

# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
OF LAND ADJACENT CASEWICK LANE,  
TALLINGTON, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**AUGUST 1994**

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ADDENDUM

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY**

**December 1994**

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## ABSTRACT

*The following assessment details the state of archaeological knowledge of land adjacent to Casewick Lane and Main Road, Tallington Lincs (A16). While the area lies within a landscape rich in archaeological remains as denoted chiefly by aerial photographs, the particular parcel of land contains only a few such cropmarks denoting former field boundaries, possible recent building remains and two sub-circular features of indeterminate date and function.*

### 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Outline planning permission is to be sought from South Kesteven District Council for the residential development of part of OS land parcel 1215, adjoining Casewick Lane and Main Road, Tallington, Lincs (centred upon NGR: TF 0910 0815; Fig 1).
- 1.2 The present report has been commissioned by Stoneleigh Planning Partnership as agents for the applicant. It fulfils the requirement of stage 1 of archaeological evaluation requested by the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist in an archaeological project brief dated May 1994.
- 1.3 Tallington lies in an area of known prehistoric activity which has been heavily researched for a period of over 30 years. The Welland valley is rich in related remains, particularly of a ceremonial nature, stretching over a period of at least four thousand years.
- 1.4 The modern village lies upon Jurassic Lower Lias Clay with occasional limestone bands, known as the Kellaways Clay, overlain by fen and river terrace gravels of Pleistocene or more recent date

(OS Geological map, Solid and Drift, sheet 157; cf Hains and Horton 1969, 101). There is no aerial photographic evidence of deposits of alluvium north of the A16 road and the clarity of cropmark evidence suggests that most of the intervening area to the modern course of the River Welland is likewise unaffected by such material.

1.5 The extent of alluvium can be gauged from aerial photographs TF 0807/10/260-1 (24/7/1986), lying close to the banks of the modern (straightened) course of the River Welland. The deposits extend only as far north as the Parish Church. The date of their deposition is uncertain.

1.6 Previous research on the archaeology of Tallington has been carried out against a background of the increasing denudation of the archaeological resource, under the pressure of development-related gravel extraction since the 1940s.

1.7 Following the highlighting of the problem by the RCHME publication A matter of time (1960), much fieldwork has been carried out in the wider area, but almost always within a site-specific rescue or salvage framework as individual minerals-related planning applications have arisen. Modern excavation has been confined to sites to the east and north of the village (Fenland Archaeological Trust 1993).

## 2. SCOPE

2.1 The present assessment considers the wider context of the historic landscape of Tallington as part of the lower Welland valley.

2.2 Research for this assessment has collated material from the following sources:

- Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record
- Lincolnshire Archives Office
- Heritage Lincolnshire



- Aerial photographs in NMR (Swindon) for RCHME; (Fig 3)
- Aerial photographs in NMR from Bromwich Collection (available for consultation but not released);
- Aerial photographs in CUCAP Cambridge.
- Published material
- Site visit on 2 August 1994

### 3. CARTOGRAPHY

- 3.1 The Tallington enclosure award of 1813 is the only historic map relevant to the area of the assessment (Fig 2, after Lincs Archives - 2 Cragg 2/2/70). Although unscaled, it clearly shows that the application site was more closely subdivided than it is today. Other defunct field-boundaries are shown as recently as the OS 6 inch map of 1958 (TF 00 NE), and two can still be discerned as slight rises running from north-east to south-west in the centre of the application site.
- 3.2 Between 1813 and 1958 subdivision of the Main Road (A16) frontages removed two former east-west parcels at the angle with Casewick Lane. Also, some of the former lands of Joseph Bellars - parcel 5 in 1813 - which covered 3a 2r 28p (approximately 1.3ha) and stretched back from Main Road, has become subsumed in the present land parcel OS 1215 of just under 6 acres (approximately 2.4ha).
- 3.3 The only adjacent historic buildings are a group which forms part of the residence now known as 'Greystones'. In 1958 it was the Post Office but earlier in 1813 had comprised a more widespread complex of structures owned by Joseph Bellars (Figs 2-3). The remains of some of the buildings may lie buried in OS 1215 immediately behind 'Greystones'.

#### 4. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND SMR INFORMATION (Fig 3)

4.1 The area has been overflown for aerial photography on a number of occasions in the last 15-20 years, as part of research carried out in the wider area for the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England.

4.2 Relevant aerial photographs held in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record have been consulted. The archaeological cropmarks shown to best effect have been computer-rectified and plotted relative to the OS national grid by Northamptonshire Heritage.

4.3 A low-angle photograph taken in 1977 looking east shows cropmarks chiefly in OS land parcels 9286 and 0005 (NMR TF 0808/3; information in Fig 3). In the south-east corner of land parcel OS 1215 the cropmarks of a possible henge monument have been identified (Archaeol. Lincs. 1988-9, 20-1 & fig 20; SMR 34017). While such a feature would not be out of place, the interpretation of the monument type from the photographic evidence alone is only tentative due to the low angle of view and the lack of corroborative evidence. As photographed the cropmark is both oblique and distant, so that its rectified plot in Fig 3 gives a somewhat elliptical plan. Geophysical survey confirms that its real shape is indeed more circular (Northamptonshire Archaeology 1994).

4.4 Cropmarks recorded in adjacent fields, comprise:

<u>OS.</u>	<u>NGR</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>DETAILS</u> +
0005	TF 0880 0800	33141	South and east sides of a large enclosure with a possible entrance on the south side. Undated. (AP TF 0807/1,2 (1986), 0808/3).
0005	TF 0895 0815	33124	West side of a large rectangular enclosure with slightly curved corners and entrance towards the north end of the west side. (AP TF 0807/1,2 (1986)).
2935	TF 0925 0837	33208	Double ring-ditch with traces of pits at centre. Narrow inner and wide outer ditches (AP TF 0809/7-8). NB: no photograph was traced at the NMR, apart from one of 1984 which showed a different area.



2935 TF 0910 0850 33622 Rectangular and linear cropmarks and enclosures leading from circular area, a linear cropmark and a possible roadway, other cropmarks adjacent (APs TF 0908/1 (CUCAP DA-53\*), TF 0908/8 (Bromwich Colln#)).

2935 TF 0910 0850 33623 Former ridge and furrow cultivation (APs SF 1195/26-8, TF 0908/1 (CUCAP DA-53\*), TF 0908/8 (Bromwich Colln#)).

+ Descriptions follow those in the Lincolnshire SMR.

\* This photograph is wrongly attributed, and does not appear to show any cropmarks in the vicinity of sites 33622 or 33623. Instead, it shows sites at TF 0960 0890.

# The originator of the Bromwich Collection died some years ago, apparently not having made provision for the future curation of his collection of aerial photographs. The NMR is unable to gain permission to release copies of the relevant photographs.

4.5 Other information held by Lincolnshire SMR and the NMR complements the picture of a palimpsest of settlement extending from the Neolithic period to the Middle Ages, when the present village began to evolve. It comprises:

<u>NGR</u>	<u>PRN</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>
TF 0905 0850	33142	Cropmarks and earthworks, possibly associated with the medieval village (AP TF 0808/3).
TF 0898 0784	33148	Small square cropmarked enclosure with associated pit (AP TF 0808/3).
TF 0890 0780	33150	Cropmarks of a pit alignment, c300m long (AP TF 0808/3).
TF 0892 0788	33174	Cropmark of ring-ditch with associated pit (AP TF 0808/3).
TF 0889 0781	33176	Cropmark of ring-ditch (AP TF 0808/3).
TF 0880 0785	33178	Cropmark of ring-ditch with associated pit (AP TF 0808/3).
TF 0860 0780	33500	Cropmark of large ring-ditch, part of wider complex of cropmarks including 33150, 33174, 33176, and 33178 (AP TF 0808/3).
TF 0930 0800	33511	Anglo-Saxon inhumations, accompanied by grave-goods. Further burials extend to TF 0950 0850; also Saxo-Norman pits ( <u>E Midlands Archaeol Bull</u> 8 (1965), 27 and 9 (1966), 31).
TF 0927 0791	33513	Discovery of Roman pottery and coins of Valens (364-78 AD); also medieval pottery.
TF 0910 0780	33517	Romano-British bronze statuette found in Churchyard, now in City and County Museum, Lincoln (LM 18.48).
TF 0940 0790	33519	Remains of fire-damaged medieval building found during redevelopment.

## 5. DISCUSSION

- 5.1 Very few cropmarks are present in the application site and map evidence suggests that some are the vestiges of relatively recent field-layouts. They are shown in Fig 3, and should not be confused with more ancient remains.
- 5.2 The cropmark tentatively identified as hengiform in the south-east corner of the application site remains unproven and its interpretation is equivocal.
- 5.3 The application site is presently farmed within an arable regime which has continued since at least the 1970s as shown by aerial photographs. Traces of former ridge and furrow cultivation are also present. The underlying archaeological remains have therefore been subject to repeated ploughing, possibly with features truncated or scraped away. In such circumstances, any remains may not be of the highest quality.
- 5.4 Cropmarks comprising sites 33208, 33622, and 33623 have not been rectified or plotted as some of the relevant aerial photographs were unavailable for release by the NMR and others had been wrongly attributed to this grid reference. Conversely, other cropmarks have been rectified and plotted which were not previously recorded. A major cropmark complex of linear ditches and enclosures has been rectified and plotted west and north-west of TF 087 080 (plots in archive).
- 5.5 The nature and date of the remains denoted by the cropmarks cannot be accurately assessed without excavation. However, previous archaeological excavation to the east and north-east of Tallington suggests that sites 33124 and 33141 may represent farmstead enclosures of late Iron Age to early Roman date (cf Simpson 1966, sites 35 and 37). A similar enclosure may lie at TF 0865 0835. The pit alignment (site 33150) may be Iron Age on the evidence of other examples in the Welland and Nene valleys (Jackson 1974).



5.6 The ring ditches of sites 33176, 33178 and 33500, with the last two containing central pits, may represent ploughed-out barrows of Bronze Age origin. The surrounding linear cropmarks together with the pit alignment (33150) could either represent contemporary boundaries or later features which took account of the existing earthworks.

5.7 The cropmark of site 34017, previously identified as a possible hengiform monument in OS land parcel 1215, might also be seen as the ring ditch of a Bronze Age barrow. Its size is comparable with those at sites 33176, 33178 and 33500 and its seemingly interrupted ditch might be the result of intensive ploughing. Two nearby cropmarks may be related respectively to the 'Greystones' building complex, and a possible small ring ditch to the west.

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Northamptonshire Archaeology, a service of Northamptonshire County Council Planning and Transportation Department. 7 December 1994.

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## SCHEDULE OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig 1: Tallington, the application area

Fig 2: Tallington, detail of enclosure map 1813.

Fig 3: Tallington, plots of rectified cropmarks, together SMR-based information and relevant former field boundaries.

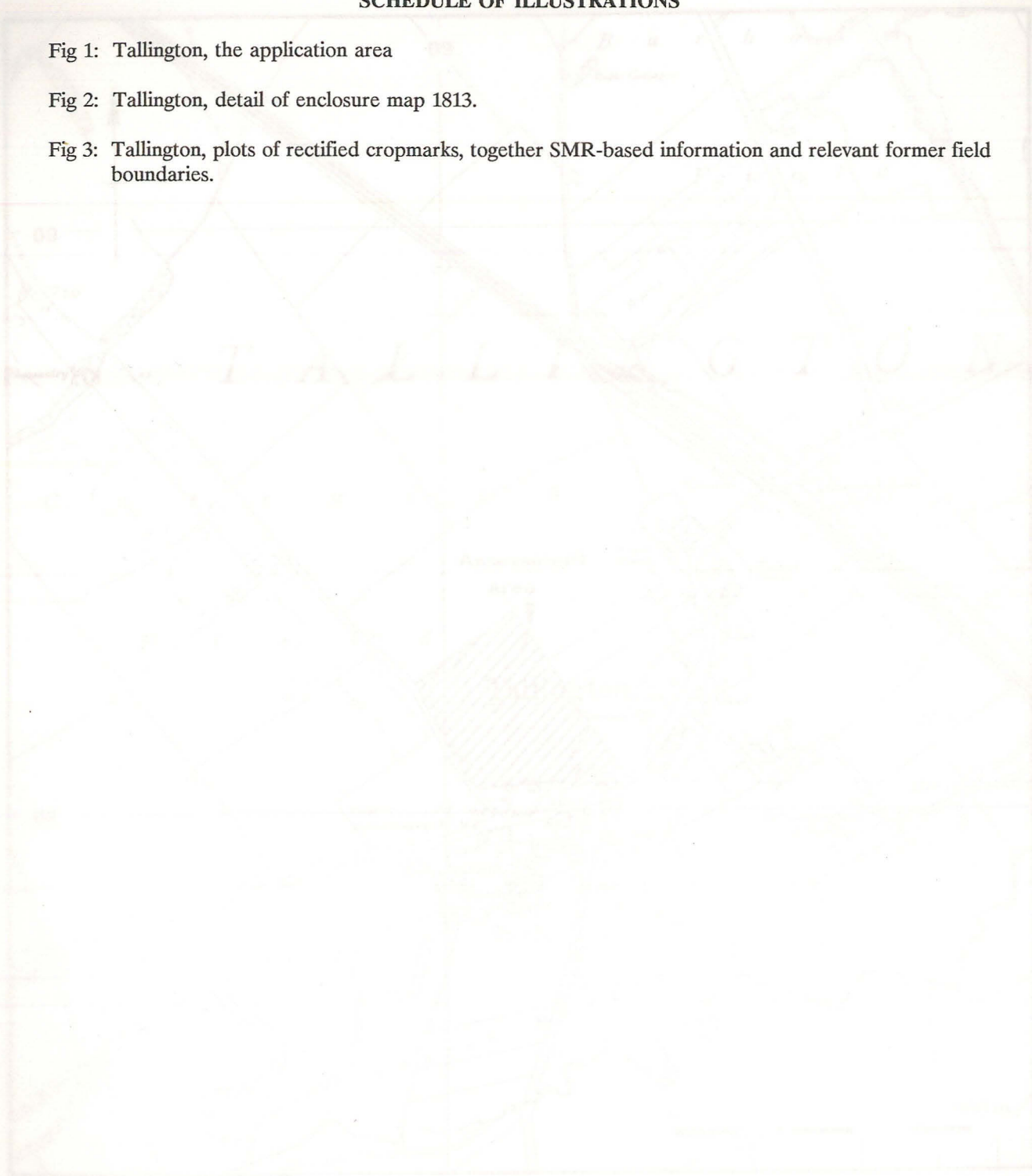


Fig 1: Tallington, the application area

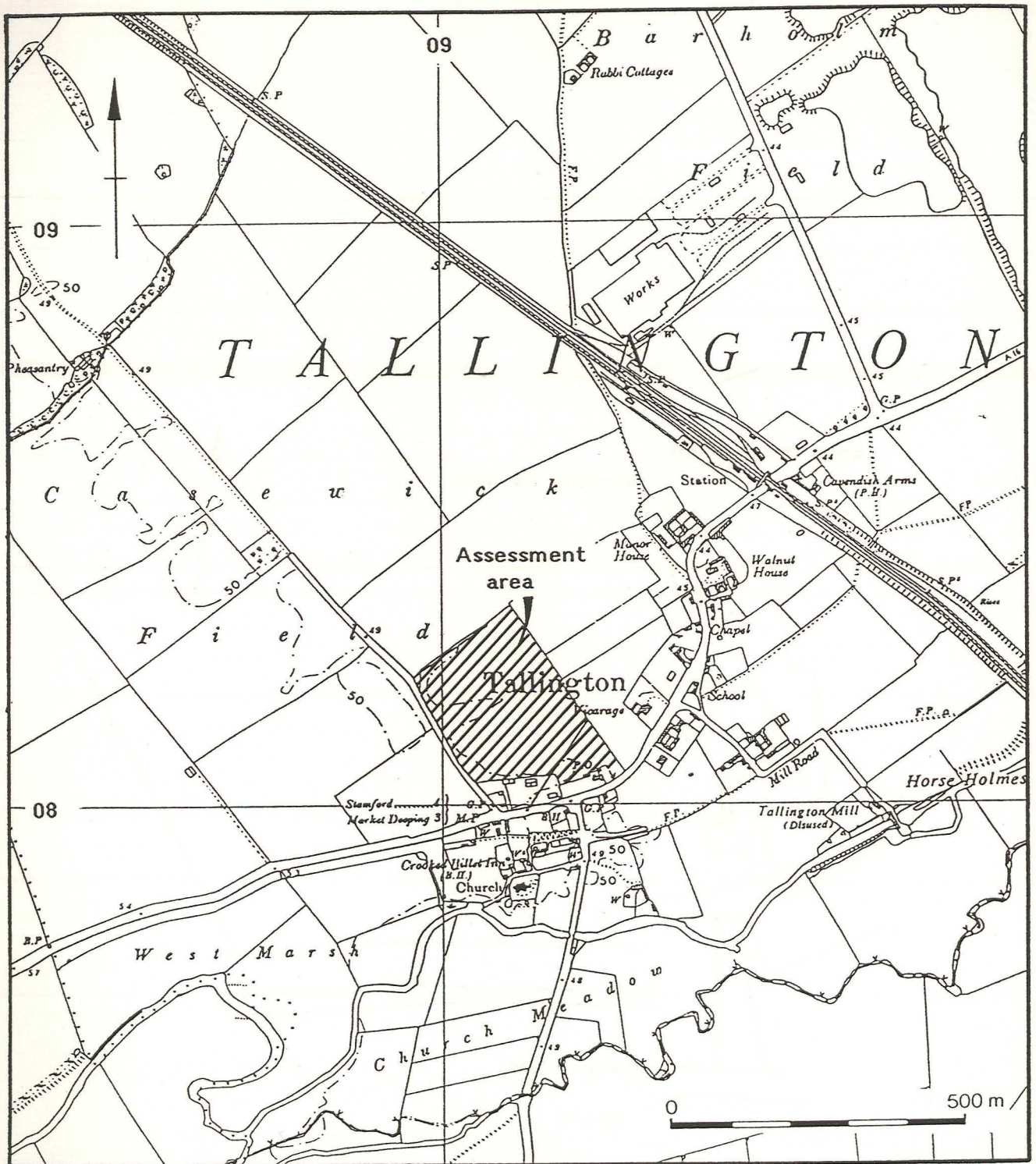


Fig 1: Tallington, the application area



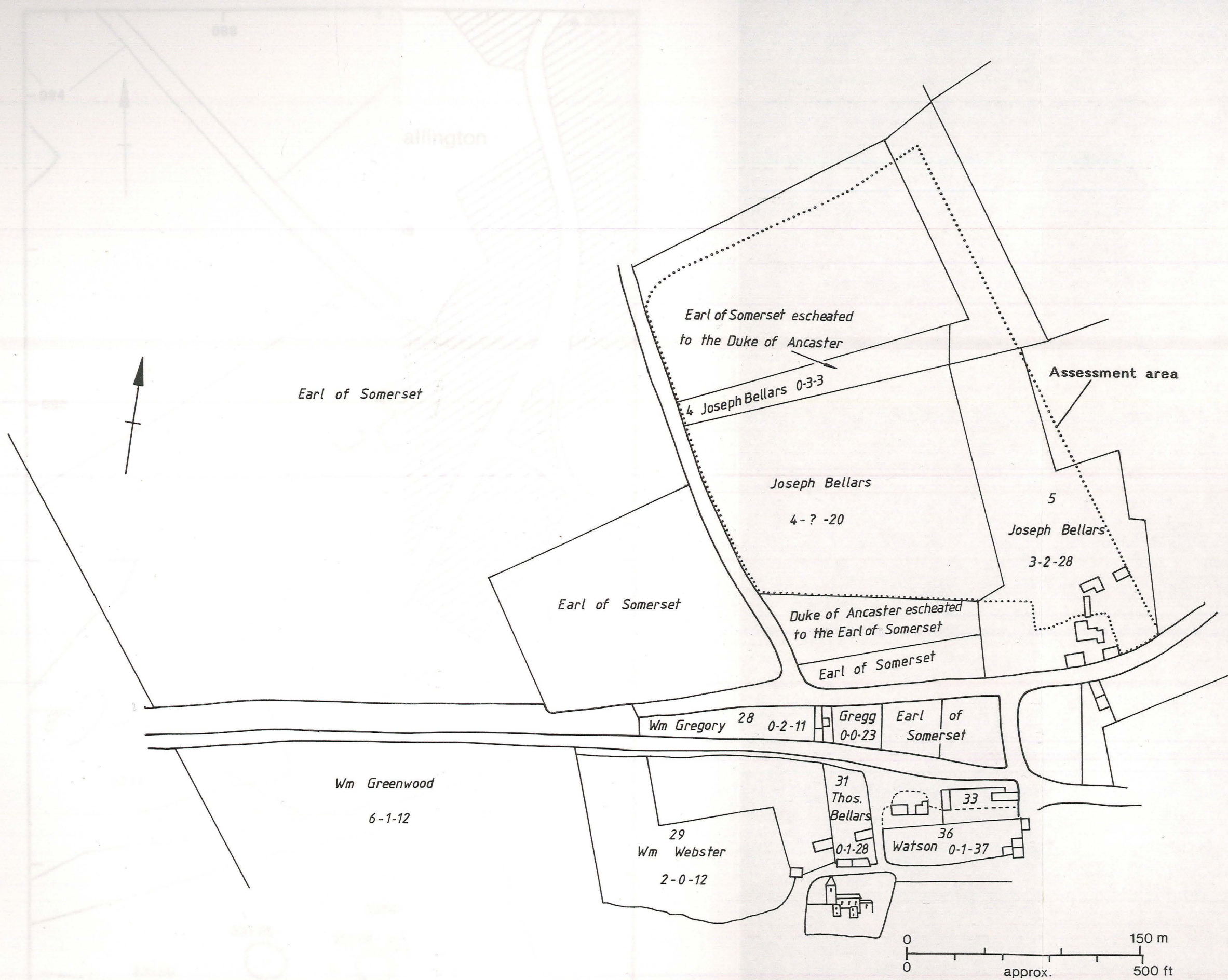


Fig 2: Tallington, detail of enclosure map 1813.



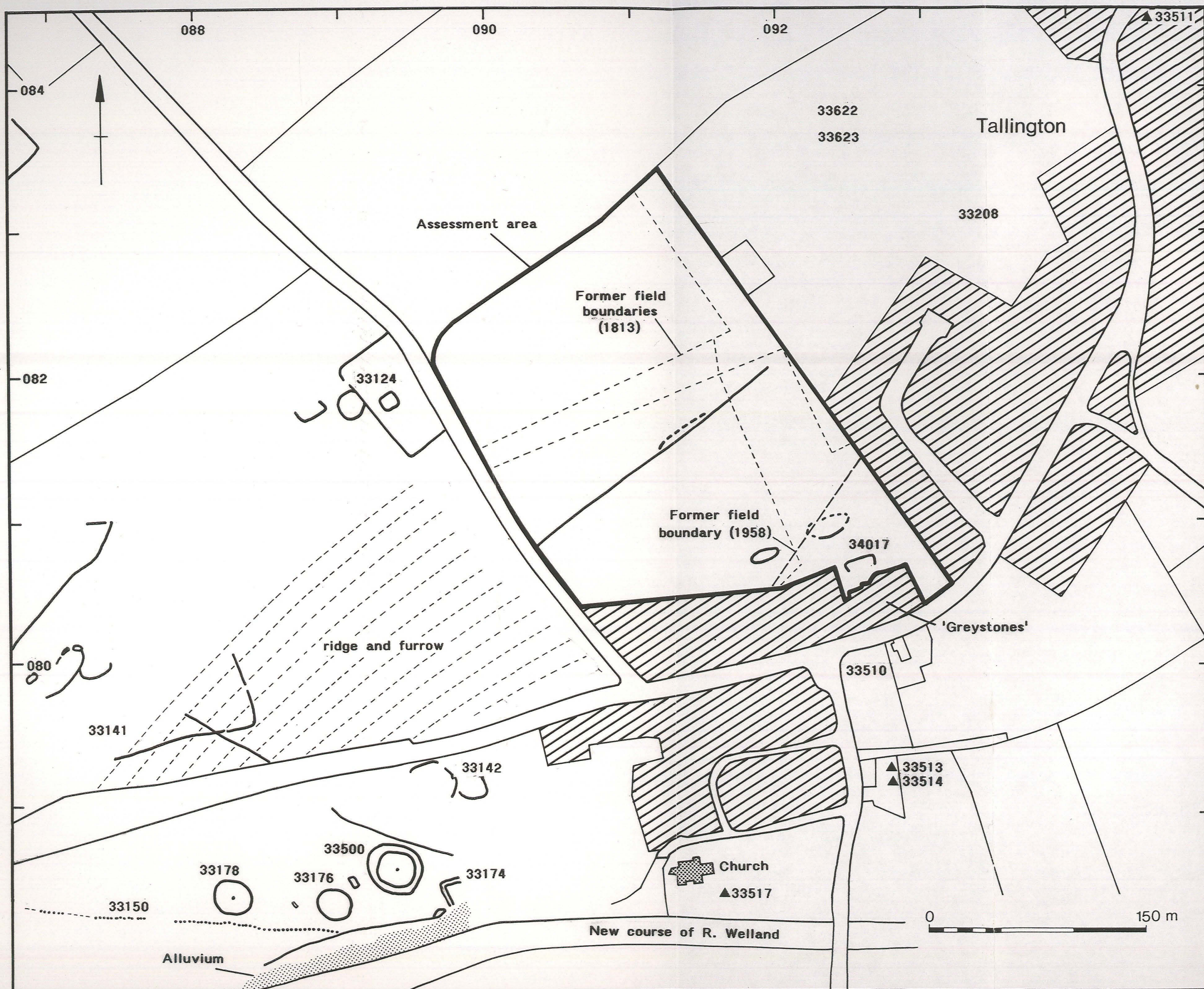


Fig 3: Tallington, plots of rectified cropmarks, together SMR-based information and relevant former field boundaries.