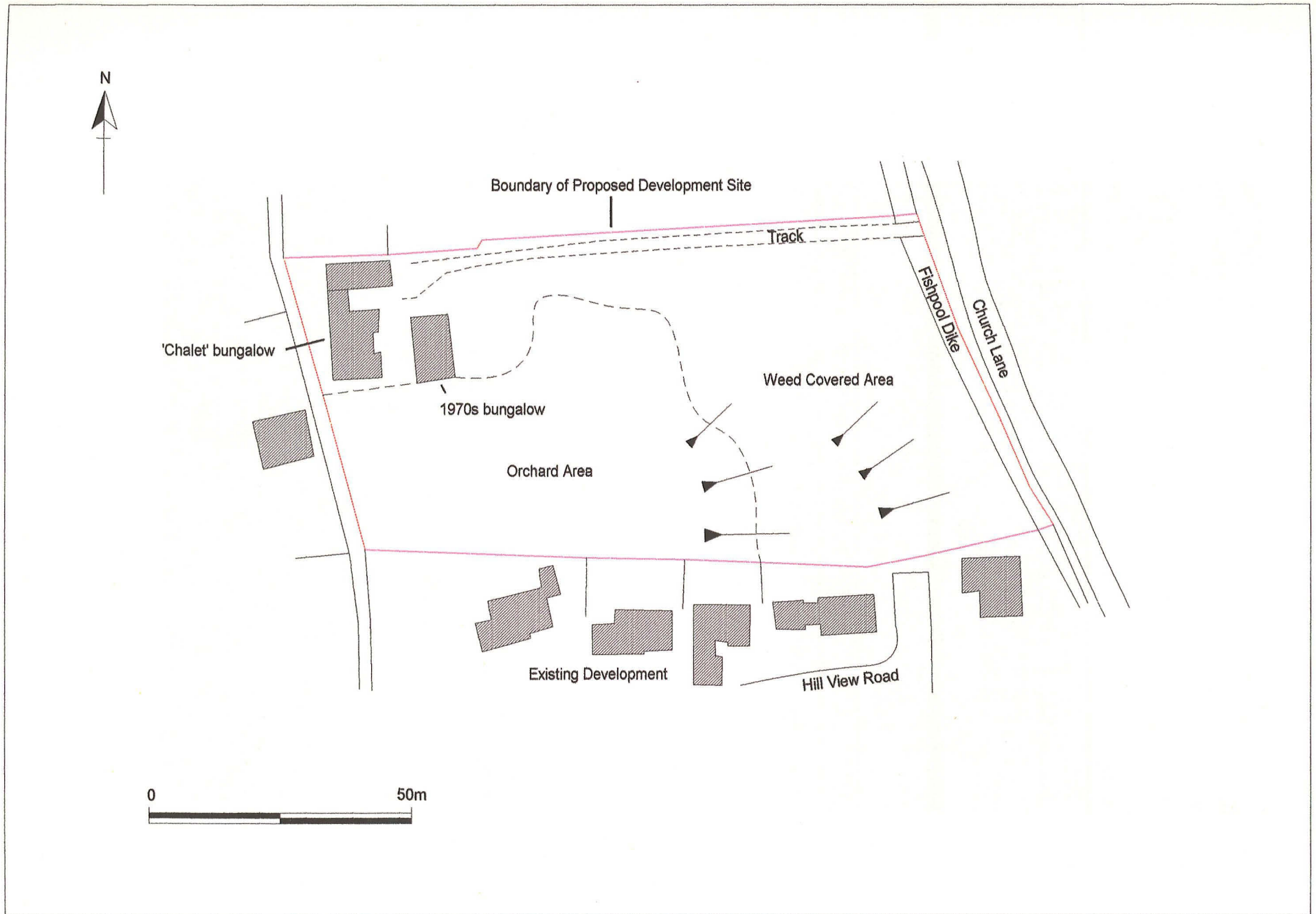


Fig. 8: Site layout showing details of the walkover survey



Plate 1 General view of the site, looking southeast



Plate 2 General view of the site, looking northwest

## Appendix 1

### PROJECT BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT

#### 1. SUMMARY

1.1 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated timescales, staffing levels and sources of information.

**(The Community Archaeologist does not maintain a list of archaeological contractors but names of local units can be found in the Yellow Pages, or from the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Tel: 0118 931 6446)**

1.2 The detailed specifications will be submitted for approval by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy this brief.

#### 2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1 The application site is situated within the south of the village of South Witham. South Witham is located in the west of the South Kesteven administrative district, Lincolnshire. The actual site is located at NGR: SK 92777 19290. The site is approximately 0.8 hectares and is currently an overgrown grass and scrub area. A track runs along the northern edge, and it is bounded on the north and south by hedges. The line of the River Witham runs along the eastern edge of the plot, and a bungalow is sited in the north-western corner. The ground has an undulating slope, from south-west towards the road (the east).

According to locals there were a 16<sup>th</sup> century barn and farm buildings on, or close to the site, which have since been pulled down.

#### 3. PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 An outline planning application has been submitted to South Kesteven District Council for: **Residential development (19 dwellings) (S00/0194/68)**. An archaeological evaluation of the site is to be undertaken, prior to the determination of the permission to provide further information, helping to inform the decision.

#### 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 South Witham is situated in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric and later periods.

The site of the proposed development lies close to the village church of St. John the Baptist, parts of which date back to the twelfth century, with later additions of thirteenth and seventeenth century date. It is probable that this area was the original focus of the Medieval village and that the land around may contain evidence for the early history of the village.

To the north of the site the earthwork remains of Medieval Ridge and Furrow cultivation are present, along with evidence for ironworking. Also to the north, a lead-lined limestone coffin, complete with lid, skeleton and some Romano-British pottery was found. To the south-west of

the site, further Romano-British remains have been recorded on the site of a post-medieval quarry. These comprise a cemetery, along with buildings and a well. Also to the south-west, a Roman coin (denarius of Trajan) was discovered. A windmill, now demolished was located to the south-west of the site aswell.

To the north-west, a Watching Brief during development at Twyford Meadows uncovered a scatter of Roman and medieval pottery

## 5. REQUIREMENT FOR WORK

5.1 Prior to this scheme of development being undertaken a detailed desk-top assessment must be carried out. Any adjustments to the brief for the assessment should only be made after discussion with the Community Archaeologist.

5.2 The purpose of the archaeological desk-top assessment should be to examine existing information in order to establish the likely archaeological potential of the site and particularly the expected survival and quality of any archaeological remains. The results of this assessment should seek to enable a decision on whether further information can reasonably be required through implementing a designed field evaluation.

**Any information regarding previous land-use of the site should be included in the report, including any information regarding previous buildings on site.**

5.3 The contractor's specification should be prepared according to the requirements of this brief and the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook's section 'Standard Briefs for Archaeological Projects in Lincolnshire' (August 1997).

## 6. METHODS OF WORK AND TECHNIQUES

6.1 The desk-top assessment should include an assessment of the site within both the local and regional context. It should highlight any particular relevant research priorities which may be addressed by this project.

6.2 In order to ensure that all possible archaeological constraints are evaluated all secondary sources must be consulted as part of the desk-top assessment. Sources to be consulted should include:

6.2.1 Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record;

6.2.2 All Ordnance Survey maps;

6.2.3 Tithe, Enclosure Award and Parish Maps (where appropriate);

6.2.4 Historical documents, particularly those held in Lincolnshire Archives Office;

6.2.5 Archaeological books and journals;

6.2.6 Unpublished reports and archives (where appropriate), particularly those of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist;

6.2.7 Aerial photographs;



6.2.8 Geotechnical information, for example client geosurvey records, boreholes and test pit logs, British Geological Survey,

6.2.9 Any other sources deemed appropriate,

6.3 A visit to verify site conditions and potential constraints

6.4 The specification will be expected to contain:

6.4.1 a projected timetable of work;

6.4.2 The staff structure and numbers.

## **7. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

7.1 The report of the desk-top assessment should be produced to the level outlines in The Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3, English Heritage, 1991. The report should contain the following :

7.1.1 a non-technical summary of all available information;

7.1.2 objectives

7.1.3 methodology

7.1.4 summary of geology and topography (including at least one site photograph)

7.1.2 a comprehensive list of all sources consulted, along with an explanation if sources detailed in paragraph 6.2 above are not consulted;

7.1.3 outline all possible options for further work and any possible constraints.

7.2 A copy of the desk-top assessment reports must be deposited with Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, the District Planning Authority, the Community Archaeologist and the client .

## **8.FURTHER CONTACT ADDRESSES:**

Miss Jo Simpson  
South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.  
Heritage Lincolnshire  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
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Lincs. NG34 9RW

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Highways and Planning Directorate  
Lincolnshire County Council  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
City Hall  
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LN1 1DN

Mr T. Page  
City and County Museum  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 5AL

Brief set by the Community Archaeologist March 2000.

NB. THIS BRIEF SHOULD NOT BE USED ONE YEAR AFTER ITS ISSUE. PLEASE CONTACT THE SOUTH KESTEVEN COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGIST OF THIS IS THE CASE.

## Appendix 2

### Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling Ancient Monuments - Extract from *Archaeology and Planning DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990*

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.

iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.

vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.

## Appendix 3

### List of Consulted Sources

Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record, parish of South Witham.

Files of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist, parish of South Witham.

Aerial Photographs held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record (none held).

Aerial Photographs held in the files of the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography Collection (none held).

National Monuments Record Aerial Photograph Collection (information not yet received).

Lincolnshire Archives:- cartographic sources; secondary sources (books and journals).

Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire library.

OS Maps: 1824, 1904, 1958, 1983.

Information held by Archaeological Project Services.

### Sources Not Consulted and Reasons

Geotechnical information - not ascertained that any was available for the site.

Primary historical documentation held at Lincolnshire Archives - previous experience has shown that the consultation of primary historical documentation is extremely time consuming and only informative, in archaeological terms, in fortuitous instances.

## Appendix 4

### GLOSSARY

<b>Cropmark</b>	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
<b>Decorated</b>	Division of English Gothic architecture dating from <i>c.</i> 1290-1350.
<b>Domesday Survey</b>	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
<b>Early English</b>	Division of English Gothic architecture dating from <i>c.</i> 1190-1250.
<b>Geophysical Survey</b>	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
<b>Knights Templar</b>	A Christian religious order founded in 1118 with the aim of protecting pilgrims in the Holy Land. They quickly became a powerful and wealthy force across Europe and obtained large grants of land in Lincolnshire and elsewhere. They fell out of favour in the late 13 <sup>th</sup> century and were effectively dissolved around 1312.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
<b>Perpendicular</b>	Division of English Gothic architecture in use from <i>c.</i> 1350 - <i>c.</i> 1530.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
<b>Ridge and Furrow</b>	The remains of arable cultivation consisting of raised rounded strips separated by furrows. It is characteristic of open field agriculture.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany
<b>Turnpike Roads</b>	Turnpike trusts were established for many principal roads. An Act of Parliament of 1663 allowed them to levy tolls to pay for their maintenance.