

EL HER

SMR  
93/2



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Stubton Gorse Farm  
Stubton**

*NGR: SK 8990 4975  
Site Code: SG 93  
LCNCC Accession No: 23.93*

**Archaeological Evaluation  
(Field walking)**

**Report for**

**John Samuels Archaeological Consultants**

**by**

**Geoff Tann**

**LAS Report No: 829**

**April 1993**

25 WEST PARADE · LINCOLN · LN1 1NW  
TELEPHONE 01522 544554 · FACSIMILE 01522 522211 · EMAIL las@linarch.co.uk

VAT Registration No. 813 8029 41

Lindsey Archaeological Services LLP Registered in England and Wales No. OC304247  
Registered Address 25 West Parade · Lincoln · LN1 1NW

Conservation  
Services

27 MAY 2005

Highways & Planning  
Directorate



Event: LI 6079

INTERVENTION LI 10121

EXCAVATION LI 10122

PR: 36587 Roman

## STUBTON GORSE FARM, STUBTON Archaeological Evaluation

### INTRODUCTION

An archaeological evaluation of a field at Stubton Gorse Farm (NGR SK 8990 4975) was undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services on behalf of John Samuels Archaeological Consultants, in accordance with the requirements of South Kesteven District Council, as a condition of planning consent. The fieldwalking survey was conducted on 31.3.93 and 1.4.93.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

Two archaeological sites have been identified in the field immediately west of the proposed development from cropmarks on aerial photographs. One is a ring ditch which may represent a ploughed out Bronze Age burial mound; the other is part of a triple linear boundary ditch system. Little is known about these boundaries but recent excavations elsewhere (in Leicestershire and at Nettleham, Lincoln) have produced Iron Age pottery from similar features.

Given the proximity of prehistoric remains the purpose of the field evaluation was to establish if there was evidence of further activity of archaeological interest within the proposed development site.

### CONDITION OF SITE

At the time of the field survey the ground was particularly dry after a sustained drought. A persistent drizzle interrupted the fieldwork but made no observable difference to the soil state or to the quantity of material visible. The land had been ploughed in wet conditions and had since weathered, leaving ruts and dried puddles. The field surface was littered with potatoes and smaller quantities of haulm from a previous crop; there was some regrowth of beans in the S part of the field.

The soil fluctuated within each traverse between clay and sand based loams. Towards the N end of the field sand was visible on the base of the ploughed clods, indicating that modern ploughing is penetrating beyond any subsoil.

Infrequent limestone lumps and brickbats were seen towards the NE corner of the field and these had apparently been disturbed from below a concrete surface, part of which still remained. A small building and adjacent yard were marked at this location on the 1955 1:25000 OS map (previous full revision 1903). At that date the field had been three plots, sub-divided NW-SE. Virtually no modern or post-medieval material was seen during the survey apart from fragments of clay land drains concentrated in the N part of the plot.

Part of the NW side of the field had been planted with young saplings and this area was unavailable for the survey.



## METHOD

Techniques in fieldwalking as a method of locating archaeological remains have been developed and refined over many years. Whilst only a small proportion of artefacts in the ploughsoil will be exposed at any one time it is generally accepted that a large enough sample will be seen to indicate the presence (or absence) of human activity. The spacing of each traverse affects the reliability of the sample collected but experience has shown that a 20m interval is adequate to give a rough indication of artefact concentrations, and thus presence/absence of archaeological remains beneath the ground surface (Haselgrove et al 1985).

The field at Stubton was walked across systematically at intervals of 20m to search for artefacts on the ploughed surface. The survey began in the SW corner and went across the direction of the N-S plough furrows. Traverses were aligned parallel to the metalled track at the south end of the field. Finds from each 50m length of the traverse were recorded separately but individual findspots were not recorded.

## RESULTS

### FINDS FROM FIELDWALKING

Collection point	Description
16:	1 retouched prehistoric flint flake; undiagnostic
72:	1 sherd Roman greyware pot; burnished, lattice decoration
74:	1 sherd Roman colour-coat, ?Castor ware; decorated
75:	1 sherd Roman pot
84:	1 sherd medieval; unglazed
102:	1 sherd Roman greyware: large jar rim fragment
110:	1 sherd Roman pot
159:	1 sherd Roman pot: jar rim fragment

The single flint flake was of poor, water-worn material with a small area of retouch on one edge. It was similar to the unworked flints seen elsewhere on the field which appear to have come from the sand.

A small number of pottery sherds were recovered but these did not appear to reflect a concentration of material in any part of the field (Fig. 2). All except one of the sherds found were identified as of Romano-British date, including grey wares, "colour-coated" wares and a burnished sherd with lattice decoration. Two were identifiable as rims from jars but the remainder were body sherds. The largest sherds were the pot rims, but the inherent strength qualities of the form at the top of these vessels permits them to survive ploughing and weather erosion better. No contemporary building materials were present on the site and there was no evidence that the finds had been raised from archaeological features below the topsoil. A further Romano-British sherd was found in the adjacent field

to the W (beyond the survey area) during a single traverse of the drilled surface for comparison purposes. It is suggested that the pottery sherds recorded from this evaluation have been moved with soil from a settlement site beyond the survey area.

A single badly abraded sherd of medieval date was retrieved during the fieldwalking survey. Sherds of similar date are commonly recovered from fieldwalking land throughout the country and these are usually interpreted as imports to the field during the medieval period while farmyard waste was spread onto arable ground as fertilizer. The paucity of medieval material from this site may suggest that it was not in arable use at that time.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The fieldwalking survey produced no evidence of any archaeological site on the land investigated. The finds were infrequent and randomly distributed, representing a background level of material which may have originated from a site elsewhere in Stubton.

Further archaeological work in connection with the planning proposal for this field is not considered necessary.

#### REFERENCE

Haselgrove C., Millett M. & Smith I., 1985. Archaeology from the Ploughsoil: Studies in the Collection and Interpretation of Field Survey Data (University of Sheffield).

Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
April 2nd 1993



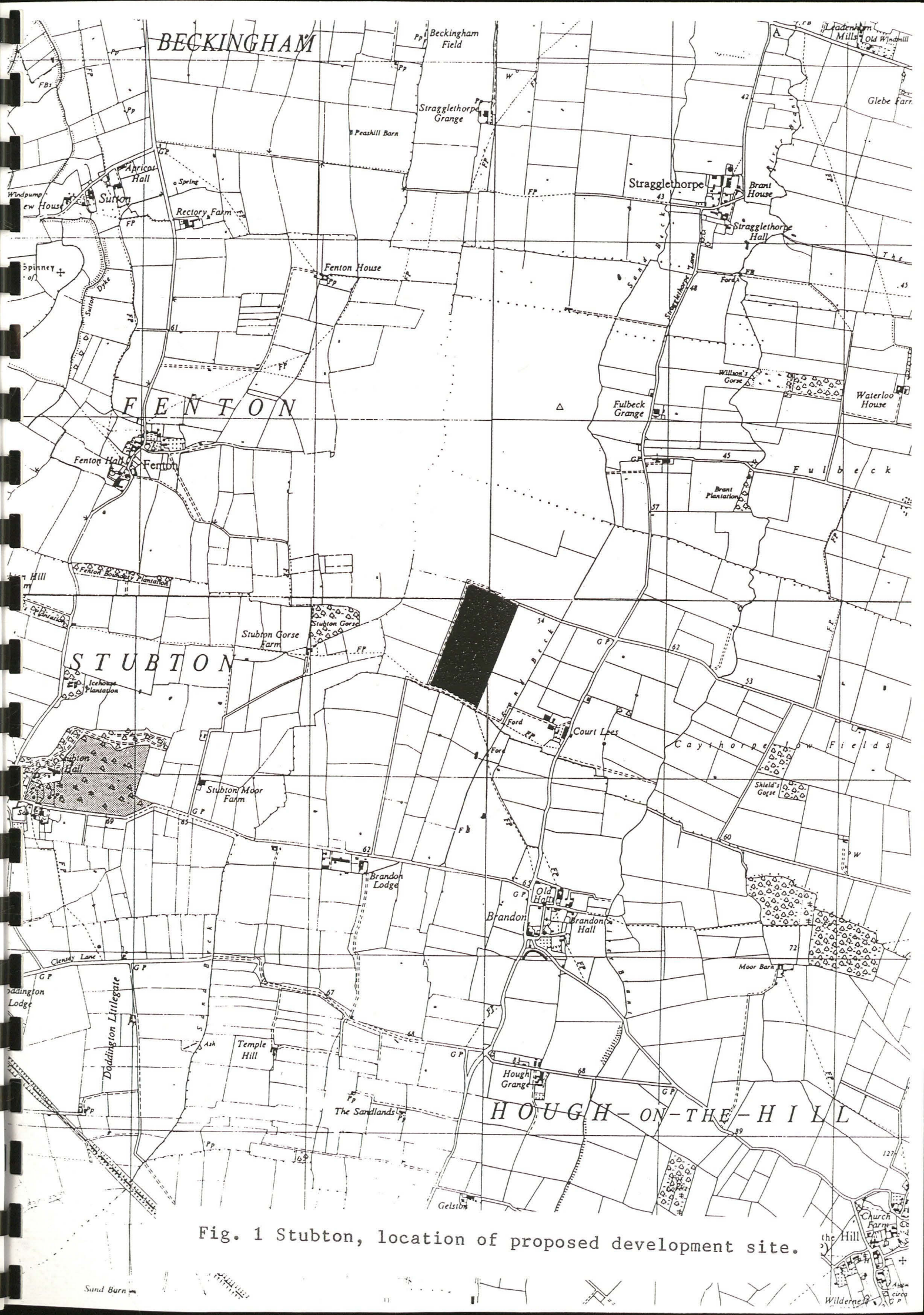


Fig. 1 Stubton, location of proposed development site.





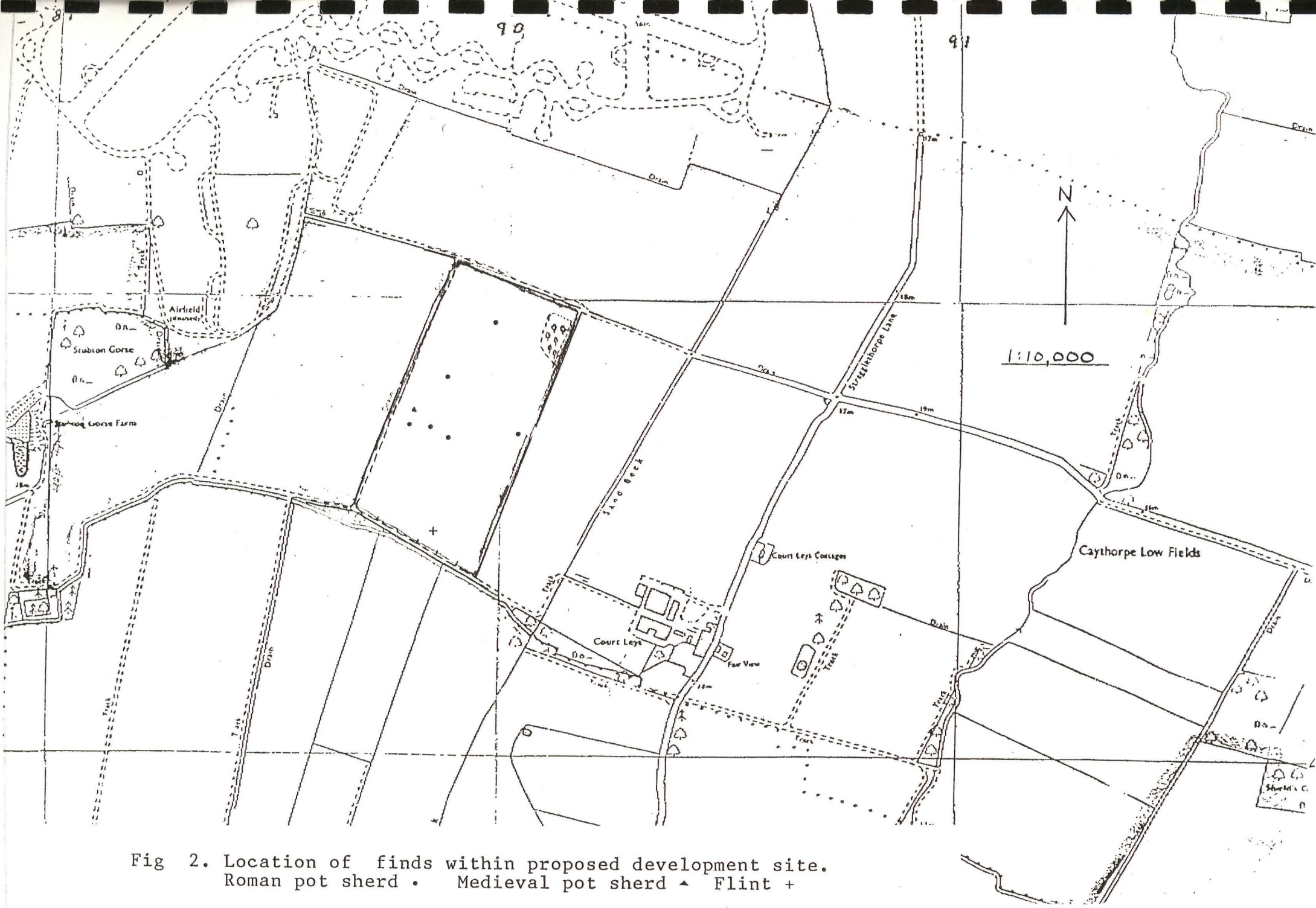


Fig 2. Location of finds within proposed development site.  
 Roman pot sherd • Medieval pot sherd ▲ Flint +