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# LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**The Calceby (Lincolnshire) Rebuild Project:**

**Archaeological Monitoring during the Renewal of the  
Electricity Transmission Network in parts of  
Driby, Calceby and South Ormsby**

**(LNCCC Museum Accession No. 4.95)**

**REPORT FOR**

**EAST MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY plc**

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## The Calceby (Lincolnshire) Rebuild Project:

### Archaeological Monitoring during the Renewal of the Electricity Transmission Network in parts of Driby, Calceby and South Ormsby

(LNCCC Museum Accession No. 4.95)

#### **Summary**

*Mechanical excavation of 37 holes for replacement electricity transmission poles and stays monitored in the vicinity of known archaeological remains did little damage to archaeological features in three Lincolnshire Wolds parishes, although a metallised surface was truncated and medieval pottery sherds were disturbed in 3 holes. Land beside the holes contained earthworks thought to be from deserted, migrated or shrunken medieval village features, including house sites, roads, fishponds and cultivated fields. Inspection of ploughed ground, molehills and other slight ground disturbances produced prehistoric, medieval and later artefacts.*

#### **Introduction**

The Calceby Rebuild project represented part of an extensive programme of renewal and re-alignment of overhead electricity transmission lines, conducted in 1994-5 by East Midlands Electricity. A replacement network of timber poles and 11kv cables was established before existing poles were decommissioned and removed. During the consultation stage of the project Lincolnshire County Council's Assistant Archaeology Officer, providing planning/curatorial advice for East Lindsey District Council, noted that holes for new poles in three specified sections of the scheme lay within areas of medieval settlement earthworks and requested that they should be dug in the presence of an archaeologist (Fig. 1).

East Midlands Electricity Plc commissioned Lindsey Archaeological Services to conduct an archaeological watching brief within the specified sections. Fieldwork took place intermittently between 16th January 1995 and 2nd February, in dry weather but after considerable rain. The project code for all 3 parishes was CER 95.

#### **Archaeological and Historical Background**

All three parishes were part of the South Riding of Lindsey but lay at the periphery of three Danish wapentake divisions (Foster and Longley 1924).

The settlement of **Driby** was recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey in the Candleshoe wapentake as consisting of land for 5 plough teams and contained a mill. The earthworks (Medieval Village Research Group no. Lincs. 1299) have been disturbed by later quarrying but few building remains have been recognised (Figs. 2 and 3). The 1988 RCHM DMVRG summary listing categorised the village remains as C (poor condition; vague bumps

making no certain pattern). Cropmarks of undated linear ditches have been recorded on air photographs from land to the south of the medieval village remains.

During the watching brief, the tenant farmer at Driby recollected the disturbance of a human skeleton during ditch scouring between Driby and Brinkhill some years previously by another farmer. The find was reported to the Police but no action was taken as it was thought to be of 'Roman' date.

The medieval settlement of **Calceby** lay within the wapentake of Calcewath, and was mentioned in the Domesday Survey. An undetermined area was held by the Bishop of Durham and some land was also held by Lord Hugh. In 1377 60 inhabitants paid poll tax, and 18 families were recorded in 1563. The last recorded priest at the 13th century church (St. Andrew's) was instituted between 1540-70. A plague pit found during road widening in 1952 may indicate one reason of population decline.

Depopulation of Calceby parish seems to have continued during the 17th century when a total of 20 farms were abandoned by the landowners; the open fields were enclosed on behalf of Sir Drayner Massingberd in a process beginning in November 1672 (LAO MM4/22). Between 1603 and 1705 the congregation fell from 35 communicants to 3 families (Hill 1956, 141). The church building had fallen into serious disrepair before much of the fabric was dismantled in 1756 and sold to the South Ormsby estate (Massingberd 1887, 321). Three 14th-15th century thatched cottages remained in 1964 (OS field notes). By 1988, the village earthworks (Medieval Village Research Group no. Lincs. 1273) were assessed as Grade A : very good pattern of roads and crofts but no house sites visible (RCHM 1988).

The parishes of the monitored works were part of The Massingberd Estate, which owned 2,600 acres (1,050 ha) in South Ormsby by 1660. Further lands in Driby (575 ha by 1714) and Calceby were added. The open fields were laid to pasture by Sir Drayner Massingberd, and former sheep walks were put to arable use.

Between 1562 and 1723, Horncastle, Spilsby and Louth were growing and the neighbouring villages were experiencing a population fall, mainly as a result of enclosing land for sheep rearing. Cattle from Scotland being herded towards English markets were permitted to graze in the Wolds. The earliest noted example of stock driven to the London Smithfield market from Ormsby was in the 1740s although half a century earlier there was at least a local droving trade. This situation encouraged the decline of arable cultivation, and up until about 1728 the Massingberd estate was at the forefront of agricultural change (Beastall 1978, 14-18). Another aspect of the agricultural changes in Lincolnshire in the early 18th century was the removal of dwellings which might otherwise have been used by squatters or the poor; this reduced the potential costs of paying relief to an estate. The policy until 1865 when responsibility for providing relief was passed to Union Boards via the Union Chargeability Act (Beastall 1978, 219). In South Ormsby in 1711 the decision

was taken to limit cottages on the estate to those directly needed to house labour for the estate and its tenants (Beastall 1978, 114).

Air photographs show cropmarks of possible prehistoric ring ditches to the SE of Calceby Manor, and an Early Bronze Age stone wrist guard was found north of Calceby Manor in 1957.

**South Ormsby**, (part of the wapentake of Hill) was in multiple tenure at the time of the Domesday Survey. The Archbishop of York had half a carucate of sokeland; Earl Hugh held a manor (including a mill) and Norman de Arci held two manors. South Ormsby was privately enclosed in a process beginning in 1647. The medieval village site was not included in the RCHM listing.

In 1910 '2 or 3' Roman coins from South Ormsby were reported (SMR parish folder). Remains of an 'encampment', about 1ha in area, were noted in the late 19th century close to Campaign Farm (White 1882, 620). The site was described as including three mounds; Roman coins and large blocks of sandstone had been found. It was claimed that the farm had been named after the 'Roman' camp but that a local tradition maintained that Cromwell had also lodged troops on the site during the Civil War. During the watching brief the author was told of troops lodged at Driby Manor; perhaps a corruption of the same tradition.

### **The Watching Brief**

Archaeological monitoring was by the author, and took the form observing the material removed from the hole and recording the nature of the deposits encountered. Each hole was excavated rapidly using a JCB with 0.5m wide toothed bucket. The pole was immediately inserted into the hole and backfilled; the trench was usually open for 5 minutes or less. The EME construction team were willing to pause when required but the archaeologist endeavoured to complete necessary recording without causing any delay.

The thickness of each layer present was recorded, together with a brief description, on LAS Observation Record Forms which have been devised especially for watching briefs where both archaeological and relevant natural features may be identified. Measurements were taken from the ground surface and for safety reasons no attempt was made to enter the 2m deep, 0.5m wide trenches. Where appropriate, photographs were taken of the hole face and its surroundings but it was frequently impossible to take the optimum picture because of the necessary angle. Each pole or stay hole observed was allocated a sequential number prefixed with the Project Code allocated by the Lincoln City and County Museum: **CER 95** (Calceby Electricity Rebuild 1995). The position of each numbered hole has been indicated on Figs. 2, 4 and 5 which mark the position of existing and new electricity poles together with the alignment of transmission cables. Where archaeological finds were made close to a new pole site but not in that pole, the finds list records the location (Appendix 2).



## **Driby**

1. The first hole monitored at Driby was against a hedge at the northern side of grassland east of a small stream (Pls. 1 and 2). The hole cut through 0.2m of topsoil, above 1.45m of brown clay loam with chalk inclusions (Pls. 3 and 4). The lowest layer revealed was a dark brown clay with few chalk pieces which extended below the trench base. No finds were found in or beside this hole.

2. The hole was excavated through a sprouting crop on a hillside, close to a slight linear depression thought to be a glacial feature (Pls. 5 and 6). The topsoil was deeper in this field (0.3m) covering a light brown clay loam and brown clay before reaching chalky boulder-clay at 0.95m below the surface. A worked flint was recovered from the field surface close to the hole.

3. This pole was erected in the same pasture field as 1, but about 110m further to the east (Pl. 7). It was situated on a narrow slightly raised area thought to be an old bank, beside a east-west linear depression 5m wide to the north that seemed to be a drainage or boundary ditch. To the south of the pole the ground sloped down to a small stream, with another lesser but parallel depression 2.5m wide about 2m from the pole. The hole cut through similar deposits to 1 and 2 but encountered grey laminated clay at 1.2m down instead of boulder-clay (Pl. 8). This was interpreted as a natural formation in a broad peri-glacial stream channel.

4. 80m to the east, a trench dug for a pole-supporting stay 3m west of the road located boulder-clay mixed with brown clay 1m below the surface.

## **Calceby**

5. The hole was dug on the eastern roadside verge, east of the field containing the ruins of St. Andrew's Church (Pl. 9), and in a deep cutting. Below the turf, the section revealed 0.4m of dark brown sandy loam with small fragments of chalk. One animal bone, a fragment of roof tile and a 18-19th century brick was found in that soil. Below that layer, and extending beyond the trench base, was a very light brown sand layer (Pl. 10).

6. The hole in the eastern verge close to 'Hillcrest' was cut through topsoil immediately above the light brown sand, but the upper 0.5m contained charcoal flecks (Pl. 11).

7. On the western verge, NW of 'Hillcrest' the topsoil overlay clean light brown sand. At the top the grain size seemed very fine, becoming coarser towards the trench base (Pl. 12). Three post-medieval pottery sherds were found in the topsoil.

8. This hole was not inspected.

9. The hole was sited on the eastern roadside verge, close to a sharp divergence in the road alignment. The topsoil overlay very fine sand which contained small quantities of gravel.

10. Within the arable field to the east of the road was a linear ridge that seemed to represent a partly-levelled bank, continuing the north-south alignment of the road to Calceby from the bend and extending 70m into the field. The bank ended where the ground dropped noticeably towards the north.

Pole 10 was positioned in the field boundary immediately below the ridge but located nothing other than light brown sand.

11. The pole was erected on a broad flat verge south of the A16 Louth-Boston road. The junction (with the road to Calceby and a turning to South Thoresby) appeared to have been improved this century with a re-alignment of the approaches of the two side roads and a removal of land to create a better sightline (Pl. 13). It is possible that the ground had been raised or lowered, but the latter seemed more probable.

The hole cut through topsoil above 0.16m of chalky clay which may have been re-deposited. Between 0.3m and 0.95m below the present verge surface sand was recorded, but this was found to cover 0.1m of peat with twigs and fragments of small branches (Pl. 14). The base of the hole was in a peaty sand deposit.

The observations in the vicinity of the junction are superficially all of a geological nature but they highlighted an anomaly. To the west of the Calceby road junction is a deep hollow with standing water and willow trees, over which the A16 Trunk road appears to have been constructed (Pl. 15) At first glance the feature was interpreted as a former quarry (for sand or chalk?) but it was later realised that two streams converge east of The Grange and a third joins Calceby Beck SW of the road junction. In the light of that detail it is suspected that the modern streams occupy a broad former channel which has been exaggerated by later quarrying. An earlier road alignment crossing the beck is indicated on the 1955 OS map (Fig. 1).

12. Bluestone Heath Road deflects abruptly around earthworks of the shrunken village of Calceby (SMR 42444; Pls. 16-19). The ancient road alignment may continue across the pasture field, beside a small stream with steep banks, to rejoin the existing road to the west but that is uncertain. Hole 12 was dug in the pasture field SW of the present Calceby Manor road junction. The section indicated 0.5m of brown loam below the topsoil, above 0.4m of yellow clay and with a mixed clay and sand deposit extending below the trench base.

13. This was sited 100m SW of the church ruins and cut through pasture (Pl. 21). The hole face showed 0.3m of topsoil, covering 1.1m of orange/brown hoggin. At 1.4m below the surface grey clay was encountered, and orange

running sand was present at the trench base (2m). The grey clay was thought to be associated with the broad natural valley to the west.

Two pottery sherds were found in this hole, one Saxo-Norman in date, the other medieval.

14. The hole was dug on the field boundary south of Bluestone Heath Road. The topsoil sealed brown sand with a loam content to 1.3m below the surface, beneath which was yellow sand.

\* Two sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery were found in this hole together with 5 medieval sherds including a Lincoln Ware jug rim and the base of a Cistercian Ware cup, from Derbyshire or Yorkshire. There were also 4 sherds of post-medieval pottery.

15. Another location to the south-east of Hole 14 revealed a more complicated stratigraphy, but was the first example at Calceby to reach the chalk. Topsoil overlay 0.45m of brown loam, above 0.65m of light brown sand. A sandy clay layer 0.4m thick separated the brown sand from a 0.2m thick brown clay layer, below which was chalk. The clay band could represent a glacial deposit, but the sandier soils presumably originate from a large post-glacial watercourse.

16. Three holes were monitored in the pasture field between Calceby Beck and The Grange farmhouse and barns; this field was beyond the initially defined limit of the sensitive area but contained remains of medieval fishponds and ridge and furrow cultivation earthworks extending from the Beck to the farmhouse.

Hole 16 was positioned on one of the north-south aligned plough ridges which appeared to respect (and therefore be contemporary with or later than) the fishponds (Pl. 23). The ridge also seemed to act as the eastern side of a linear feature thought to represent a ditch or even a small fish pond rather than a furrow. The hole cut through 0.3m of topsoil above 0.6m of brown clay loam, which covered 0.4m of orange/brown clay (Pl. 24). Beneath the clay was a grey/brown silt layer, 0.3m thick, which merged into a 0.3m deposit of coarser material containing fine chalk lumps and fine gravel. At 1.9m below the present surface, a deposit of peat containing twigs was exposed extending below the trench base.

The sequence was interpreted as the result of three changes to the local landscape: originally the land had either formed part of the broad post-glacial watercourse now surviving as Calceby Beck or had been beside the channel. As a result of poor drainage peat had formed, which may have been flooded by alluvial deposits from the adjacent stream. During the medieval period the land was used for a complex of fish ponds (supplying fish to the manor) fed by the contemporary beck; upcast from a servicing channel or a small fish pond formed a ridge which was maintained and increased by plough action

when the channel became redundant. The present width of the plough ridge crests was 5m and the furrow width between crests was about 9m.

Three fish ponds remain in this field as well-defined depressions containing water after heavy rains (Fig. 3, Pls. 25 and 26). The bank between the ponds contains much chalk rubble but no medieval pottery was evident where the soil was visible. No chalk was reached in the electricity pole hole, so either the ponds were originally cut to considerably greater depths or chalk was introduced to form durable banks.

17. Hole 17 was higher up the slope, on the side of a plough ridge to the east of the farm buildings. The topsoil overlay 0.9m of mid brown loam, above 0.4m of a yellow mixed deposit containing mostly clay but some sand. The thickness of the upper loam may be the product of soil movement down the slope. At 1.5m below the surface a cleaner yellow sandy clay was reached, which became waterlogged at 2m.

A single sherd of post-medieval pottery was found in this hole.

- \* 18. The hole closest to The Grange farmhouse cut through slight traces of west-east aligned ridge and furrow cultivation remains which extended north of the house as far east as an abrupt slope. Below the topsoil a brown sand containing some gravel became lighter with depth, with a slight clay texture noticeable at the trench base (2m). Fine chalky gravel was observed at the west end of the trench but this was suspected to be redeposited within a nearby land drain.

On the southern side of Bluestone Heath Road, an inspection of molehills across the pasture field with earthworks resulted in the collection of medieval pottery sherds. The sections of the high ground cut by a small stream contained quantities of chalk apparently *in situ* but higher than to the north. An adjacent exposure may have been chalk blocks from a medieval building foundation (Pl. 27).

- \* 19. At the southern boundary of the pasture field with medieval earthworks, another pole was sited in the fence line. The adjacent field was cultivated and chalk lumps were evident on the surface east of the fence. The hole section showed that the topsoil overlay 0.2m of chalk lumps and at least 1.5m of mixed sand and clay deposits, but that natural chalk lay below the trench base. The chalk lumps might represent a medieval or later track along the present field boundary.

20. This hole, cut through an arable field, showed a dark clay loam topsoil above 1.4m of brown sand. A deposit of chalk dust was present at the base of the trench but no solid chalk was seen.

21. The most southerly of the monitored Calceby holes cut through 0.7m of clay loam with chalk lumps onto solid chalk bedrock (Pls. 28 and 29). This location was the highest of those inspected in the parish.

## **South Ormsby**

**22.** A hole was excavated between The White Cottage and Wood Farm on a hedgeline running NW-SE parallel to the Brinkhill road (Pl. 30). The field boundary marks a natural crest, with land dropping to the road and (to the north) to a stream. The trench section showed 0.25m of topsoil above between 0.65m and 0.95m of clay loam with no chalk. The lowest deposit was brown clay with frequent chalk fragments. The deepest subsoil lay up to 0.4m from the hedge, and may mark the line of a backfilled field ditch, perhaps of medieval date. There were traces of a more recent but also redundant slight ditch for this boundary on the northern side of the hedge; this location would serve no useful drainage function but would have acted simply as a stock barrier or occupancy marker.

**23.** The next pole position was SE of Manor Farm, on the fence line south of a stream. The field to the west contained a number of pronounced earthwork features (of ditches and rectangular enclosures) some of which might have represented medieval fish ponds (Pls. 33-35). The trench was excavated in the centre of a raised flat area (Pl. 36).

From the present ground surface to a depth of 0.55 was a dark brown friable loam, containing large pebbles and chalk lumps (Pl. 37). Below that layer was a soil with more clay, with dense chalk lumps (some naturally bright red or orange in colour). At a depth of 1.6m the water table was encountered, coinciding with a mixture of gravel and red/brown chalk pieces. No finds were made from the trench but a medieval pottery fragment was recovered from a nearby molehill.

**24.** This hole was dug 8m south of the earthworks in a pasture area of possible vestigial ridge and furrow undulations from medieval ploughing. The thin topsoil (0.1m) overlay a light brown clay loam 0.65m thick which became paler towards the base. A thin layer of yellow clay with flints (0.12m thick) lay between the loam and dense chalk pieces. Gravel was encountered 1.8m below the ground surface and continued below the trench base.

**25.** Another hole was excavated at the western edge of a former headland in the medieval ploughing block (Fig. 5). The topsoil was still thin, but the underlying light brown loam was only 0.3m thick; below this the soil became darker and increasingly clayey with fine chalk particles. At 1.4m deep the loam was replaced with brown clay which extended below the trench base. The variation between Holes 24 and 25 cannot be dismissed as only the result of ploughing depth or ridge accumulation; the gravel in 24 might be upcast from medieval excavation of the nearby ditches/fishponds, in which case all the overlying material has been redeposited.

**26.** The enigmatic earthworks recorded in South Ormsby during this watching brief were mostly centred around the south and west of Manor Farm. From the placename evidence, it seemed likely that the location had been an early

focus of medieval settlement although at ground level no house sites could be confidently identified. The farm buildings at Manor Farm are mostly of recent date, including some stables. The brick built farm house is of considerably greater age (c. 1660) and of interesting construction (Pl. 38). The building is empty at present and is potentially vulnerable; it was described in the revised Dept. of the Environment 'Fiftieth List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest' as a Grade II Listed building, first listed in 1967 (DoE 1987, 15). The opportunity was taken during the watching brief to make a minimal photographic record of the south, west and north elevations and to record some of the sandy fabric brick dimensions (240mm x 110mm x 56mm).

**27.** This hole was excavated in pasture, 25m north of a stream and at the base of a slight furrow. The cultivation undulations were aligned north-south and extended to Keal Farm on Bluestone Heath Road from the edge of the stream; the ridge crest width was 3m and the furrow width 3.5m.

The hole cut through a black, almost peaty topsoil 0.07m thick, which overlay a brown loamy clay 0.7m thick. At 0.8m below the surface, a mixed deposit of brown and grey chalky boulder-clay was reached.

**28.** The un-named stream between 27 and 28 flows to the east, eventually joining Calceby Beck. It had been noted that medieval cultivation furrows extended to the present stream edge on the north bank, implying that the course had moved northwards since ploughing had ceased. On the southern side of the stream a small curvilinear depression between two fields was interpreted as a relict channel; it was unclear whether the realignment had been naturally or artificially caused.

The pole was sited in the hedge boundary, about 40m south of the stream and within a block of ridge and furrow (Fig. 5). The section showed topsoil overlying yellow/brown clay, with boulder-clay 0.8m below the surface. Red and white chalk lumps in clay were present below 1.5m from the surface.

**29.** This hole was dug to the south of the ridge and furrow block, in a possible headland area to the north of further slight earthworks which could not be interpreted from ground level. The 0.25m thick topsoil covered 0.35m of dark brown clay loam, below which was a paler soil 0.3m thick with infrequent chalk flecks; beneath this was 0.4m of light brown clay mixed with chalk, above boulder-clay.

**30.** The hole was located in pasture, close to the field entrance, south of Manor Farmhouse (Pl. 39). The section showed very thin topsoil (0.05m) above 0.35m of brown clay loam, which covered 0.35m of dark brown loam, possibly representing a buried soil. Below this was 0.9m of orange gravel and clay, replacing the clay with chalk near the base of the layer. The lowest exposed deposit was rich brown compacted clay.

- \* 31. A new pole was positioned about 20m south of the boundary, close to a stump from a large tree and a slight NW-SE linear depression which seemed to have been a field boundary ditch (now absorbed into the pasture field) (Fig. 5). It appeared that a track (with ditch and hedge) had continued from the present metalled road past the south side of Manor Farm and the house, but the destination was unclear.

The pole trench section varied from the east to the west end and seemed to reflect a slight east-west aligned feature such as another ditch (or possibly furrow) slightly at angles to the new hole. The topsoil produced a single medieval pottery sherd, the subsequent layer was a mid brown clay loam that appeared to fill a shallow ditch on the west side. The ditch cut 0.1m into a chalk layer from a surface 0.5m below present ground level. At 1.6m below ground the chalk became mixed with frequent orange gravel, and at the trench base (2m) dark brown clay was glimpsed. The chalky deposits might represent upcast from deep excavations, such as the possible fish ponds to the SW.

A single sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery was recovered from this hole.

32. A hole was dug for a supporting stay east of Pole 23 and on the east side of the small watercourse. The trench face showed topsoil 0.15m thick above a layer of chalk 0.2m thick (Pl. 40). Beneath the chalk was 0.3m of dark brown humic soil, covering solid chalk. The sequence seemed to reflect excavation or scouring of the small stream; it may flow on an entirely artificial alignment but no datable material was recovered. A single Blackware pottery handle, of local manufacture and dating to the 17th century, was found.

33. Two shallow trenches for a copper earth feed were excavated in the hedge boundary SW of Manor Farmhouse, crossing a slight field ditch (Pl. 41). On the south side of the hedge, perhaps cutting through an upcast bank, the section showed 0.35m of topsoil above 0.33m of dark loam with chalk lumps. The layers below consisted of 0.3m yellow sandy clay, 0.35m dark brown clay and chalk 1.3m below the present surface.

34. On the north side of the hedge, no chalk was noted before 0.45m deep although there was a small variation in level. The earth feed trench was about 0.5m deep and contained old fertiliser sacks and modern refuse, backfilling a ditch or possibly a small pond.

35. A new pole was sited to the south of the small road from South Ormsby to Brinkhill, about 150m SE of The White Cottage and the same distance NW of Wood Farm (Pls. 42-44). Two pieces of thin green sandstone, 0.06m thick, were observed sited horizontally on the interface between the topsoil and the underlying red/brown sandy clay below (which became light brown sand at greater depth). The present field boundary was 4m north of the hole, but the ground dropped as if into a mostly backfilled ditch 2m closer. The stones were initially identified as tumble from an adjacent field boundary wall or as

the capping stones for a lined drain; however, no remains of a stone wall were recognised and the stones overlay soil with no drain below.

**36.** A shallow earth feed trench was cut to the SW of pole 35, to a depth of about 0.65m and a length of about 9m. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.2 and 0.25m, and overlay a layer of dark brown sandy loam which exaggerated the previous uneven profile (Figs. 5-7). A thin layer of irregular angular stones, chalk lumps and pebbles formed a metalled surface below the loam, dipping into a pronounced NW-SE depression at the SW end (Pl. 45). Six sherds of Toynton/Bolingbroke pottery, dating to the 16th-17th centuries were found in situ within, and at the base of, that surface. The underlying material was orange/brown sand, similar to that seen in the pole hole.

The metalled surface represents the only recognised significant archaeological feature damaged by the monitored works. Considerable co-operation was forthcoming from the East Midlands Electricity field team (Pl. 46), allowing the author sufficient time to examine, illustrate and record photographically the exposed trench faces before the trench was backfilled. It may be a previous medieval course of the South Ormsby to Brinkhill road, but a waterlogged area 50m to the east near Wood Farm would presumably have obstructed any track in winter. Explanations of the feature include an unrepaired localised drainage deterioration during or after the medieval period preventing use of a former road (which seems unlikely) or that the located track/yard area provided access to a roadside pond or small quarry.

The pottery date range of 16th-17th centuries is interesting as the surface seems to have been constructed over a field (probably pasture) that had been ploughed, producing ridge and furrow earthworks. This information might help confirm documentary evidence for the local increase of sheep rearing at the expense of arable farming.

**37.** The last monitored trench led to the SE of pole 35 towards the waterlogged depression. No pottery was found from this trench but chalk lumps below the topsoil were probably redeposited from excavation of some local feature.

### **Conclusion**

The excavation of most of the holes produced little information directly of archaeological significance but the project certainly provided information about the medieval settlement sites affected by the works. The fieldwork resulted in stratigraphic records for a considerable number of locations, which can be compared and contrasted and the anomalies explained. Some of the localised differences cannot be reliably interpreted from the information available, but they serve to direct any future work on those sites.

At Driby, Hole 3 was at the edge of two linear ditch features which may represent the continuation of an extensive earthwork north and west of Driby Wood (Fig. 3). From the previously mapped representation, the features



could be part of an early phase of that territorial or defensive enclosure; an apparent extension to the east seems to have been followed by the present parish boundary and might indicate a considerable antiquity for the enclosure. There was a slight possibility that the arrangement of drainage channels close to the stream reflected a possible watermill leat, requiring a mill structure in the close vicinity.

The Calceby observations raised a number of points of interest. The present road linking Bluestone Heath Road and the A16 Louth to Boston road has cut deeply through the surrounding land and lies on thick sand deposits. Its present course does not seem to coincide with a geological valley and similar deep courses are absent to the west and east within the areas of medieval settlement earthworks (Pl. 20). The abrupt drop close to the eastern end of the church appears to be evidence of large-scale quarrying in order to remove a sharp incline from the side road; this may be a post-medieval development but cartographic sources were not searched.

The valley of Calceby Beck was created by a much larger ?post-glacial watercourse and the broad valley floor was utilised for medieval fish ponds. The full size of the pond complex has not been established; 3 oval depressions containing water were identified during the watching brief but the sequence of interconnected breeding and rearing ponds may have been more extensive and included features beside Hole 16.

It was noted that the natural chalk at Calceby lay 2m below the ground surface near the road junction and that buildings were probably founded onto clay or sand. Few remains of medieval structures have been identified on the site despite the extensive earthworks, which probably indicates effective robbing and reuse of the fabric from derelict buildings. There is documentation of the church being dismantled and the chalk moved to use in South Ormsby buildings and it seems likely that a similar fate befell any other chalk built structures. The other probability is that despite the underlying chalk bedrock, medieval structures may have been constructed with less durable materials such as 'mud and stud' with thatch which would leave fewer traces. A detailed survey of the surviving earthworks in all three parishes would probably give a better impression of land use, such as building sites, individual land plots, communal areas, streets/ paths and fields.

Air photographs of Calceby have shown possible prehistoric features which might be levelled burial mounds or settlement locations. With the exception of a worked flint from Driby, no prehistoric finds were made during the watching brief and it has been impossible to shed further light on occupation or activity in the area at that time. Had such activity been extensive it is probable that other finds would have been made from the various ground disturbances investigated.

At South Ormsby, the new poles were erected across an area of well preserved earthworks close to Manor Farm which probably represent a medieval manorial complex if not the village itself. The stream arrangement

may be an artificial alignment; the lesser watercourse beside Hole 23 may have been cut across an existing series of earthworks but that could not be confirmed. Fishponds could be expected within a manorial complex and the position of at least one was identified with confidence. The carefully designed arrangement of interconnecting ditches (surviving up to about 1.5m deep) with internal raised enclosures warrant further study. As at Driby, the various courses of the main stream may reflect medieval watermill leat channels.

The metalled surface located in Hole 36 either formed part of a precursor to the present Brinkhill road, or was associated with something adjacent to the findspot. Although this might have been small-scale quarrying, it may have been a pond or a building such as a barn. The pot sherds were not abraded which suggested that there had been post-medieval occupation nearby.

The surface had been laid onto an uneven surface thought to fossilise east-west ridge and furrow. The abrupt slope change to the south represents a limit to possible ploughing in this plot; that produces such a narrow cultivable strip that it is possible that the present road alignment did not exist, extending the available land to the north. There is, however, no obviously alternative suitable course for a road linking South Ormsby and Brinkhill, and there may be a different explanation for the findings.

Despite the small size of the holes for the replacement poles, the watching brief showed that archaeological information can be recovered from such exercises. The EME Field Team were interested in the various artefacts recovered and have offered to report future unexpected archaeological discoveries.

### **Acknowledgements**

Considerable co-operation was received from Mr. A Sollini (Project Manager, East Midlands Electricity Plc.) and the Calceby Rebuild field team (Paul Holvey, Nigel Otter, and the machine operator Godfrey Carnell). Their assistance and interest was appreciated.

Ian George (Lincolnshire County Council Assistant Archaeological Officer, and advisor to East Lindsey District Council) and Mark Bennet (Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record) provided advice and access to previously reported information. Kate Steane supplied helpful references.

Fig. 7 was prepared for this report by Naomi Field. The author prepared the other illustrations with help from Jane Frost, who also collated and produced the report.

Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
28th February 1995

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**Appendix 1:  
Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record Summary**

**Driby**

*OS Sheet 37SE*

- 3800 7385      Reported findspot of 'Roman' skeleton from ditch  
 3911 7441 AF    Moated site ; banks/earthworks to north and NW.  
                   Manorial earthworks  
 389 745    AE    1 sherd Roman pottery and 1 sherd medieval pottery  
                   from deep draining north of church  
 3885 7439 AD    St Michaels Church (Victorian)  
 384 743    AB    Deserted medieval village site; fields, cultivation  
                   marks, boundaries, ditches  
 42877 394 741    AA    DMV, part of

*OS Sheet 47SW*

- 403 748    A    Stone coffin? 1955, lead lining  
 42466            Roman ring 1978

**S Ormsby**

*OS Sheet 37SE*

- 43023            Ancient woodland  
 4244 3648 7469 AH    Medieval pottery from fieldwalking 1978 OS Sheet OS

*OS Sheet 37NE*

- 42448 348 765 J      Site of 'Roman' camp (alleged)  
 42448 373 754 U      Medieval settlement: cutting of deep drain across  
                   pasture to east of the village exposed occupation  
                   areas; med/post-med pottery; boundary banks of crofts  
                   visible in field 1972  
 42451 374 754      Small mound trenched 1954, produced worked stone  
                   and 13th century pottery.  
 42449 369 751 Y      St Leonards Church: Norman doorway, possibly ?from  
                   Calceby church site.  
 42947            Base/shaft of churchyard cross  
 42445 3692 7548 S    Neolithic Langdale greenstone axe from west of hall,  
                   maybe imported with gravel, found 1972

- 42673 367 755    Z      Ormsby Hall 1752-55 designed by James Paine

- Air Photographs:      Medieval village at 3730 7537, extending west to  
                   3685 7525 and south to 3669 7497

**Calceby**

*OS Sheet 37NE*

42443 3915 7588 N

Early Bronze Age polished stone archer's bracelet found 1957; site visited but no finds/barrow present. Object probably ploughed from beaker burial

42442 390 757 M

Burials (about 50) found in roadside trench, 1950; ?plague burial. 16th century pottery sherd

424413952 7532 L

Bluestone Heath Road, much sunken in places between Driby Top and Calceby Brook; wide grass margins

42444 390 756 O

Deserted medieval village remains

42444 389 757 K

"

42444 386 757 AF

Remains of St Andrew's church; 3 cottages on site in 1983 may have been associated

*OS Sheet 37SE*

351 747 AG

Neolithic flint axe, found 1976

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **a) Finds List CER 95**

#### **Driby 1-4:**

2 (from surface of ploughed field) 3 worked flints

#### **Calceby 5-21:**

5 (topsoil) 1 animal bone, 1 roof tile fragment and 1 18-19th century brick

7 (topsoil) 3 sherds post-medieval pottery

13 (molehills) 1 sherd Saxo-Norman and 1 sherd medieval pottery

14 (molehills) 2 sherds Saxo-Norman, 5 sherds medieval, 4 sherds post-medieval pottery

15 (from animal burial disturbed by the hole) 5 animal bones

17 (molehill) 1 sherd post-medieval pottery

#### **South Ormsby 22-37**

23 (molehill) 1 sherd Saxo-Norman pottery

31 (topsoil) 1 sherd Saxo-Norman pottery

32 (topsoil) 1 sherd post-medieval pottery (handle)

34 (topsoil and recent ditch-backfill) 2 sherds post-medieval pottery, 1 piece unglazed medieval floor tile

36 (stratified metallated surface) 6 sherds post-medieval pottery, 1 animal bone

#### **b) The Pottery**

The pottery finds were examined by Jane Young of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit. A full archive list will be deposited with the Report at the SMR.

Twenty-six sherds of pottery were recovered during the watching Brief, four of which were Saxo-Norman in date. Three of these early sherds were found at Calceby in holes 13 and 14 and one at South Ormsby.

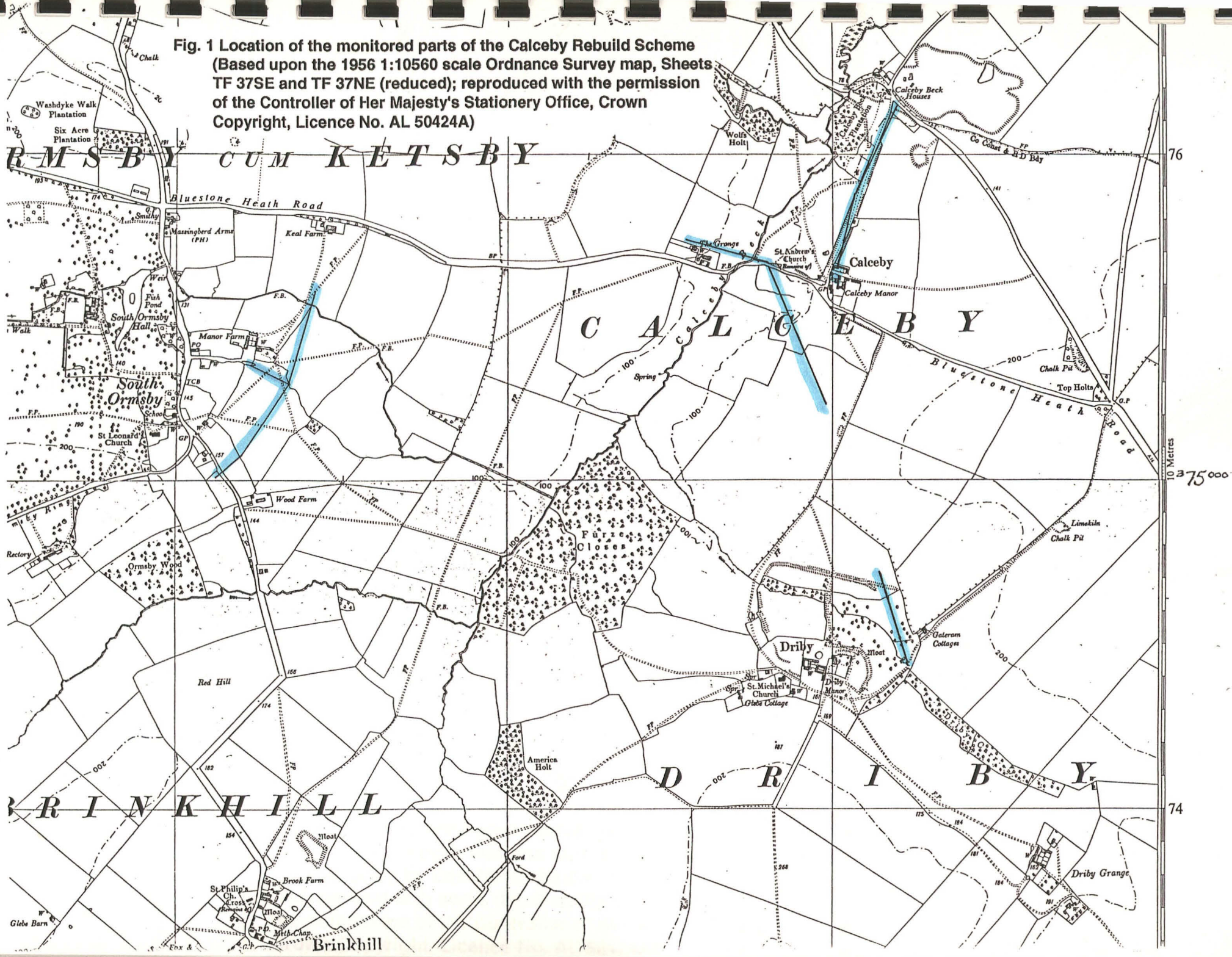
Six sherds of medieval pottery were also found, one in hole 13 and five in hole 14. A Lincoln Ware jug rim and a Cistercian Ware cup base were among the finds in hole 14, the rest of the material being of local manufacture.

The remaining sixteen sherds were post-medieval, dating to the 16th and 17th centuries, the latest being a Blackware Handle in hole 32.

The group of six sherds from hole 36 were manufactured at Bolingbroke in the Toynton/Bolingbroke tradition. They are difficult to closely date and may be 16th or 17th century.

The pottery finds from the Watching Brief are characteristic of assemblages found associated with manuring of land.

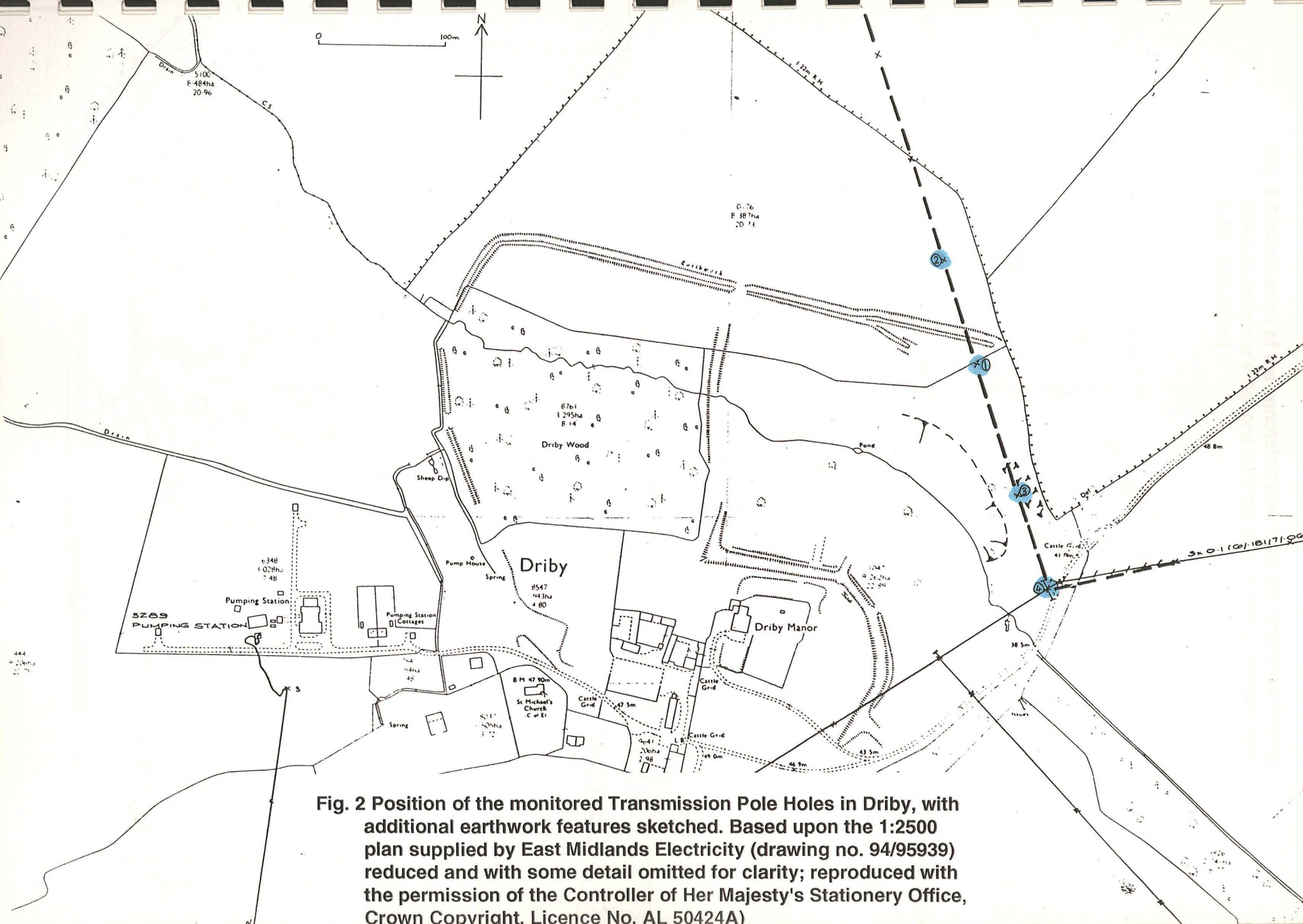
Fig. 1 Location of the monitored parts of the Calceby Rebuild Scheme  
 (Based upon the 1956 1:10560 scale Ordnance Survey map, Sheets  
 TF 37SE and TF 37NE (reduced); reproduced with the permission  
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10 Metres  
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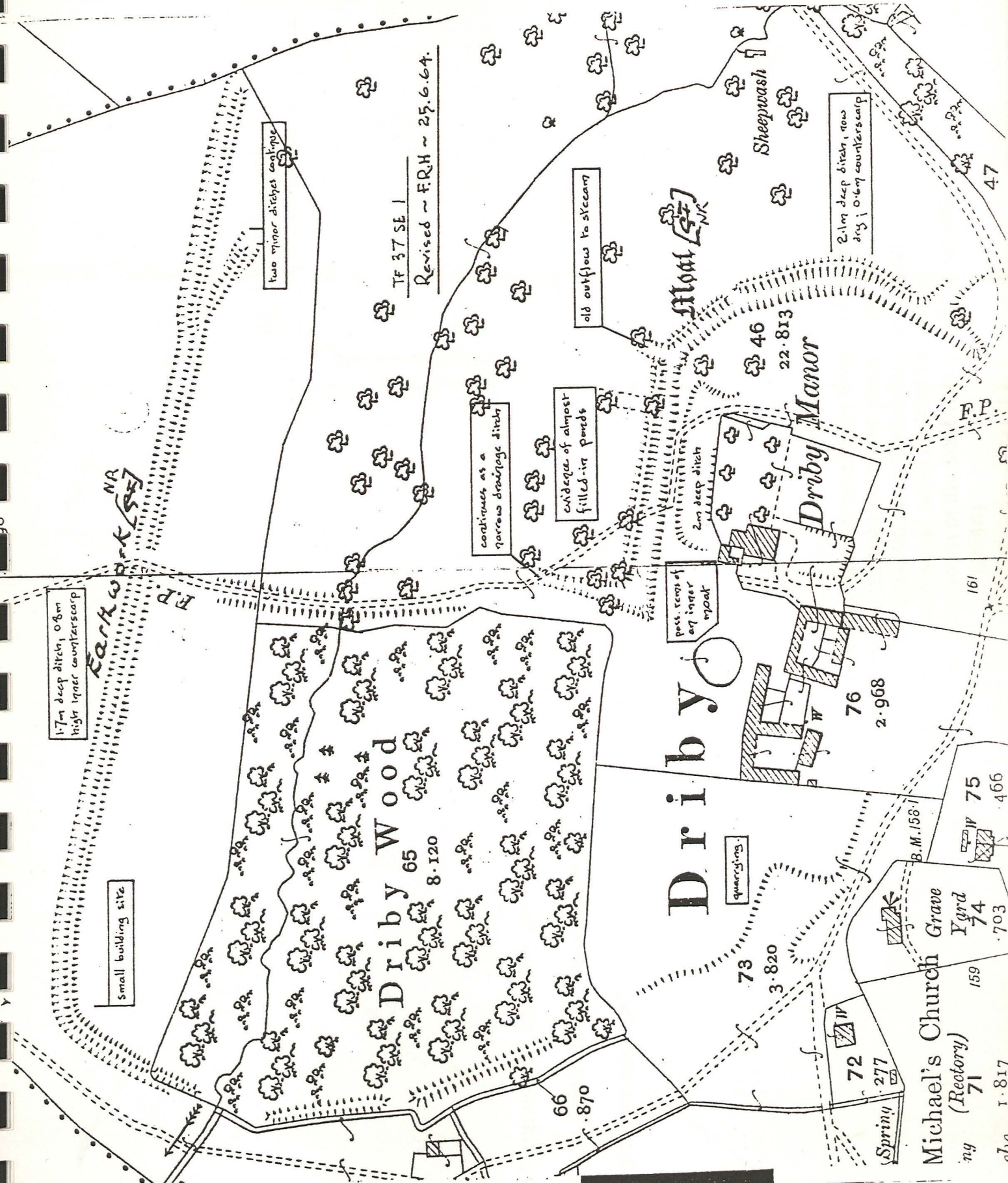
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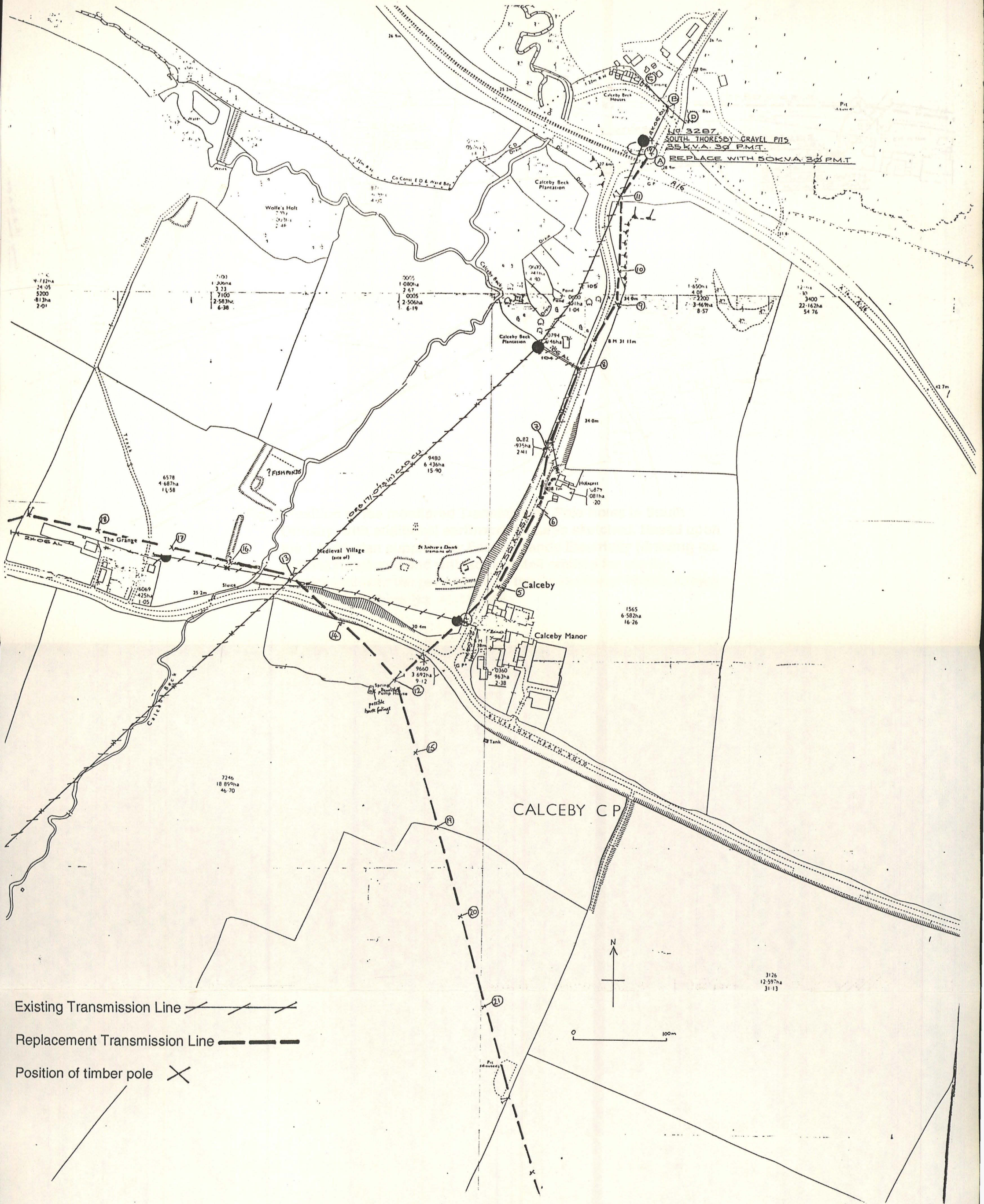


**Fig. 2 Position of the monitored Transmission Pole Holes in Driby, with additional earthwork features sketched. Based upon the 1:2500 plan supplied by East Midlands Electricity (drawing no. 94/95939) reduced and with some detail omitted for clarity; reproduced with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50424A)**



Fig. 3 Reproduction of the annotated plan from the Ordnance Survey Field Investigator's Record Card for part of Driby, revised 1964 (LAS Collection)





**Fig. 4 Position of the monitored Transmission Pole Holes in Calceby,**  
**with additional earthwork features sketched. Based upon the**  
**1:2500 plan supplied by East Midlands Electricity (drawing no.**  
**94/95939) reduced and with some detail omitted for clarity;**  
**reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown**  
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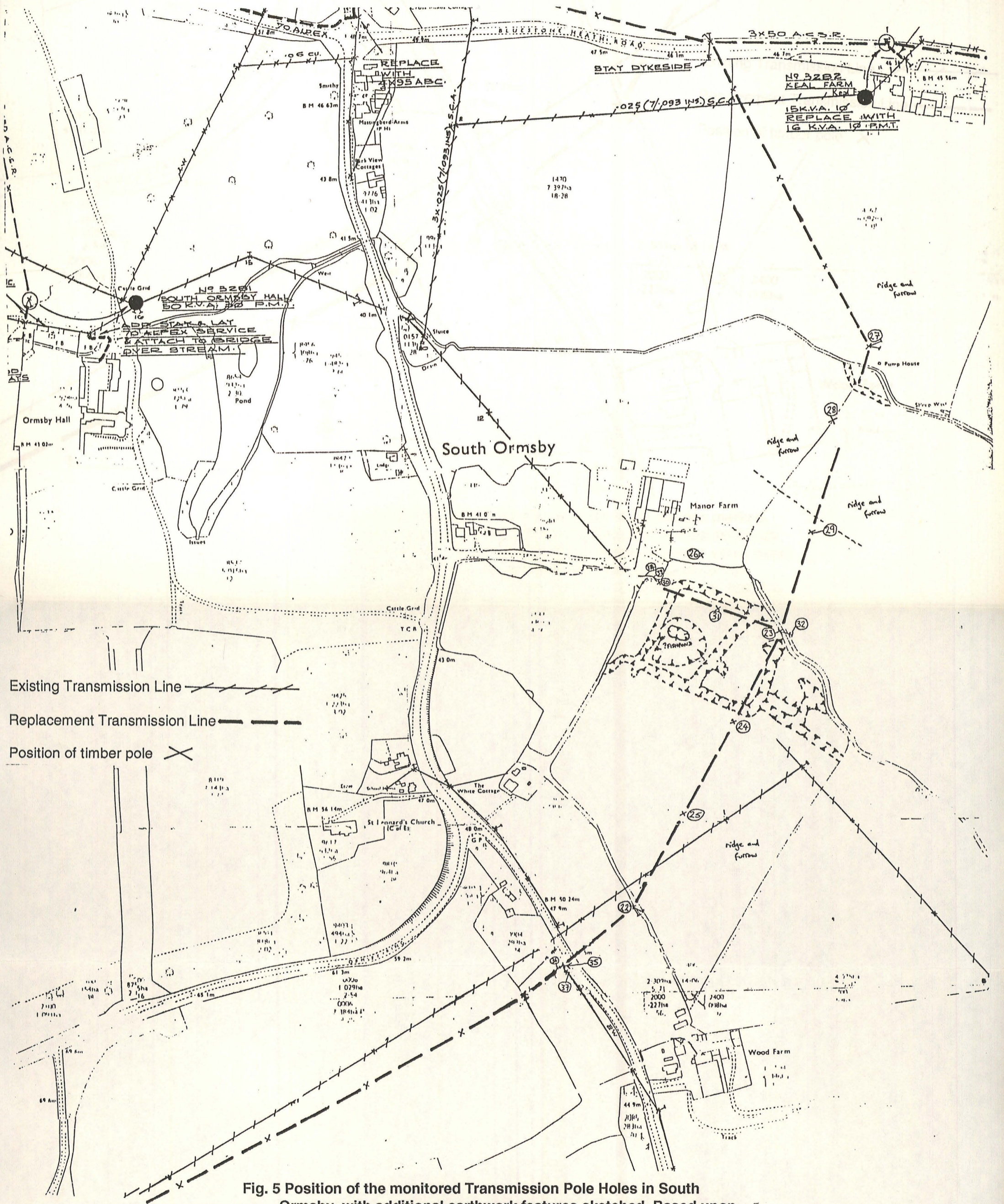


Fig. 5 Position of the monitored Transmission Pole Holes in South Ormsby, with additional earthwork features sketched. Based upon the 1:2500 plan supplied by East Midlands Electricity (drawing no. 94/95939) reduced and with some detail omitted for clarity; reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50424A)

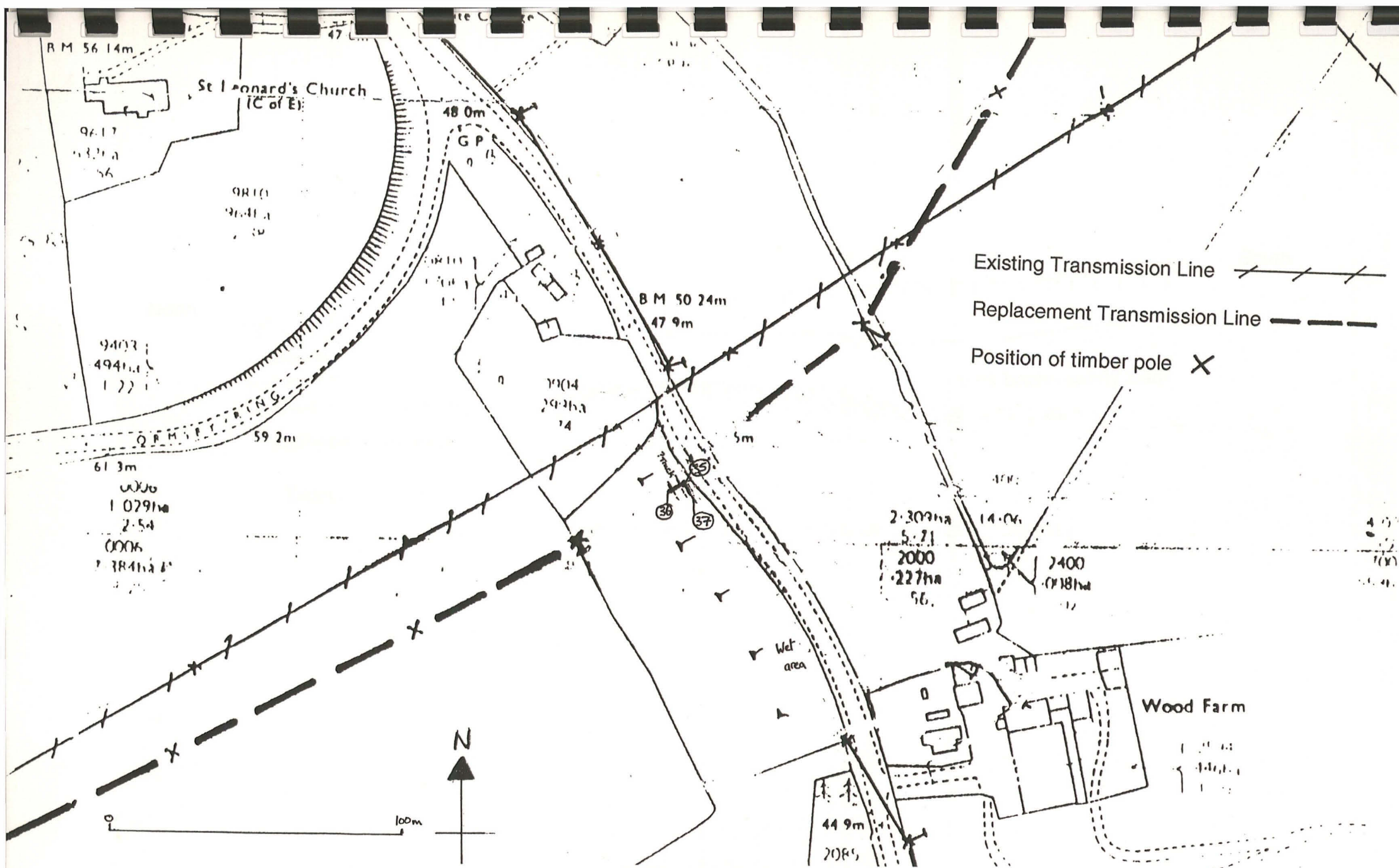


Fig. 6 Location of Holes 35 and 36, with the chalk surface marked. Based upon part of the 1:2500 plan supplied by East Midlands Electricity (drawing no. 94/95939) enlarged and with some detail omitted for clarity; reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50424A)

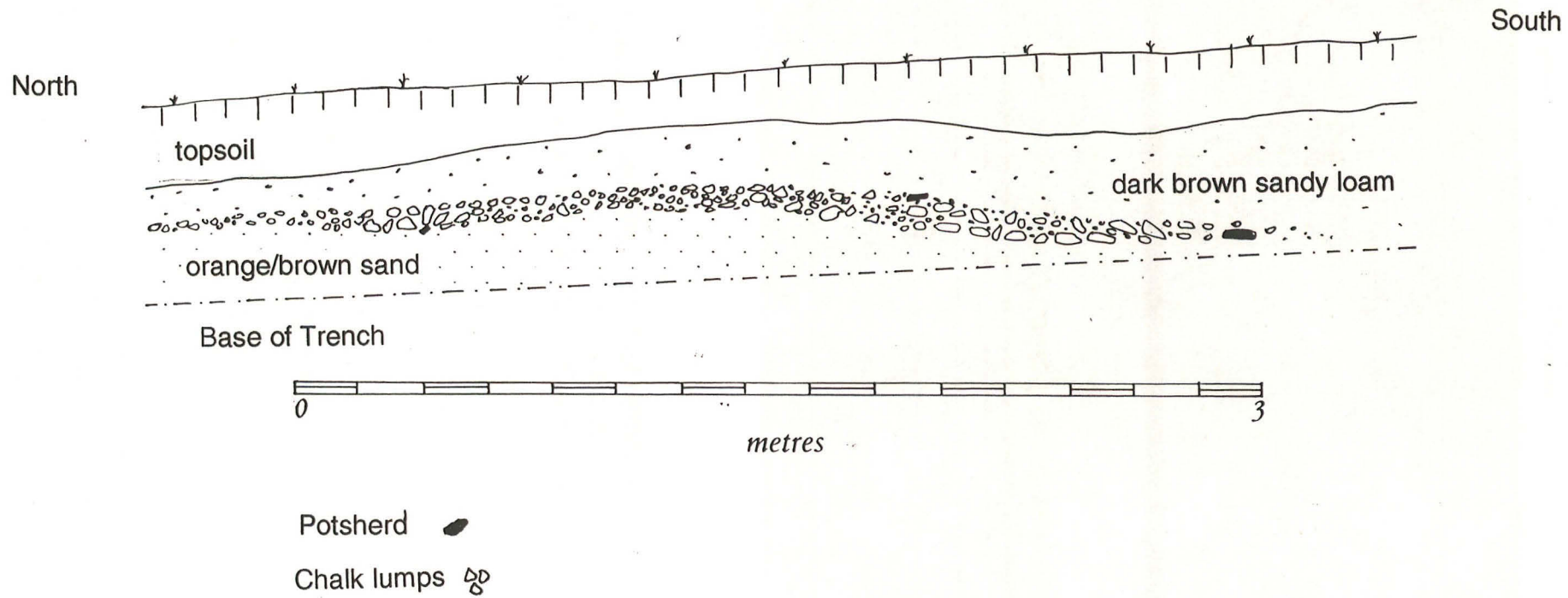


Fig. 7 Section across the chalk rubble surface found in Hole 36, showing the possible medieval plough furrow below the rubble



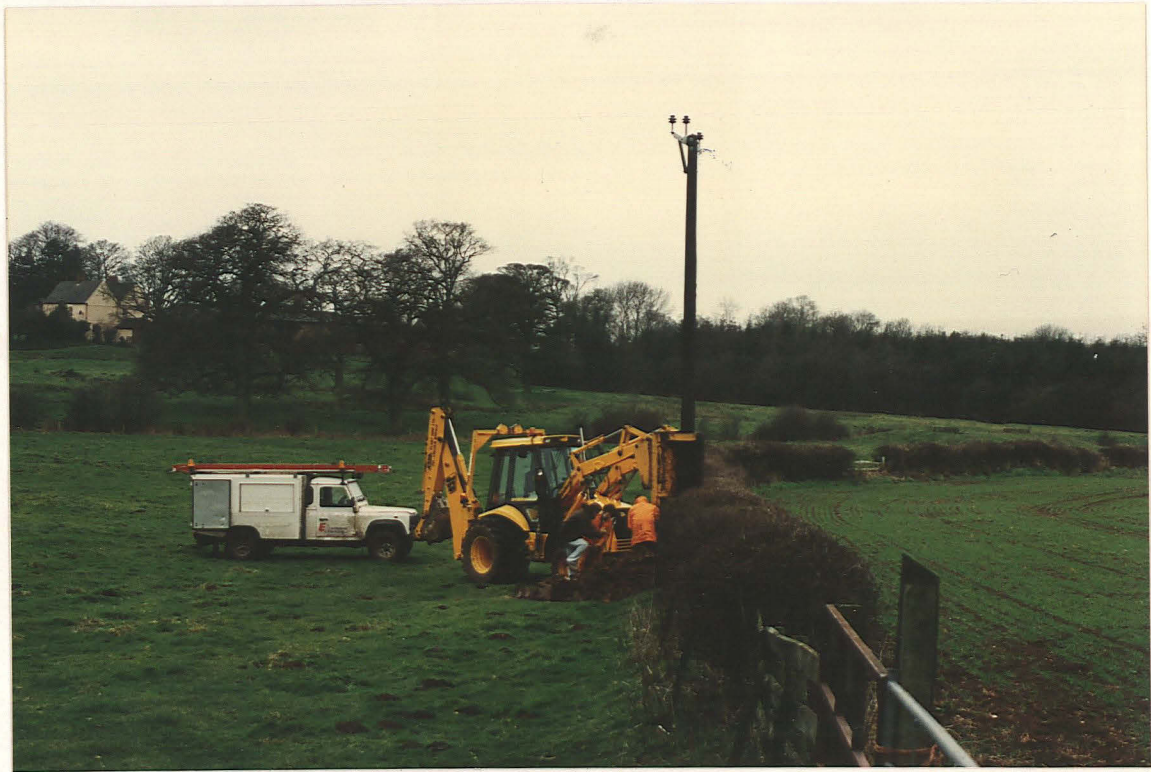
PI. 1 Air Photograph of Driby medieval settlement earthworks, 13th Jan 1980, 2940/37 (PE). Holes 1-4 were dug in the two fields in the bottom left corner (looking SW). Copyright reserved.



**Pl. 2 Driby, general view of monitored area with existing poles (looking north from the road)**

**Pl. 3 Face of Hole 1, looking north to base of hedge**





**Pl. 4 Location of Hole 1, with Driby Manor in background, (looking SW)**





**Pl. 5 Panoramic view of arable field near Hole 2, showing natural depression crossing the field and Driby village earthworks in the background (looking SW)**



**Pl. 6 Location of Hole 2 (looking SE)**

**Pl. 7 Hillside with slight earthworks close to Holes 1, 3 and 4, looking south to the road**





**Pl. 8 South and east faces of Hole 3, with slight surface slope marking a ?ditch in background (looking south)**

**Pl. 9 Ruins of St Andrew's Church, Calceby (viewed from east)**





Pl. 10 Faces of Hole 5

Pl. 11 Stratigraphy within Hole 6





**Pl. 12 Sand deposit in sides of Hole 7**

**Pl. 13 Realigned road junction of A16 and the Calceby road, with trees to right growing in lower ground (facing east)**





**Pl. 14 Section across Hole 11 at A16 junction, showing peat deposit**

**Pl. 15 Hollow with standing water to south of A16 junction; Hole 11 is marked by the yellow excavator (looking east)**





**Pl. 16** Bluestone Heath Road deflecting around a pasture field containing medieval settlement earthworks (looking south). The photo extends the panoramic view of Pl. 18.

**Pl. 17** Bluestone Heath Road, forming a deflecting hollow way close to the Calceby church site, then possibly resuming the ancient alignment beyond Calceby Beck and Grange Farm (looking west).





**Pl. 18 Panoramic view of medieval settlement earthworks at Calceby,  
looking south. Red pegs mark the positions of Holes 12 and 15.**





**Pl. 19** Air photograph of medieval settlement earthworks south and SE of Calceby Manor, looking east. 13th Jan. 1980 (PE) 2941/5; Copyright reserved.

**Pl. 20** Air photograph of medieval settlement earthworks west of Calceby Manor, looking east. 13th Jan. 1980 (PE) 2941/4; Copyright reserved.





**Pl. 21** Ruin of St. Andrew's Church, Calceby, standing amid pasture with vestigial earthworks. View from vicinity of Hole 13, looking NE

**Pl. 22** Earthworks visible from ground level to north of Calceby church ruins, looking east





**Pl. 23 Location of Hole 16 on ridge to south of Calceby fishponds, looking south**

**Pl. 24 East face of Hole 16, showing organic material near the trench base (depth 2m)**





PI. 25 Panoramic view of medieval fish ponds and linear earthworks near Calceby Grange, looking west from St. Andrew's Church



**Pl. 26 Medieval fishpond complex close to Hole 16, looking south.  
Note the exposed chalk in the upper bank.**

**Pl. 27 Chalk strata exposed beside small stream, south of Bluestone Heath Road. On the extreme left, small chalk blocks above dark brown soil may represent a medieval building foundation (looking SW).**





Pl. 28 Hole 21, to south of Calceby village

Pl. 29 Location of Hole 21, looking NE towards Bluestone Heath  
Road and Calceby Manor



Pl. 30 Location of Hole 22 (S. Ormsby), looking NW

Pl. 31 Section of Hole 22, with the lower chalky layer dipping to the left, perhaps indicating an early field boundary (depth 2m)





Pl. 32 Panoramic view of pasture field containing vestigial earthworks, SE of S. Ormsby Manor Farm. Slight ridge and furrow can be seen top centre and lower extreme right. (looking north)





**Pl. 33 Panoramic view of earthworks (perhaps associated with fishponds) to south of S. Ormsby Manor Farm, looking north**



PI. 34 Panoramic view of earthworks south of S. Ormsby Manor Farm, looking NW from field boundary. The yellow peg for Hole 23 is on the extreme right.



**Pl. 35 Possible medieval fishpond and associated channels, south of S. Ormsby Manor Farm, looking NE**

**Pl. 36 Location of Hole 23 in medieval earthworks SE of S. Ormsby Manor Farm, looking NE**





**Pl. 37 Stratigraphy in Hole 23**

**Pl. 38 S. Ormsby Manor Farm house, west and south elevations, looking east.**





**Pl. 39 Location of Hole 30, looking north**

**Pl. 40 Section of Hole 32, showing chalk above humic material**





**Pl. 41 Location of Hole 33 (ladder against new pole) with excavator cutting Hole 34 (looking west)**

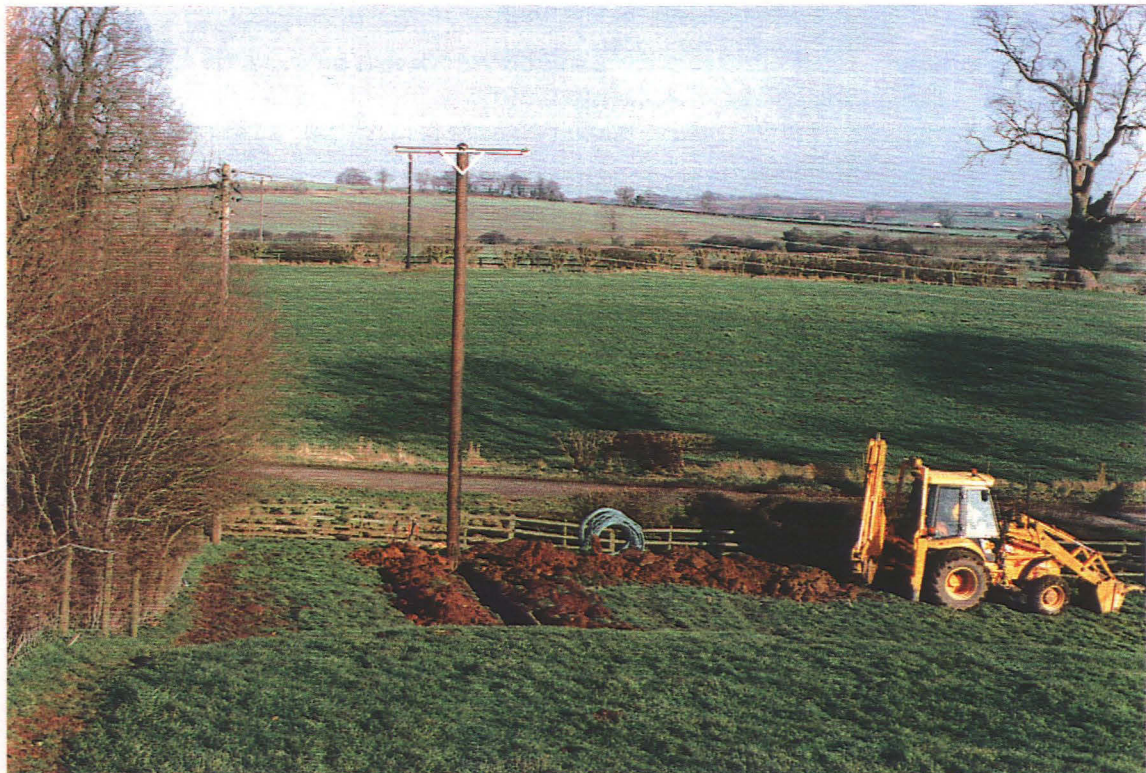
**Pl. 42 Field south of Brinkhill Road, S. Ormsby, looking south**





**Pl. 43 Natural valley to north of Brinkhill Road; the depression in the foreground was very wet. The excavator is beside Holes 35-37 (looking west)**

**Pl. 44 Location of Holes 35-37 close to the Brinkhill road, looking north.**





Pl. 45 Composite photograph of chalk rubble surface in east face of Hole 36 (scale divisions 0.2m)





PI. 46 The EME Calceby Rebuild team examine the buried surface in Hole 36