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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Mapleton Farm, Moor Lane, Horsington**  
**Proposed Intensive Livestock Unit and Associated Development**

NGR: TF 1960 6770  
Site Code: MFH 03  
LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2003.108  
S/087/2039/02

**Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment**

**Report for**  
**Land and Development Consultants**  
**by G. Tann**

Conservation  
Services  
02 JUN 2003  
Highways & Planning  
Directorate

**LAS Report No. 659**  
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**Summary**

*The application site lies outside the present village, and 300m south of a moated site which may represent a medieval manor. The deserted settlement of Poolham occupied land east of the application site, and the parish boundary coincided with the edge of the site until the early twentieth century. This alignment appears to be that of a Roman road leading into the Wolds, and survived as a lane as late as 1775.*

*Mapleton Farm probably occupies the site of a twelfth century grange, farmed for the nuns of Stixwold Priory. Earthwork remains around the farmhouse may relate to that grange, but there are no surface indications that they extend into the application site. Two medieval pottery sherds have been collected from the field surface, but the only indication of further archaeological remains is a slightly raised feature along the western boundary, probably marking a medieval lane. This lies outside the application site.*

*The proposed development will require removal of topsoil, but foundations and other groundworks may be kept above the surface of the subsoil. Minor excavation will be needed for a replacement vehicular bridge over a field ditch at the edge of the farmyard.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned in April 2003 by Land and Development Consultants (on behalf of Annakin Farms Ltd) to prepare an archaeological desk-based assessment of land to the SE of Mapleton Farm, Horsington, Lincs. (Figs. 1-3). The site has previously been known as part of Grange Farm.

**Planning Background**

Following refusal of an earlier planning application (ELDC Planning Application No. S/087/2039/02), a revised application is to be made for the erection of buildings for an intensive livestock unit, with an associated parking area, and access road on land beside Mapleton Farm. In response to the previous application, Lincolnshire County Council Conservation Services (advisors to East Lindsey District Council) asked for further archaeological information prior to determination of the application.

The proposed layout has been changed to take account of required distance between such development and neighbouring dwellings. This assessment forms the Archaeological component of an Environmental Impact Assessment prepared to accompany the revised

application.

### **Aims and Objectives**

In general terms the purpose of the desk-based assessment is to

- collate available information relating to previous use of the site (both documented and reflected in physical remains) which would indicate archaeological potential and/or areas where previous activity has probably removed any potential
- gather sufficient information to enable an assessment of the potential and significance of any archaeological remains to be made and the impact which development will have upon them
- enable an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of any archaeological remains and consider any appropriate mitigatory measures either in advance of and/or during development.

### **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 April 23rd and May 9th 2003. 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

### **Topography and Geology**

The c. 2ha application site is immediately south and SE of Mapleton Farm, to the east of Moor Lane, and south of Horsington village. It forms the eastern side of an irregular-shaped field, at about 13.5m OD (UCS 2002). The site lies at the western limit of an area of seasonally waterlogged stagnogley clay soils, adjacent to drier pelo-stagnogley soils (soil Survey 1983).

### **Archaeological and Historical Background**

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 and Roman***

Bronze Age tools were found in Horsington parish before 1964, but details as to their precise provenance are lacking. Ordnance Survey record cards note a Middle Bronze Age flanged axe and broken spearhead, which may have formed part of a 'founder's hoard' - a secreted collection of metal for reworking. A Neolithic polished stone axe and a Late Bronze Age polished stone axe have been found at Horsington Holmes, 3km to the SW of Mapleton Farm.

The eastern boundary of the application site coincides with the course of a probable road of Roman or earlier origin (SMR 40074). This feature has been described as 'a straight alignment of hedgerows and lanes, from Furze Hill near Stixwould, past Ellington Scrubbs..., to Hemingby (Margary 1973, 241-2, road ref. 273). Much of the route coincides with parish boundaries; although the section past the application site no longer does, it reflects expansion of Horsington parish to the east during the twentieth century, absorbing the deserted neighbouring settlement of Poolham (SMR 40087, 40381) from Edlington parish. A lane along the site boundary was still in use in 1775 (Fig. 4; LAO Lindsey Award 36). To the south of the site, no probable alignments of the Roman road have been established.

Roman pottery scatters have been reported from east of the site of All Hallows Church, 170m west of the application site, and also from NE of Hale Farm (180m NW).

### ***Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval***

When the *Domesday Survey* was produced in 1086, land in Horsington was held by Earl Hugh, Ivo Taillebois, and Hugh, son of Baldric (Foster and Longley 1924). It is likely that these separate holdings were reflected in the contemporary settlement layout of the parish. The locations of two of these foci are known; these are the existing village core, and the area around the site of All Hallows Church, west of Horsington Wood. The moated site (SMR 40071) around the present Moat House may represent the third manorial location, 350m north of the application site.

The house site and adjacent farmyard at Mapleton Farm are of archaeological interest as it may be the location of a medieval grange (SMR 40080); small quantities of thirteenth century and later pottery have been disturbed during recent backfilling of wet ground beside the farmhouse. At Horsington, c. 1165, the nuns of the priory of Stixwould were given six strips of arable land near their sheepfold, with permission to enclose the parcel of land (Owen 1971, 51, citing D. Douglas 1932, *Feudal Documents of the Abbey of Bury St Edmunds*). The archivist at Magdalen College has advised that until 1530, the lease of a Horsington manor was held by the prioress and convent at Stixwould, but was then bought by the college (J. Steane, pers. comm.). The previous name, Grange Farm, may well indicate part of the conventual holding, but the Magdalen College archives have not been explored. The name 'Grange Field' is recorded for the field alongside the application site in 1755, showing that the

appellation is no later than mid-eighteenth century (Fig. 4).

There are also cartographic indications that the farmstead site lay at the eastern edge of a land block, possibly a late medieval park. The 1775 plan of Horsington shows 'The Park' extending westwards from Horsington Wood, with a 'road to the park' leading from Moor Lane (Fig. 4). The northern boundary of the park coincides with field boundaries extending eastwards to Mapleton Farm; the large land block east of the park is described as 'old enclosures', and is bisected by 'Stickswold Road' (now Moor Lane) and a footpath linking Horsington village with Stixwold. The park may have been created during the medieval period, and then reduced in size when the road network was altered.

The application site lies within Field 54 on the 1775 plan, but a rapid search of the accompanying descriptive Award was unable to locate the appropriate field name or owner. Field 58, to the NE, was called Grange Field, and was held by Magdalen College in Oxford. To the south of Field 54 were a series of small land parcels, two with buildings, fronting onto a lane along the eastern boundary. A lane from Horsington village passed to the east of Moat Farm (Field 62), and ended at Field 54. This is now reflected in the public footpath which crosses the field from this point. The lane would appear to serve the block of small land parcels, possibly indicating that they formed a hamlet.

#### **Site Visit**

The application site was visited by G. Tann on May 2nd 2003. Access is via a farm track from Moor Lane, passing a pasture field to the south of the track which contains virtually levelled ridge and furrow, aligned north-south. The track to the application site leads through the former farmyard, with the uninhabited Mapleton Farm house set back to the north. Considerable quantities of material have been imported recently to level poorly drained depressions around the farmyard and to the west of the farmhouse. These form minor earthworks which cannot be interpreted at ground level, apart from a linear depression which may represent a hollow way. There was no evidence of an encircling moat around the farmhouse or farm site, but a large 'L-shaped' pond is shown on Ordnance Survey maps.

The site is at present under an oilseed rape crop, which was not in full bloom (Pl. 1). Part of the field surface remained visible, and a rapid random walkover produced an abraded medieval sherd from the eastern edge of the site.

A scatter of medieval or later roof tile was seen to the NW of the application area, close to the ditch between the farmyard and the field. At the western edge of the field, there was a slightly raised area alongside the hedge boundary. This was tentatively interpreted as the course of a thoroughfare, and seemed to extend to meet the linear depression to the north of the modern farm track. Both of these observations lie outside the revised application site.

### Options for Further Investigation

The northern field boundary is a hedge, with a ditch beyond it. The boundary changes alignment at the remains of a small pond. The eastern boundary is a field boundary ditch with no hedge (Pl. 2). This marks the position of a track marked on the 1775 Horsington Enclosure plan (LAO Lindsey Award 36). A hedge and ditch forms the southern boundary, and the western edge of the application site is undefined.

### Conclusion

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

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments on the application site or in its vicinity. The ruins of Poolham chapel (listed, Grade II) are 600m to the east.

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

A probable Roman road passes the eastern edge of the application site, although its alignment to the SW has not been established. If the road changed alignment in this vicinity, some occupation features might be present. At present, the nearest identified site is over 150m to the west.

The available information suggests that the application site has considerably lower potential for medieval archaeological remains than the area to the west and NW. The site lies outside the identifiable area of earthworks beside Mapleton Farm, and east of the possibly greatest extent of the park.

Two post-medieval thoroughfares affect the site. A former lane along the eastern site boundary may have been a predecessor of Moor Lane, and another led from the village to the farm site. There is some possibility for habitation alongside these lanes, but no dense pottery scatter was noted during the rapid walk-over survey.

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

LAS has been advised by Mr Annakin that construction of the intensive livestock unit will require topsoil stripping of the site, after which a protective membrane will be laid on the surface of the subsoil. Material will then be imported to raise the site prior to construction of foundations. In these circumstances, any archaeological features on the site may be vulnerable temporarily, but will then be protected by the additional material. Foundations are not expected to penetrate the subsoil. Some groundworks may be required for installation of drainage and other services. An extension of the existing access to Mapleton Farm may require minor groundworks, including construction of a bridge across a field ditch at the edge of the farmyard. Plant movement, stockpiling of excavated soil, tree planting and associated landscaping may also have some impact on any shallow remains.



### **Options for Further Investigation**

As the field is under crop, fieldwalking and geophysical survey are not appropriate options at present. Evaluation trenching may be required to identify and examine any possible features and confirm their date, and archaeological monitoring might be appropriate if the development is approved.

### **Conclusion**

Research for this assessment suggests that Mapleton Farm occupies the site of a medieval farmstead operated by nuns associated with Stixwold Priory. The extent of surviving physical remains associated with that activity appears to be restricted to land west and north of the existing farmhouse, and not extending beyond the present farmyard. Slight indications of a track, apparently representing a medieval lane, can be seen outside the western end of the application site, and another lane (probably a Roman road to Hemingby and beyond) used to run beside the eastern boundary, formerly the parish boundary.

Ground disturbance for the proposed development may be limited to topsoil stripping, with buildings constructed with foundations above the subsoil. The application site has produced two sherds of medieval pottery, probably the result of spreading manure on the fields. There is no evidence that this site contains significant archaeological remains, although features associated with the Roman road and Saxon parish boundary might be present along its eastern edge.

### **Acknowledgements**

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

Stephen Brown (Land and Development Consultants); Mr and Mrs M. Annakin; the Built Environment Team, Lincolnshire County Council; Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire; staff at the Lincolnshire Archives Office and Lincoln Central Library Reference Collection; John Steane; Dr Robin Darwall-Smith (Archivist, Magdalen College, Oxford). Illustrations were produced by Karen Dennis, and the report was collated and produced by Naomi Field.

Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
20th May 2003

### **References**

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UCS 2002 *Mapleton Farm Site Survey*. Universal Construction Services Ltd dwg. 02-20-01.

Horsington

**Archive Summary**

Correspondence

Copies of developer's plans

Photographs: colour prints, LAS film no. 03/60/18a-23a

Archaeological finds: pottery

Specialist's archive list: Post Roman pottery

Ref	Description
40074	1/20/18a-23a
40075	1/20/18a-23a
40076	1/20/18a-23a
40077	1/20/18a-23a
40078	1/20/18a-23a
40079	1/20/18a-23a
40080	1/20/18a-23a
40081	1/20/18a-23a
40082	1/20/18a-23a
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40094	1/20/18a-23a
40095	1/20/18a-23a
40096	1/20/18a-23a
40097	1/20/18a-23a
40098	1/20/18a-23a
40099	1/20/18a-23a
40100	1/20/18a-23a

## Summary of Previously Reported Archaeological Sites and Finds, Horsington

(source: Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record)

SMR No.	NGR (all TF)	Description
40071	1932 6814	Moat House, site of water-filled moat
40072	1650 6650	polished Neolithic/Bronze Age stone axe, found c. 1953
40073	1774 6829	six Roman pots found 1880
40074	1960 6760	Tail end of Mere Balk Way, now represented by hedge line.
40076	1929 6870	Roman bronze seal ring from paddock beside church, 1976
40077	1500 6500	Two Roman coins, 1976
40078	1920 6861	Undated industrial activity
40079	1500 6500	Bronze Age flanged axe, found Horsington Holmes 1932
40080	1945 6784	Mapleton Farm, possible site of grange; possible moat
40081	1778 6781	prehistoric or medieval ditched feature around site of All Hallows church
40082	1778 6781	cropmarks of ?medieval settlement site
40083	1752 6237	late Bronze Age spearhead
40084	1746 6242	Anglo-Saxon metalwork from river
40087	2028 6774; 2025 6775	site of deserted medieval settlement of Poolham, with chapel and remains of font
40090	1783 6169	Bronze Age axe
40381, 40382	2030 6772	site of Poolham DMV
42985	1870 6760	Horsington Wood, partly probable ancient woodland
43569	1778 6781	site of All Hallows Church
43784	1877 6809	scatter of slag in field

THE FIGURES

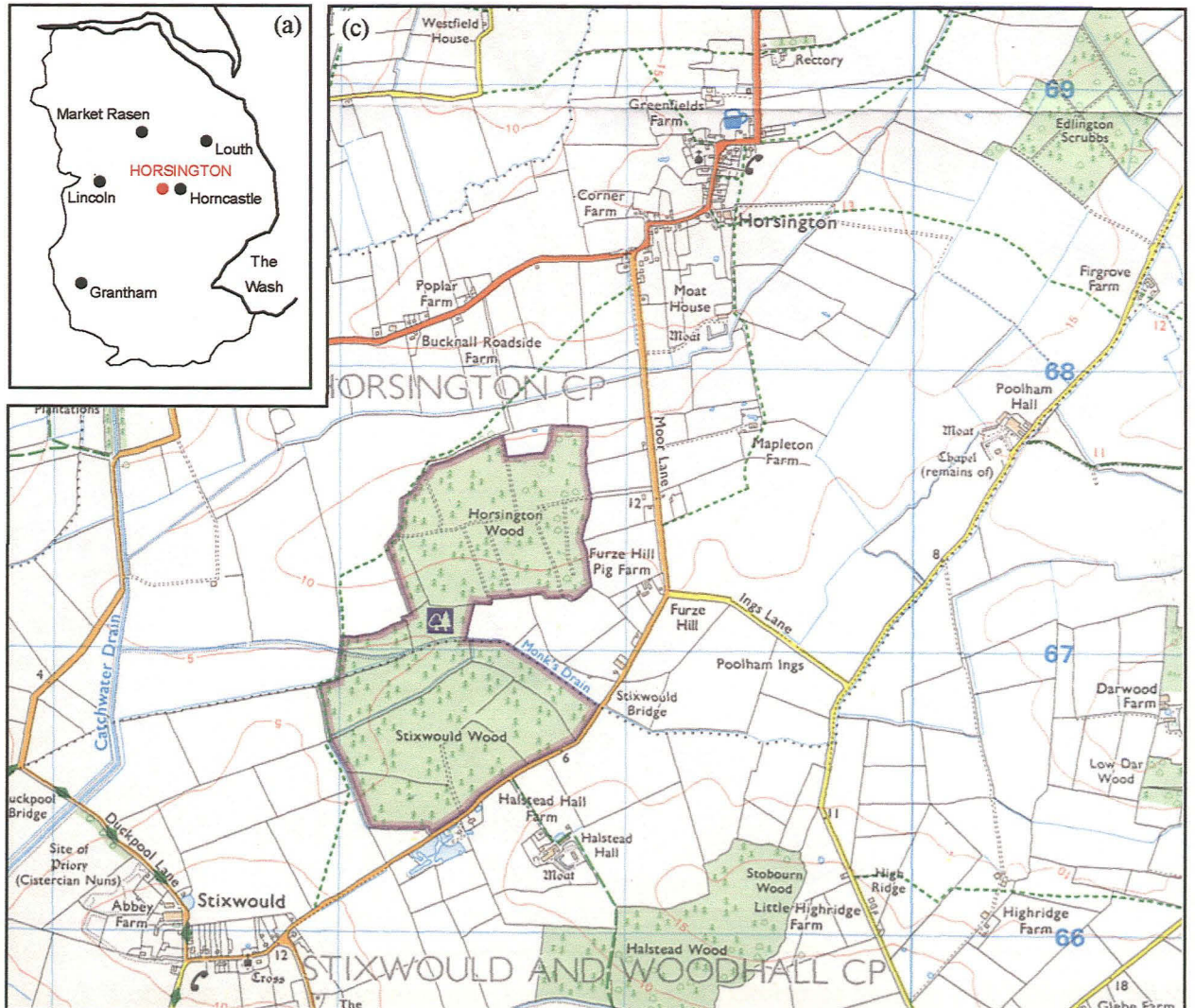
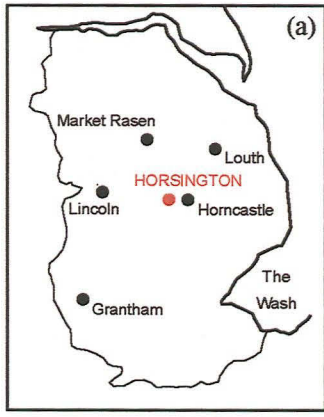


Fig 1. Location of Horncastle. (C based on the 1999 Ordnance Survey Explorer map, Sheet 273. ©Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).



Fig. 2 Location of the application site (based on the 1983 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map, Sheet TF 16 NE. © Crown copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).

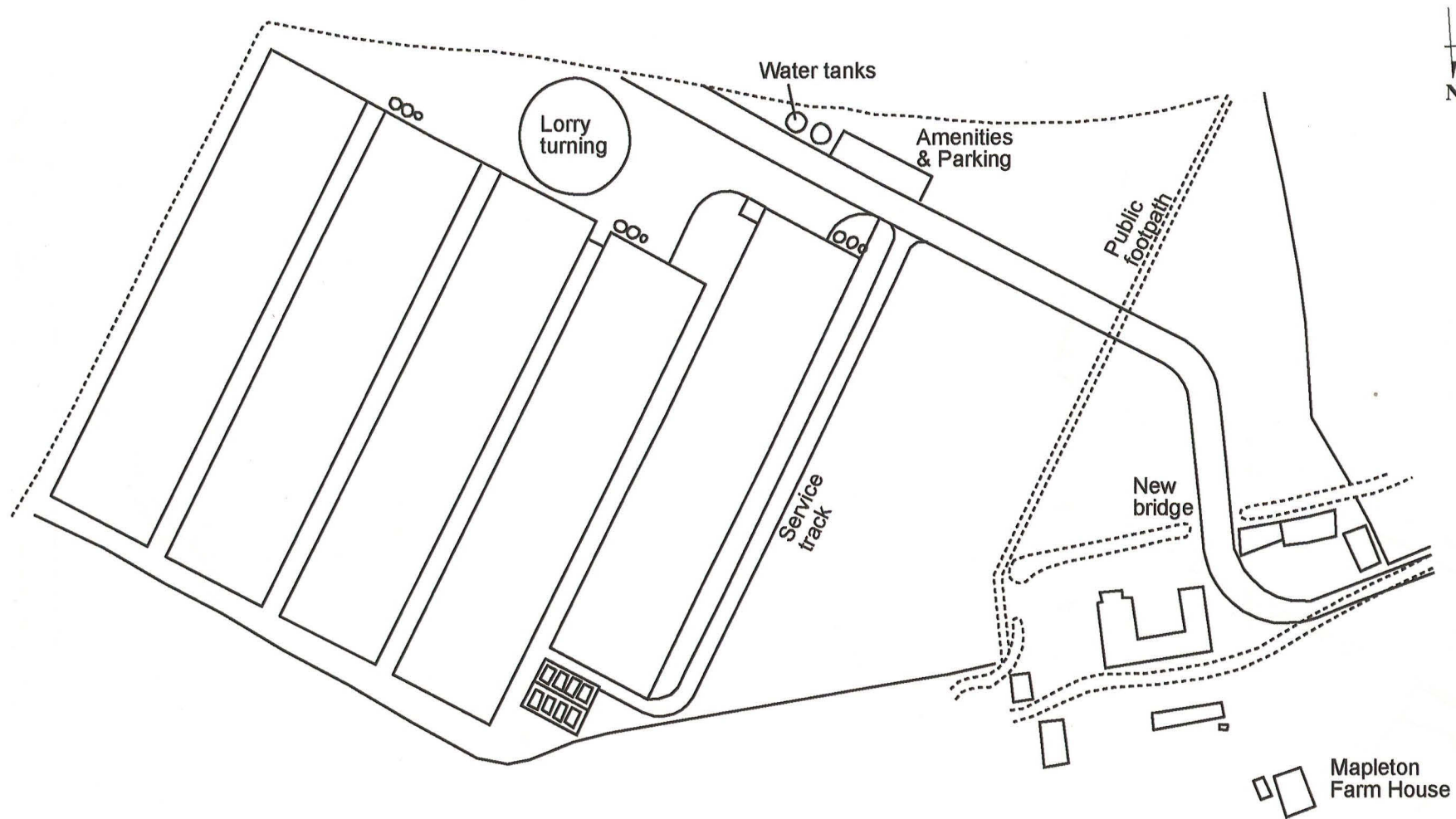


Fig 3. Proposed site layout (reproduced at reduced scale from a draft plan supplied by the client, L&DC dwg. no. 446A-01).





Fig 4. Traced extract from the 1775 Enclosure Plan of Horsington (LAO Lindsey Award 36).



THE PLATES



Pl. 1 View of the application site, looking east from a soil mound.



Pl. 2 Eastern boundary of the application site (looking NE along the line of a probable Roman road).