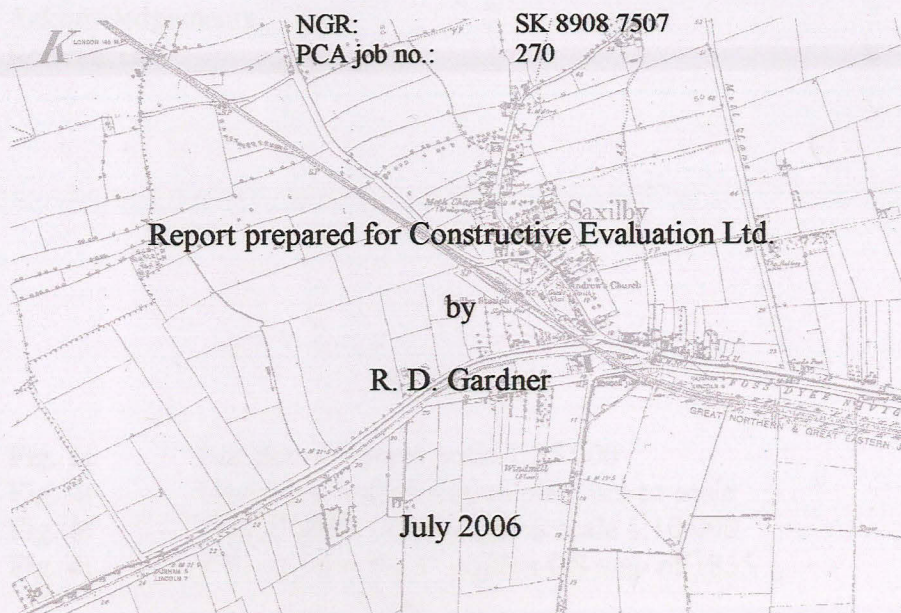


**LAND ADJACENT TO THE BRIDGE HOTEL,
SAXILBY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSESSMENT**



Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)
 Unit G
 William Street Business Park
 Saxilby
 Lincoln
 LN1 2LP
 Tel. & Fax. 01522 703800
 e-mail mail.pca@virgin.net
 ©Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln)

acknowledged receipt of report
23/8/06
Jan Wall

Conservation
Services

23 AUG 2006

Highways & Planning
Directorate

Contents

	Summary	1
1.0	Introduction	2
2.0	Site location and description	2
3.0	Objectives and methods	2
4.0	Archaeological and historical background	3
5.0	Discussion and conclusions	5
6.0	Mitigation	6
7.0	Acknowledgements	7
8.0	References	8

Illustrations

- Fig. 1:** Location of site at scale 1:25 000
Fig. 2: Developer's site location plan, not to scale
Fig. 3: Plan of SMR information at scale 1:10 000
Fig. 4: Extract from the 1st edition OS map of 1855

Summary

- *This brief archaeological assessment has been prepared for Constructive Evaluation Ltd. in respect of a proposed development on land to the west of the Bridge Hotel, near Saxilby, Lincolnshire.*
- *The site lies to the south of the main body of the village, between the main road westward out of Lincoln and the course of the Foss Dyke Navigation, in an area that probably formed part of one of the medieval open fields.*
- *The origins of the Foss Dyke as an artificial canal are thought to be Roman, although little corroborating evidence currently exists: it is possible that groundworks close to the Foss Dyke may produce further evidence to support this theory.*

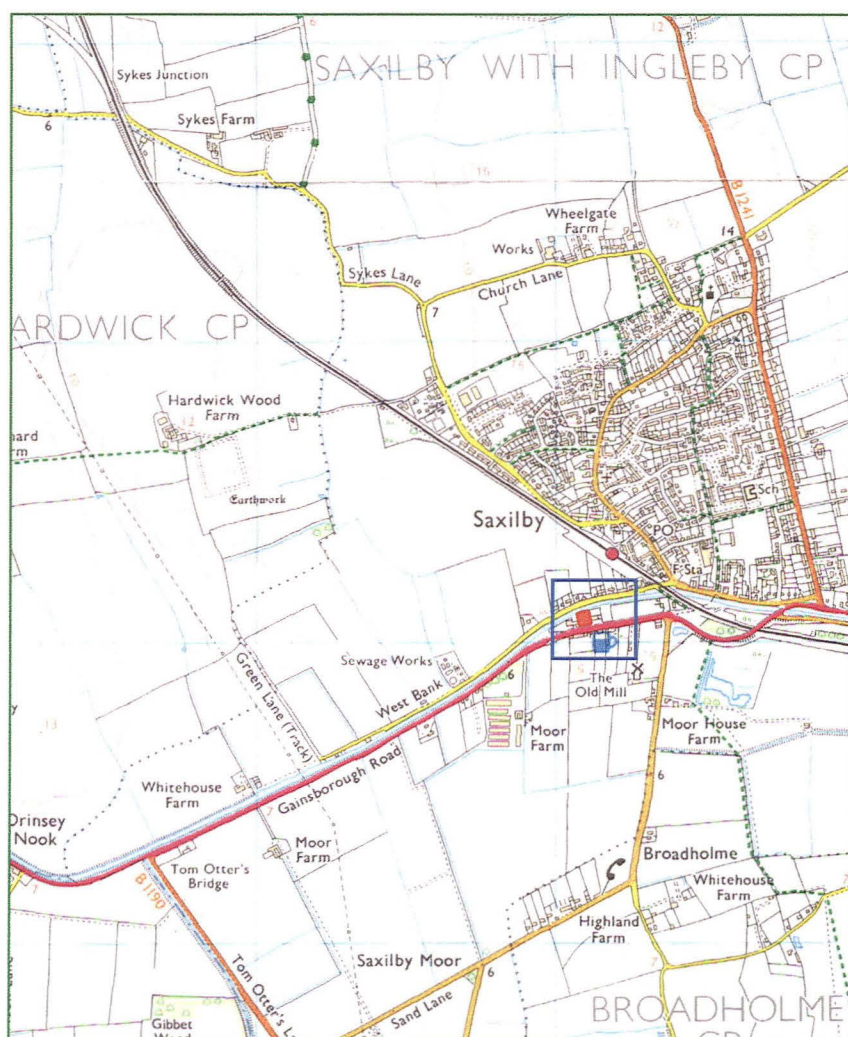


Figure 1: Site location map. The proposed development site is marked in red, and the area of figure 2 outlined in blue. Scale 1:25 000. (O.S. copyright licence no. AL 515 21 A0001)

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) was commissioned by Constructive Evaluation Ltd. to undertake a brief archaeological assessment of land adjacent to the Bridge Hotel, near Saxilby, Lincolnshire.

The methods used in undertaking this report are consistent with the recommendations of *Archaeology & Planning: Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (Department of the Environment, 1990), and *Standards and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessments* (IFA, 2001).

Copies of the report will be deposited with the commissioning body and the archaeological adviser to the local planning authority.

2.0 Site location and description (figs. 1 & 2)

The village of Saxilby is within the administrative district of West Lindsey, some 9km to the west of Lincoln. It lies within the Trent valley, between the River Trent to the west and the Lincoln Edge rising to the east; however, the nearby River Till, into which the Foss Dyke is channelled, is a tributary of the Witham.

The greater part of the village stands on the northern side of the main road west out of Lincoln (the modern A57), and on the northern bank of the Foss Dyke Navigation, which here runs parallel with the road and is bridged at Saxilby. The proposed development site is outside the main body of the modern village, lying between the A57 and the Foss Dyke on the west side of Saxilby Bridge.

Drift geology is absent over the area occupied by most of the village, but the site lies on the northern edge of River Terrace deposits of loam, sand and gravel, overlying the solid geology of Lias Group Scunthorpe Mudstone Formation (British Geological Survey, 1999).

Central National Grid Reference: SK 8908 7507.

3.0 Objectives and methods

The purpose of this report is to establish the likelihood of archaeological remains being present on the proposed development site; to assess their potential significance and the extent to which construction works are likely to affect them, and, if necessary, to suggest further methods by which the site may be evaluated in advance of such works, or by which the works can be mitigated to minimise the impact to any surviving archaeological remains.

The information for this report was collated principally from the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record, including the earthwork and cropmark records compiled by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments held by the HER. Records were consulted for the standard size of study area, a radius of 1km around the proposed development site. Due to the short timescale, no search could be carried out at the National

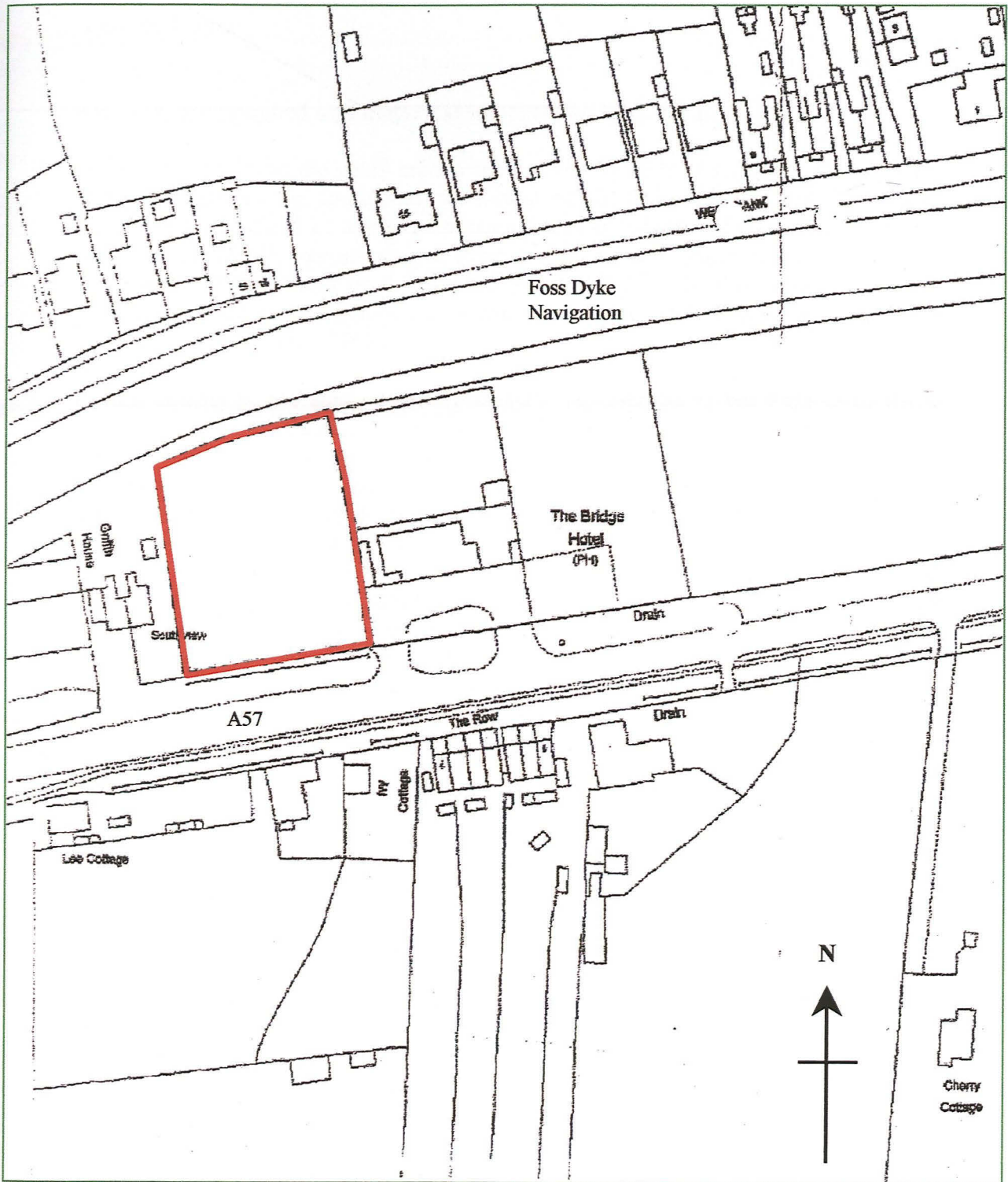


Figure 2: Detailed plan of the development site (outlined in red), not to scale. Plan supplied by developer.

Monuments Record for aerial photographs: the aerial photographic record of the HER was consulted, but contained no images relevant to this project. It was also not possible in the time available to carry out a search for historic maps at the Lindsey Archives Office.

4.0 Archaeological and historical information (figs. 3 and 4)

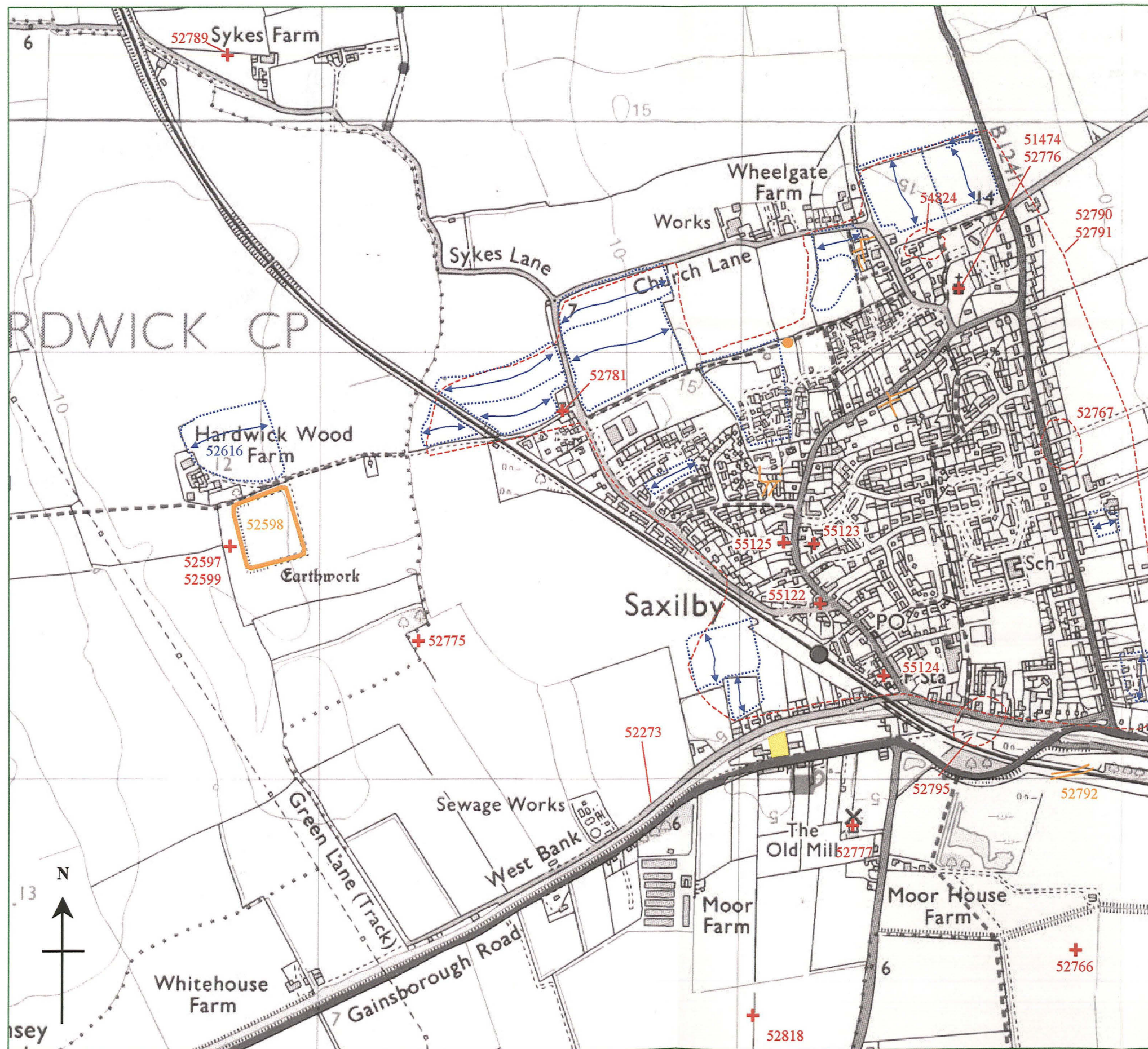
Prehistoric activity in the study area is represented by finds of two Neolithic polished stone axeheads to the south and north-west of the village (HER refs. 52766 and 52781), a single sherd of Iron Age pottery found in a ditch (HER ref. 52597) and a cropmark potentially representing a Bronze Age barrow, which has been recorded some 650m to the south of the site (HER ref. 52818). Another, linear, cropmark feature has been recorded near the south side of the A57, but no date could be ascribed to it (HER ref. 52792).

Roman activity in the study area is principally represented by the Foss Dyke itself. There is as yet no definite proof of the theory that the Foss Dyke was first cut as an artificial canal during the Roman administrative period, but extant medieval documents show that it was of pre-Norman construction, and in concept and execution, it seems to belong rather to Imperial Rome than to the Saxon Kingdom of Lindsey (HER ref. 52273). Although no Roman artefacts have been recorded from the Foss Dyke within the present study area, some dating evidence has been retrieved elsewhere: an inscribed sepulchral tablet was found near the edge of the Foss Dyke near Saxilby, and the rim and neck of an amphora were found while dredging near the Burton Waters gravel pits, later the Burton Waters Marina (Hockley, 1993, p. 9). The most significant find was a bronze figurine of Mars Gradivus, dating to the 2nd or 3rd century AD and bearing a votive inscription from Bruccius and Caratius Colasunus – the appearance of the statuette suggests that it was imported, but the forenames of the dedicators are Celtic (Alcock, 1989).

This period is also represented by Romano-British pottery found after ploughing in the area of the medieval cropmark enclosure known as Busdyke (HER ref. 52599), and an assemblage of Roman material, including 2nd-4th century pottery, a casket handle and a 4th century bronze coin, which was disturbed during building work on both sides of Mill Lane in the 1950s (HER ref. 52767). This latter discovery, combined with the medieval open-field furlong name Blacklands Furlong, may suggest the presence of a substantial Roman settlement in the vicinity (Everson, 1991).

The place-name 'Saxilby' is of Scandinavian origin, from the Old Norse personal name *Saxulfr* and the Old Danish word *by*, 'farmstead or village' (Cameron, 1998), although it does not appear in any existing documents until the Domesday Survey of AD 1086. Apart from the place-name itself, the only evidence of Scandinavian-period activity within the study area is within the ringing chamber of the church, where a fragment of a late 10th or 11th century stone grave cover with interlace decoration is built into the wall (Pevsner and Harris, 1989, p. 624; HER ref. 52776).

The only mention of Saxilby in Domesday Book is in the survey of Nottinghamshire, where the entry for part of Berengar de Tosny's estate in Broadholme records that *the*



Key:

- + Site, monument or findspot listed by the HER at an individual location
- Site, monument or findspot listed by the HER over a wider area
- Area of ridge-and-furrow recorded by the RCHM (arrow indicates direction of furrows)
- Other cropmark or earthwork recorded by the RCHM
- Location of site

Figure 3: Plan showing information held by the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record within the study area, including earthwork and cropmark surveys carried out by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments. The proposed development site is shown in yellow. Scale 1:10 000.

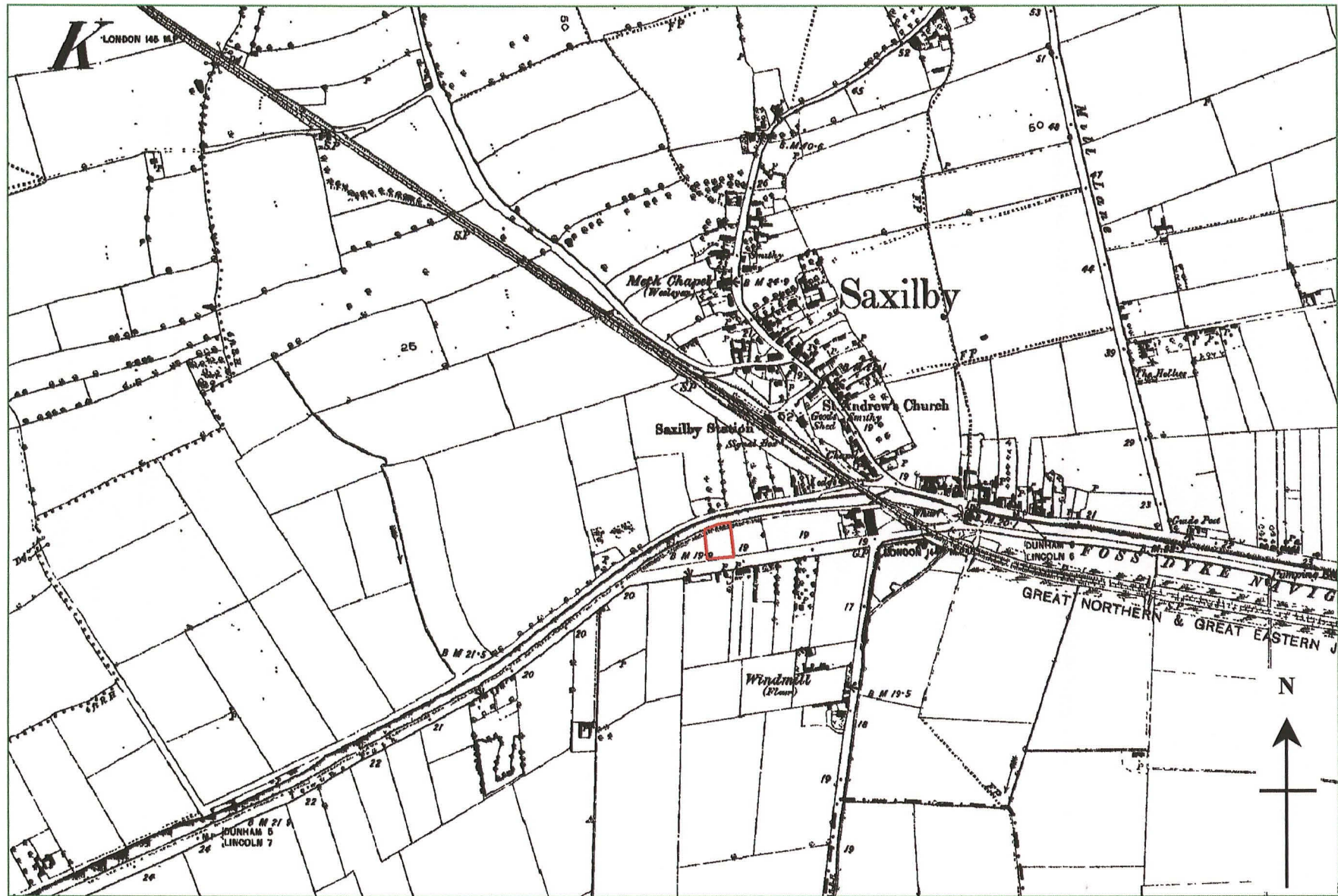


Figure 4: Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891, re-scaled to roughly 1:10 000. The approximate location of the proposed development site is outlined in red.

land belongs to Newark-on-Trent, but the service of the villans belongs to Saxilby in Lincolnshire' (Williams and Martin, 1992, p. 779). The entries for Ingleby are assumed to cover Saxilby, as these villages have always been part of the same parish: the post-Conquest parish had a total population of 31 taxable households, with extensive farmlands combining arable land, meadow, scrubland and woodland pasture. The existence of a grave cover of 10th or 11th century date implies the presence of a church at this time: no churches are in fact listed, although it must be borne in mind that the Domesday Commissioners did not list buildings or people from whom the king, through his landholder, could expect no revenue (*ibid.*, pp. 894 and 916). Taxation records from the reign of King Edward III (1327-1377) show 65 households in the parish of Saxilby with Ingleby, although this total is likely to be smaller than the actual population, as very poor households would not have been assessed for tax (Cripps *et al.*, undated, p.1).

The present parish church of St. Botolph contains a Norman north door, but otherwise the earliest work is in Early English style, dating to roughly the first half of the 13th century. Extensive rebuilding in 1908, re-using much of the original masonry, has made reliable dating difficult (Pevsner and Harris, 1989, p. 623; HER ref. 51474).

The medieval village was polyfocal, with three distinct settlement groups, which can still be identified on a 17th century map of the village – a cluster of houses around the church and along Church Lane; a group of regular, narrow plots along both sides of the High Street, forming a triangular market area at the junction with Sykes Lane, and a row of properties along the north bank of the Foss Dyke (HER ref. 52790 – whole village). The Foss Dyke was re-opened in AD 1121, although it could not be maintained, and eventually fell into disrepair again (Clay, 1989, p.1). It has been suggested that the village's layout derives from a migration towards the bridge from an original centre around the church, following the re-opening of the Foss Dyke and the beginning of waterborne trade and communication (Cripps *et al.*, undated, p.1). The village contains a surviving timber-framed building at NGR SK 8912 7561, with a base cruck structure on stone cill walls (HER ref. 52790).

The remnants of the medieval open fields listed as ploughland in the Domesday Survey can still be seen as areas of ridge-and-furrow earthworks around the village (HER refs. 52616 and 52789). Medieval Saxilby maintained a typical 3-field system. Most of the surviving earthworks are to the north of the village, but the RCHM records one area of ridge-and-furrow, oriented roughly north-south, in fields to the north of the Foss Dyke, directly opposite the site.

On the eastern edge of the study area, to the south of Hardwick Wood Farm, is another medieval feature, the rectangular cropmark/earthwork enclosure known as the Busdyke; a scatter of medieval artefacts has been found in connection with it. The significance of this feature is uncertain, although it may have been a woodland bank (HER ref. 52598). An archaeological watching brief carried out at Church Farm, on the northern side of the study area, identified the remains of a possible hollow-way or trackway, some 17m wide and partially lined with cobbles and brick rubble, which may have been either medieval or post-medieval (HER ref. 54824). The only other find recorded by the Historic Environment Record in the study area was a 16th century copper jeton (HER ref. 52775).

Apart from an area of old enclosures lying to the north of the Foss Dyke, Saxilby's open fields were enclosed between 1802 and 1804 (HER ref. 52791 – whole village). Enclosed land was frequently converted to sheep pasture, as wool was at the time more profitable than crops, thus preserving the strip pattern of the medieval open fields as ridge-and-furrow earthworks. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1891 shows the distinctive pattern of regular, straight-edged fields that indicates land divided by Parliamentary Enclosure (fig. 4).

The tower mill some 200m south-east of the site, marked as '*Windmill (Flour)*' on the 1st edition OS map, was built in 1823, and went out of use in the 1920s; it had an adjacent engine-house to supply auxiliary steam power (HER ref. 52777).

Following improvements in engineering techniques, the Foss Dyke Navigation was finally brought back into commercial use in 1744. During this period, stretches of road throughout the county were being taken over by Turnpike Trusts, which kept them maintained out of the profit from charging travellers tolls. The road west out of Lincoln to the nearest Trent crossing at Dunham Bridge, whose course is now approximately followed by the A57, was turnpiked at this time, and the first bridge over the Foss Dyke built. Nothing is now known of this bridge, but some evidence of the brick construction of its abutments can be seen in the abutment of the later swing bridge, built by the Great Northern Railway when it took the navigation over in 1846, and depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (fig. 4). The swing bridge became unsafe for the increasing volume of traffic, and was demolished in 1937: the new bridge on the Saxilby bypass – the modern A57 – was opened in this year, moving the main bridging point away from the village (Clay, 1989, pp. 1-2). The swing bridge was replaced by a cast-iron footbridge, which is still in use (HER ref. 52795). The increasing significance of the Foss Dyke Navigation as a means of trade and communication between Lincoln and the industrial Midlands led to a growth in population from 381 at the first official census, in 1801, to 1058 in the census of 1841 (Cripps *et al.*, undated, p.1).

5.0 Discussion and conclusion

The paucity of prehistoric material within the study area indicates that prehistoric remains are unlikely to be encountered during development groundworks.

The putative Roman settlement at Blacklands Furlong is too far away from the site to be relevant, but there is a possibility of encountering Roman material along the northern edge of the site, close to the Foss Dyke Navigation. This could take any of three forms: casual losses of artefacts during the construction or use of the canal; deliberate deposit of votive artefacts, such as the Mars Gradivus statuette, and potential archaeological features, such as drainage ditches emptying into the canal, or even the cut line of the Roman canal itself, if the medieval and subsequent recuts deviated from the course of the Roman original. Lost or deposited artefacts, if present, are likely to occur in a band along the side of the canal, having been dredged out of its base or bank during maintenance work and spread on the adjacent field. As no such artefacts or features have yet been encountered within the study area, the possibility of encountering them here must be considered to be limited, but cannot be ruled out altogether. Should any Roman material be discovered along the Foss Dyke, it would

also be of disproportionately high archaeological significance, as the Roman origins of the canal are still a matter of speculation.

Throughout the Scandinavian, medieval and early modern to the industrial periods, the site appears to have lain within the hinterland of the village. Since it lies on the main road between Lincoln and Dunham Bridge, the possibility that the plot may have been previously occupied cannot be ruled out, but Saxilby appears to have developed principally along a north-south rather than an east-west axis, and the plot is more likely to have been farmland through most of its history. Saxilby's open fields lay to the east and west of the village, not to the south of the Foss Dyke (SMR ref. 52790), and an area so close to a poorly maintained watercourse is likely to have been marginal agricultural land, such as water-meadow, unsuitable for cultivation.

6.0 Mitigation

Although the likelihood of encountering significant archaeological remains from any major period during groundworks on the proposed development site is low, the possibility of encountering Roman material is a significant consideration, simply because the potential significance of finds of this date would be higher. Therefore, the provision of an archaeological watching-brief during intrusive works is recommended along the northern edge of the site, where artefacts or features associated with the (as yet hypothetical) Roman canal are likely to be located.

7.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology (Lincoln) would like to thank Constructive Evaluation Ltd. for this commission.

8.0 References

Alcock, J. P., 1989, *A Note on the Foss Dyke Bronze Figurine of Mars Gradivus*, in *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* Vol. 24.

British Geological Survey, 1999, *Market Rasen: England and Wales Sheet 102, Solid and Drift Geology, 1:50 000 Provisional Series*. BGS, Keyworth.

Cameron, K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*. The English Place-Name Society, Nottingham.

Clay, A., 1989, *Saxilby – Bridge Street Conservation Area*. Unpublished report for West Lindsey District Council.

Cripps, J., Daniels, J. W., Goodchild, P., and McPhail, R., undated (1970 or earlier), *Notes on the History of Saxilby*. Privately produced, unpublished report.

Everson, P., 1991, unpublished archive notes held by the Lincolnshire HER.

Hockley, J., 1993, *Burton Waters Marina – Archaeological and Historical Study*. Unpublished client report for City of Lincoln Archaeological Unit.

Williams, A. and Martin, G. H. (eds.), 1992, *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. Penguin Books, London.

Pevsner N. and Harris J., 1989, *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*. Butler & Tanner Ltd, Frome & London.

Williams, A. and Martin, G. H. (eds.), 1992, *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. Penguin Books, London.