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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES WYAS

Navigation Lane Caistor Lincolnshire

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

Report No. 1322

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CLIENT Ben Bailey Homes.

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Navigation Lane Caister Lincolnshire

Desk-based Assessment

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS were commissioned by Ben Bailey Homes to undertake a desk-based assessment prior to a proposed housing development at Navigation Lane, Caistor, Lincolnshire. The study area is centred on TA 1080 0085 and incorporates an area of approximately 1km radius (Fig. 1). The purpose of this desk-based assessment is to identify known and potential sites of archaeological interest within the vicinity of the proposed development, with a view to identifying those which may be impacted on by subsequent development.
- 1.2 The proposed development site, of approximately 5 ha, lies on the southwest side of the historic Roman town of Caistor in close proximity to the parish boundary with Nettleton. The site is currently under crop seedlings. Tennyson Close and open fields form the eastern boundary, while a stream running roughly north to south forms the western boundary. To the north, a track and sewage works are located. The site slopes 1 in 50 to the west and there is a depression through the centre of the site from east to west (Joynes Pike and Associates 2003, 4).
- 1.3 The underlying geology of the site is Ancholme Clay Group of the Upper Jurassic Period (Joynes Pike and Associates 2003, 11).

2. Methodology and Presentation

- 2.1 This work has collated readily available material held in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Lincolnshire Archives (Lincoln), National Monuments Record, Swindon and holdings of Archaeological Services WYAS.
- 2.2 General period summaries of the archaeological evidence available are provided to help place the proposed development site within its archaeological and historical context (Section 3). More specific information on individual sites and find spots is provided in catalogue form (Section 4). The distribution of these sites is shown in Fig 2.
- 2.3 Where data have been acquired from the SMR, their unique Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) Number has been used. The locations of the archaeological sites and find spots in Section 4 have been catalogued in approximate west to east order. For the purpose of this desk-based assessment, the bracketed numbers in the text are those given to the catalogue entries in Section 4. The bracketed letters in the text refer to those given to listed buildings and historic structures. Aerial photographic information reproduced as part of Fig. 2 is provided by the National Monuments Record (NMR) and is the work of the National Mapping Programme (NMP). The area under review here was mapped by the NMP in 1993.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric Period

- 3.1.1 No finds of Palaeolithic date have been discovered within Caistor or within the boundaries of the study area. As Binnal (nd, 5) notes, however, it is likely 'that careful exploration of the valleys would reveal objects used by people of the old stone age'.
- 3.1.2 In contrast, material ranging from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age has been recovered in the vicinity. Two leaf shaped arrowheads (1) were discovered approximately 750m to the north of the proposed development area by E. and R. Russell in 1958, while excavations associated with Caistor Grammar School also produced a lithic scatter (33) of Early Neolithic to Bronze Age date. A further lithic scatter (4) was discovered 350m southwest of the proposed development site within the parish of Nettleton. This lithic material ranged in date from the Early Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age.
- 3.1.3 Caistor lies to the west of a route way known as 'High Street', believed to be an important prehistoric trackway. It is suggested that this route provided a means of communication between the settlements on the western edge of the Wolds (Tann and Field 1998). Margary (1967, 240) believes that this route shows evidence of construction and straightening during the Roman period.
- 3.1.4 Aerial photographic research within the study area, especially that of the NMP, identified a number of features of prehistoric date. Approximately 700m to the west of the proposed development site is a large complex of features that have been dated to the later prehistoric periods (3). These features include a number of possible prehistoric pits in association with what appear to be the remnants of enclosures and curvilinear boundaries (Fig. 2). A possible hut circle, perhaps representing aspects of unenclosed settlement, lies to the east of this complex.
- 3.1.5 During the construction of a housing estate on Lincoln Drive (approximately 300m east of the proposed development site), a Bronze Age urn was discovered by a mechanical excavator (19). The urn is believed to have contained a cremation. The machine driver also noted other pots, ash and knobs of burnt clay. Such finds may mark the location of a Bronze Age cremation cemetery.

3.2 Roman Period

- 3.2.1 The place name Caistor or *Castr* means 'Roman station' and is the clearest indication of the Roman heritage of this settlement (Cameron 1991, 87). Caistor has often been linked with Horncastle as a fortified settlement of similar type (Pevsner and Harris 1995, 206) and this is most probably due to both sites taking advantage of a naturally defensible site (Tann and Field 1998, 4). Cameron (1991, 88) notes that Caistor has been identified with *Bannovalum*, although other writers such as Rivet and Smith (cited in Cameron) identify *Bannovalum* as either being Caistor or Horncastle.
- 3.2.2 Stukeley made the earliest documentation of the Roman town in 1724 (Rahtz 1960, 177), although surprisingly little is still known about the development

and layout of the settlement or the extent of any internal structures within the walls of the town. Whitwell (1992, 70) notes that 'buildings which stood within the defences are totally unknown', but Rahtz (1960, 177) has suggested that the walls of the Roman town of Caistor (38) were constructed or at least modified in the middle of the 4th century AD. Aspects of the former Roman boundary wall, which survive in the graveyard of the parish church, are Grade I listed (I) and the interior and walls of the fortified town are a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 148) (38). Movement through the Roman town was facilitated by a road, which ran approximately east to west through the parish from Ermine Street to Caistor (10). The road is described as a 'true aligned roadway running from High Street westwards along the flat country' (Margary 1967, 240).

- 3.2.3 Excavations undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services at Caistor Grammar School in 1992 provided the first definitive evidence for a ditch around the town walls of Caistor and for stonework associated with the wall on the western side of the town (39). Further evaluation in 2002, however, identified the Roman foundations of the town wall and indicated that the wall identified in 1992 did not utilise such foundations. A watching brief undertaken at Caistor Grammar School in 1993 also identified a number of early medieval pits cutting into Romano-British ditch (37).
- 3.2.4 A crop mark enclosure (7) has been identified by the NMP approximately 250m to the southwest of the proposed development site. The crop mark is believed to be that of a square double-ditched enclosure with rounded corners (Fig. 2). The enclosure, which appears to be closely associated with a number of linear features which lie to the west, has been interpreted has the remains of a possible Roman fort or camp. The NMP, however, has raised the possibility that the enclosure represents the remains of a medieval feature, although the enclosure does lie within the immediate vicinity of the area believed to be the burial ground (5) for the Roman town of Caistor. Cremation urns of 4thcentury date were discovered at this location and are believed to mark the location of an extramural urnfield cemetery. In addition, two inhumation burials, one in a crouched position, were discovered to the north of Navigation Lane (approximately 400m east of the proposed development site) during sewerage works (21). Two further inhumations were discovered some 55m to the west in 1969. No grave goods or associated finds were discovered with the burials, but a Roman date cannot be discounted.
- 3.2.5 Prior to the construction of a sports pavilion (approximately 250m to the northeast of the proposed development site), a geophysical survey and an archaeological evaluation were undertaken (15). The geophysical survey identified linear features and a high magnetic response in the western limits of the site. The three trial trenches designed to target the geophysical responses exposed a north-south aligned ditch of 2nd to 3rd-century date, two large pits and two small northeast-southwest orientated ditches associated with a bank and post-holes. Further geophysical survey (14) in the area of the pavilion also identified the former course of a stream. This channel was associated with the remains of a structure of late first-century BC to early 1st-century AD date. A watching brief (17), which followed, identified a number of ditches, gullies

and pits of Romano-British date. These features raise the possibility that settlement activity extends beyond the area of the pavilion. Certainly c.150m to the northwest a floor of small tesserae has been identified (12), presumably marking the location of a Roman structure. Just to the north of this site, the NMP has identified crop marks, but unfortunately no further information in terms of the form or function of these features was made available.

3.2.6 The discovery of 3rd to 4th-century grey ware pottery in association with waster sherds and kiln furniture to the north of Navigation Lane is believed to mark the possible location of an extramural pottery site (25). A further kiln site (22) was discovered approximately 400m east of the proposed development site (south of Navigation Lane) and is also believed to have been producing pottery during the 3rd to 4th centuries AD (Whitwell 1992, 70). Other finds of Romano-British date include fragments of course gritted and grey ware pottery (29) discovered at Canada Lane (1km northeast of the proposed development site) and a bronze coin of Gallenius (AD 253-268) and a bead (44) discovered to the south of Church Street. Other finds discovered within the Roman town include possible Roman masonry (40) discovered in the gutter of a building in close proximity to the parish church.

3.3 The Saxon and Medieval Periods

- 3.3.1 As to whether there was continuity of settlement from the Roman era through to Anglo-Saxon period within many parts of Lincolnshire, cannot be answered satisfactorily. At Caistor, however, continuity of settlement is likely (Everson et al. 1991, 7). The place name of Caistor or Castr, literally meaning 'Roman Station' is first mentioned on Anglo-Saxon coins dating between AD 975-8 and is later mentioned on coinage in 978-9 as Cazt. Such evidence has been used to suggest the continued occupation of Caistor into the Anglo-Saxon period (Cameron, 1991, 87). Tann and Field (1998, 5) suggest that following the withdrawal of the Roman administration in the early 5th century, Caistor probably developed into the capital of the North Riding of the Kingdom of Lindsey. A mint was present at Caistor in the 10th century (and also at Lincoln, Torksey and Horncastle) indicating that Caistor must have been part of a royal estate (Field 1992). As such, Caistor is believed to have remained a centre of significant regional importance during the Anglo-Saxon period. Certainly, the manor was still held by the monarch at the time of the Norman Conquest (Field 1992).
- 3.3.2 A *titulus* believed to date to the first half of the 9th century was discovered in the graveyard of the Church of St Peter and St Paul in 1770 (K). This *titulus* is believed to represent a dedication stone for an earlier structure perhaps an Anglo-Saxon precursor to the present church. The *titulus* was lost in the 19th century, although an engraving still survives. The location of the present church within the Roman walls also points towards an early foundation date for the structure and the continuation of the regional importance of the town during the Anglo-Saxon period (Field 1992). Artefacts of Anglo-Saxon date within close proximity to the proposed early church include a mid Saxon silver *Scaetta* of Eadberht (34) and a sherd of Saxon pottery (35) uncovered during the watching brief at Caistor Grammar School in 1997.

- 3.3.3 An Anglo-Saxon cemetery (18) was discovered between Nettleton and Caistor, on the east side of Caistor Road in 1855. The cemetery is believed to date to the 5th to 6th century and Gardner (2002, 4) has suggested that such an early cemetery located in close proximity to the Roman town of Caistor may suggest that the Saxon settlers were apportioned land by the Roman administration at Caistor.
- 3.3.4 Caistor is featured in the Domesday Record of 1086, where it is recorded under the ownership of Earl Morcar. The town is recorded as having a church, a priest, and four mills. The total value of the Earl's manorial lands was £50. The parish of Nettleton, which lies to the south of the proposed redevelopment site, is also mentioned in the Domesday Record, although there is no evidence for *Nettletone* (literally meaning farmstead or village), prior to this record. Following the Conquest, land in Nettleton is recorded under the ownership of Bishop of Bayeux Roger of Poiton, Erneis of Buron, Durand Malet and Svartbrandr. There were a total of nine mills within the parish at this time (Gardner 2002, 3-5).
- 3.3.5 The earliest evidence for the present Church of St Peter and St Paul's (K) is the 11th-century megalithic quoins, which survive at the west end of the nave of the church. Additions were made to this medieval structure in the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries. The church of St John the Baptist (F) at Nettleton (c. 600m to the south of the development site) is also believed to have an 11th-century foundation. The church, with the exception of a Saxo-Norman tower, is largely 15th century in date.
- A complex of four scheduled fishponds (SAM 31621), believed to be of 3.3.6 medieval date lie to the north of Navigation Lane and approx. 250m north of the proposed redevelopment site (11). Although fishponds of this type may have had a wide range of uses, the ponds at Caistor were probably used for breeding fish, as a valuable source of food (English Heritage 1999). Excavation of a foundation trench for the new Caistor Grammar School, c. 800m northeast of the proposed development site identified an east-west aligned wall (41). Excavation of the wall produced one sherd of 12th to 13thcentury pottery, while during trial trenching to the south of Navigation Lane, a gully and a ditch were discovered (27). A single sherd of a 13th to 14thcentury pottery jug (26) was recovered from these investigations. Other finds of medieval date within the study area include a rim sherd of a St Neot's Ware bowl (31) discovered in the garden of Manestry and a 13th-century coin of Louis XI (43) discovered during the 1862 restoration of the parish church of Caistor.
- 3.3.7 Traces of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing are clearly evident within the study area. The most pertinent of these lies immediately to the west of the proposed development area (9). Ridge and furrow can potentially mask any earlier archaeological features. Further areas of ridge and furrow lie to the southeast of the proposed development site at distances of 400m (23), 500m (24) and 750m (28), respectively. Additional areas of ridge and furrow are also evident to the north of the town of Caistor. A probable medieval earthwork

lynchet (45) was also identified by the NMP approximately 900m southeast of the proposed development area.

3.3.8 Glebe Farmhouse (E) is believed to be of 15th-century date, but has received significant 17th, 18th and 19th-century alterations (DoE 1985). Earthworks discovered at Glebe Farm (16) include a possible house platform. No buildings are depicted on 18th-century Enclosure Awards, however, and as a result, any structures present were probably demolished prior to the awards (Gardner 2002, 6).

3.4 The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

- 3.4.1 17th-century structures located within the study area include the former Caistor Grammar School (J), constructed in 1631, and Mansgate House (G) and Cottage (DoE 1985). A great fire of 1681, however, destroyed much of the town of Caistor and parish records at the time recorded that the fire spread until 'half ye houses, barns, stables and outhouses in the town, with all ye shops warehouses' were destroyed. The damage was estimated at £6, 786 and 29 people died (Binnal nd, 13). An evaluation trench on land at Cromwell View (41) identified the remains of a post-medieval cottage floor, which is believed to mark the location of a row of cottages, which was extant in 1959. The only surviving 18th-century listed structure within the study area is No. 1 Kelsey Road (H) (DoE 1985).
- 3.4.2 In an area southeast of Nettleton village a number of crop marks indicate the location of a number of closes where approximately 25 former buildings once stood (20). The construction date of these structures is unknown, although the buildings were known to be standing in the 17th century when they were destroyed by a landslip (Everson *et al.* 1991, 39).
- 3.4.3 Much of the parish of Caistor had been enclosed prior to the late 18th-century Enclosure Act. Such early enclosures are shown on the enclosure plan of 1798 (Figs 3 and 4). With the exception of the earlier enclosures (shown as hatched areas), the remainder of the parish comprised of two open fields, the North and South Field. The North Field covered approximately 169 acres and the South field, within which the proposed development site was located, covered about 212 acres (E. and R. Russell, 1987, 54).
- 3.4.4 Following the Enclosure Act signed in January 1798, the enclosure of the parish included the laying out of new public and private roads (some of which followed existing roads), the allotment of glebe lands, tithes and manorial rights and finally general allotments. In total, 54 people were awarded general allotments, but 48 of these were recorded as being under five acres and 30 were less than one acre. The proposed development site at this date included allotments owned by Samuel Turner and Robert Swan (E. and R. Russell 1987, 54). The Enclosure Act also records 'Caistor Canal Road', later Navigation Lane, as a private road (E. and R. Russell 1987, 54).

3.5 Nineteenth Century to Present

3.5.1 The House of Industry (A) was founded in 1800 by Mr. William Dixon of Holton and was the focus for his 'Society of Industry'. The building later

became the Union District Workhouse and subsequently a mental hospital. Other 19th-century listed structures within the study area include Nettleton House (C) and the Old Rectory, Nettleton (D). Pelham House (B), formerly the site of Pelham Brewery, constructed in the early 19th century, is now listed as being demolished. Finally, pottery dating to the 18th to 20th centuries was recovered during the watching brief at Caistor Grammar School (32).

3.6 Features of Unknown Date

- 3.6.1 A rectangular crop mark enclosure (8) identified by the NMP is situated approximately 400m to the northwest of the proposed development site, but no date has been attributed to this feature. Aerial photographic information provided by the NMP also highlights the presence of further crop marks (2), which lie to the south of the Roman road and northwest of the proposed development area. Unfortunately, no supporting information regarding their form or function was provided by the NMR.
- 3.6.2 Undated finds within the wider study area include a brooch (30) discovered by E. and R. Russell in 1979. A knife with silver decoration was also discovered 500m to the south of the proposed development area in the parish of Nettleton (13), although a medieval date has been proposed.

3.7 Cartographic Evidence for the Proposed Development Area

- 3.7.1 Lincolnshire Archives hold a number of cartographic sources relating to Caistor (see sources consulted), but many of these do not show the proposed development site. The earliest cartographic source to depict the proposed development area is the enclosure plan of 1798 (Lincolnshire Archives Ref: Caistor PAR 7/1). The original of this map, however, is in exceptionally poor condition and an accurate copy could not be made. The enclosure map depicts both enclosures undertaken as part of the Enclosure Act between 1796-1798 but also the old enclosures within Caistor. E. and R. Russell (1987, 54) (utilising the enclosure plan) provide a much clearer cartographic depiction of the parish prior to the Enclosure Act (Fig. 3) and also following the Act (Fig. 4). Enclosure undertaken prior to the Act corresponds with the boundaries of the town and also includes those areas to the south of North Kelsey Road. The proposed development at this time was within one of two main open fields. The proposed development site was located in the western part of Caistor's 'South Field' (E. and R. Russell 1987, 53). Following the Enclosure Act, during which time 'Caistor Canal Road' later known as Navigation Lane was constructed, the proposed development area incorporated parts of two enclosed fields owned by a Samuel Turner and Robert Swan. Turner owned a total of twelve acres and twenty-two perches within the parish and Swann owned fifteen acres and two roods. No buildings, structures or features of note were depicted on the enclosure plan within the boundaries of the site.
- 3.7.2 There appears to have been no change within the proposed development area by the time of the Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1887 (Fig. 5). The field boundaries produced by the Enclosure Act appear to be the same. In the southern field, the beck, which forms the western boundary of the site, appears to terminate at a pond. This feature does not appear to relate directly to the scheduled medieval fishponds (11) further to the north, although it may have

served a similar function. By 1887 the settlement of Caistor does not appear to have greatly expanded beyond the boundaries of the Roman and later town. Caistor Union Workhouse (A) is clearly marked *c*.600m to the west of Caistor.

3.7.3 Again by the time of the OS map of 1905 (Fig. 6) there is little change to the proposed development site, which is still represented by two enclosed fields bounded to the west by a beck. Similarly, the size of Caistor remains largely unchanged. The OS map of 1946 (Fig. 7) depicts a similar picture, with the exception of the construction of the Caistor by pass and housing to the east of Nettleton Road. By this date, the Workhouse had become 'Caistor Institution'. Further housing had been built to the east of Nettleton Road by the time of the OS map of 1957 (Fig. 8) and by 1974 (Fig. 9) the Sewage Works on the northern side of the proposed development site had been constructed and Caistor Institution had become Caistor's hospital. Between 1957 and 1974, the settlement of Caistor expanded, with the construction of significant amounts of housing and industrial premises and the construction of a number of schools, a police station and sports and recreation grounds. In contrast, between 1974 and the production of the 1985 OS map (Fig. 10) development in Caistor all but ceased.

3.8 Geotechnical Investigations

3.8.1 Joynes Pike and Associates Limited undertook geo-technical investigations of the proposed development site on 27th November 2002. In total, eleven trial pits were excavated across the site to a maximum depth of 3.0m. A topsoil horizon was encountered in all the trial pits. This layer, however, did not exceed a maximum depth of 0.20m (TP6). In test pits 1, 2, 5, 6 and 9, which were situated in the western and northwestern areas of the site, slightly clayey orange sand was encountered below this topsoil layer. This sand layer, which included occasional organic matter and shell fragments, was encountered to depths of between 1.1m and 3.0m (below ground level). This layer was found to be overlying a stiff blue-grey clay layer in test pits 5 and 9. Underlying the topsoil in test pits 4, 7, 8 and 10, which were located to the northeast and southeast, was a layer of light brown sandy clay encountered to depths of between 1.3m and 2.8m. This clay layer overlay a stiff blue-grey clay layer with shell fragments and occasional organic inclusions. The latter was encountered to depths of between 1.3m and 2.8m. Mudstone was encountered as the basal layer in all the test pits, with the exception of test pits 1 and 2. This mudstone layer encountered at depths of between 1.3m and 2.8m was initially a weak blue-grey mudstone with shell fragment inclusions, but became moderately stronger with depth (Joynes Pike and Associates Limited 2003).

3.9 Site Inspection

3.9.1 An archaeologist from Archaeological Services WYAS undertook a site inspection on 19th November 2004. This inspection involved a walkover survey to identify the presence of any visible archaeological features. No archaeological features or finds were encountered (Plates 1 and 2).

4. Catalogue of Archaeological Sites and Find Spots (Fig. 2)

- 1. Leaf-shaped Arrowheads SMR no. 50877 TA 1005 0130 Two leaf shaped arrowheads were discovered in plough soil in 1958. The artefacts date to the Neolithic period.
- 2. Field Boundaries? SMR no. TA 1010 0150 The aerial photographic information provided by the NMR highlights the presence of crop marks to the northwest of Caistor Hospital and to immediately to the south of the Roman Road. No supporting information, however, was provided for these features, although they may represent former field boundaries of unknown date. No boundaries lying on a similar alignment are shown on any edition of the OS mapping (Figs 5-10).
- 3. Prehistoric Features SMR no. 52661 TA 1010 0100 A number of prehistoric features were identified by the Royal Commision for the Historical Monuments of England in 1976 (Ref: 2921/28, 34,1976) and the NMP in 1993 (Ref: TA1001: LI.236.4-8.1-3, 1993). The features include a number of possible prehistoric pits discovered in association with enclosures, hut circles and curvilinear boundaries.
- 4. Lithic Scatter SMR no. 50221 TA 104 005 A lithic scatter was discovered in the Nettleton parish. The lithic material ranges in date from the Early Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age.
- 5. Romano-British Cemetery SMR no. 50217 TA 1045 0077 Romano-British Cinerary Urns discovered to the west of Caistor Road, are believed to mark the location of a Romano-British burial ground for Caistor Roman Town. The urns, discovered in the 19th century, are believed to be 4th century in date.
- 6. Ridge and Furrow SMR no. 51567 TA 1041 0029 An area of probable medieval ridge and furrow has been identified by the NMP (Ref: TA1000: LI.236.3.1, 1993).
- 7. Crop mark Enclosure SMR no. 50545 TA 1045 0060 A crop mark of a square double-ditched enclosure with rounded corners has been mapped. The crop mark may represent the remains of a Roman fort or camp. The NMP, however, interpreted the crop mark as a possible medieval enclosure (Ref: TA1000: LI. 236.1.1, 1993). The enclosure is 2.3 ha in size.
- 8. Crop mark Enclosure SMR no. 52694 TA 1050 0120 A rectangular crop mark enclosure has been identified by the NMP (Ref: 2920/27; 2921/35, 1976). Also within the vicinity of the enclosure are a number of faint crop marks. No precise date is attributed to the enclosure.
- 9. Ridge and Furrow SMR no. 52700 TA 1064 0086 Remains of ridge and furrow were highlighted by Lindsey Archaeological Services as part of their research into the Caistor western bypass.

Roman Road

Medieval Fishponds

10.

SMR no. 53545

TA 1070 0150

Station Road is believed to be a Roman road running from Ermine Street to Caistor and crossing the Ancholme Level in North Kelsey. Margary (1967, 240) describes the road (no. 271) as a 'true aligned roadway', which runs from High Street (no. 270) westward across the flat country as far as the fenland at North Kelsey. The road is described as a raised road, generally 36 feet wide and 1-2 feet high and follows the same alignment, much of it inside the parish boundary. The road has also been interpreted as one of the 'new public and private roads (some of which followed the line of already existing roads)' described by the Enclosure Act of 1798 (E. and R. Russell 1987, 55).

11.

SAM 31621

TA 1087 0120

A small group of fishponds lay approximately 1km to the west of Caistor Church. The complex, believed to be medieval in origin, included a series of fishponds, leats and dams in an area of 110m by 90m. At the southern end were two roughly rectangular ponds on an east-west alignment. These ponds were located alongside a small west-flowing stream fed by springs emerging from a small promontory upon which the town of Caistor is located. Each pond was c.40m in length and a bank of c.1m in height enclosed both. Another smaller pond lay to the east of a broad bank, which divided the two main ponds. Lincolnshire SMR suggests this pond was most probably a fish breading or settling pond. A further larger pond was located on the northwest of the complex. This pond included a roughly circular island, which the scheduled monument listing (1999) suggests was associated with fishing activities. Banks of various heights on the eastern side of the pond were cut by narrow channels, which controlled the water supply either across the meadow to the west or back to the stream. A number of fishponds show clear evidence of a wide range of functions and it is often exceptionally difficult to determine their primary use (Everson et al. 1991, 51). While ponds of this type may also be used as reservoirs for mills or may represent the re-use of moated sites, the scheduled ancient monument listing, suggests that the ponds at Caistor were used for 'cultivating, breeding and storing fish to provide a constant and sustainable supply of food' (English Heritage 1999).

12. Roman Floor/Ridge and SMR no. 52718 TA 1090 0120 Furrow

An area of ridge and furrow is seen to overlay a small accumulation of tesserae, which potentially marks the location of a Roman structure. The location appears to lie partially within the area of the scheduled medieval fishponds (SAM 31621). Just to the north of this floor, the aerial photographic research of the NMR also depicts crop marks of unknown form and function (Fig. 2).

13. Knife SMR no. 50219 TA 1091 0037

A knife with silver wire decoration was discovered to the north of Cooks Lane, Nettleton. The date of the knife remains unknown, although a medieval date has been suggested.

SMR no. 54827 TA 1105 0110 14. **Geophysical Survey** Geophysical Survey conducted at Caistor Grammar School identified a northeast to southwest-aligned linear anomaly to the northeast of the proposed development site (Pre-construct Geophysics 2003). Subsequent evaluation by trial trenching identified this feature as a palaeochannel. The feature is believed to represent the earlier course of a stream, which now runs along the northern side of the playing field. A large volume of fired clay and charcoal at the southern end of the cannel was interpreted as the remnants of a wattle and daub structure, destroyed by fire. Two sherds of Romano-British pottery within the deposit suggest a late 1st-century BC to early 1st-century AD date (Pre-construct Archaeology 2003).

15. TA 1105 0110 Geophysical Survey/ SMR no. 54826 Evaluation

Geophysical survey and an archaeological evaluation were undertaken in advance of a planning decision regarding the construction of a sports pavilion for Caistor Grammar School. The geophysical survey identified linear features and a high magnetic response in the western part of the site (Pre-construct Geophysics 2003). Three trial trenches were excavated to target these geophysical responses (Pre-construct Archaeology 2003). Trench 1 contained a north to south-aligned ditch, which was dated to the 2nd to 3rd century. Trench 2 was found to contain two large pits with a similar date to the ditch within Trench 1. Trench 3 contained two small northeast to southwest-aligned ditches, one of which was associated with a bank and a post-hole arrangement. Worked flints were discovered from within these ditch fills, although these were deemed to be residual in origin.

15a.

Watching Brief

SMR no. 54826

TA 1105 0110

TA 11003 01080

A watching brief carried out during the construction of new sports facilities at Caistor Grammar School uncovered further Romano-British features (see above). A sequence of intercutting linear features, probably representing boundary or drainage ditches which had been re-cut at least three times. A large quantity of Romano-British pottery was also recovered as well as hammerscale (indicative of iron working) and animal bone.

15b. **Mesolithic Flint Blade** SMR no. 55305

A single flint blade of a type commonly associated with a Mesolithic date range was recovered during the above watching brief carried out during the construction of new sports facilities at Caistor Grammar School.

16. **House Platform** SMR no. 54744 TA 1108 0012 Earthworks at Glebe Farm, Nettleton were noted during a site visit by an archaeologist from Pre-construct Archaeology. These earthworks included an area of ground believed to represent a house platform. No buildings are shown on the 1794 Enclosure map for Nettleton and any potential buildings were therefore presumably demolished prior to this date. Pevsner (cited in Gardner 2002, 6) describes Glebe Farm House itself as being a remnant of a 16thcentury timber-framed hall.

17. Watching Brief SMR no. 54826 TA 112 011 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on a sports ground on the north side of Navigation Lane, owned by Caistor Grammar School. The watching brief identified a number of ditches, gullies and pits dating to the Romano-British period. The evidence suggested that there was some type of settlement on the site and it is likely that the archaeological remains extend beyond the area of the ground works monitored during the watching brief (Pre-construct Archaeology 2004).

18. Anglo-Saxon Cemetery SMR no. 50220 TA 111 006 An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery was discovered on the east side of Caistor Road. The inhumation cemetery dated from the 5th to 6th century and contained a 5th century (bronze) hanging bowl in one of the graves. It has been suggested that the early Anglo-Saxon cemetery so close to a Romano-British town may indicate that Anglo-Saxon settlers had been apportioned land by the Roman administration at Caistor. A further inhumation discovered on the east side of Nettleton Road in 1972 may also be associated with the cemetery (Gardner 2002, 4).

- 19. Bronze Age Urn/Cemetery SMR no. 52677 TA 1120 0100 A Bronze Age urn was found during construction work on a new housing estate to the east of the proposed development site. The discovery went unnoticed until the urn fell out of the bucket of the mechanical excavator. The finder also noted other pots, ash and knobs of red burnt clay in the same location. The collar of the urn is decorated with a simple chevron pattern produced by a twisted cord. Both below the collar and on the rim of the urn is a stabbed pattern. The urn is believed to mark the possible location of an urn cemetery.
- 20. Buildings SMR no. 50224 TA 112 000 In an area to the southeast of Nettleton village are a number of closes, which mark the location of former buildings. The buildings stood on the site until the latter part of the 17th century when the buildings were abandoned. A landslip apparently engulfed approximately 25 houses and 'garths' (Everson *et al.* 1991, 39).

21. Human Skeletons

SMR no. 50585

TA 1130 0110 TA 1137 0108

Two human skeletons were discovered on the northern side of Navigation Lane in 1964. One of these skeletons was in a crouched position. Two further skeletons were uncovered sixty yards to the west in 1969. The skeletons were discovered at two feet below the ground surface in sand. The area in which the skeletons were discovered lies to the northeast of the proposed development area outside the Roman town walls. A Roman date for the skeletons, however, has not been discourted. No grave goods or associated finds were discovered.

22. Romano-British Kiln SMR no. 50869 TA 1130 0100 A Romano-British pottery kiln site was discovered during ploughing south of Navigation Lane, Caistor. Grey ware pottery appears to have been in production between the 3rd and 4th centuries.

23. Ridge and Furrow SMR no. 51571

TA 1124 0066 TA 1120 077

Areas of probable late medieval earthwork ridge and furrow were identified by the NMP (Ref: TF1100: LI.237.4.1,1993).

24. Probable Ridge and SMR no. 51570 Furrow

TA 1131 0049 TA1136 0044

TA 1135 0120

An area of probable medieval ridge and furrow was identified by the NMP (Ref: TA1100: LI.237.3.1,1993).

25. Romano-British

Pottery Kiln Romano-British pottery was discovered in association with waster sherds and kiln furniture. The 3rd to 4th-century grey ware pottery and other material is

SMR no. 52684

26. Medieval Pottery SMR no. 54806 TA 1131 0103 Trial trenching to the south of Navigation Lane, Caistor produced a single sherd of 13th to 14th-century pottery. The sherd is believed to be part of a jug.

believed to possibly mark the location of a Romano-British pottery site.

- 27. Trial Trenching SMR no. 54805 TA 1131 0103 During trial trenching undertaken by Pre-construct Archaeology to the south of Navigation Lane, a gully and a ditch were discovered. The features were sealed below a horizon of wind blown sand, which is believed to date from between the 13th or 14th century.
- 28. Probable Ridge and SMR no. 51569 TA 1142 0014 Furrow

An area of probable medieval ridge and furrow at was identified by the NMP (Ref: TA1100: LI.237.2.1, 1993).

- 29. Romano-British Pottery SMR no. 50866 TA 1134 0180 Pieces of Romano-British course gritted and grey wares were discovered in the garden of a bungalow at the west end of Canada Lane, Caistor.
- **30.**Undated BroochSMR no. 52689TA 1150 0130An undated brooch was discovered by E. and R. Russell in 1979.
- 31. Medieval Pottery SMR no. 52685 TA 1150 0130 A St Neot's ware rim sherd of a nine-inch diameter bowl was discovered in the garden of Manestry, Castle Hill. The rim sherd is rouletted on its upper surface. Also discovered in the same locality was a rouletted fragment of shelly ware, a piece of Stamford ware and a lead Ampulla.

- 32. Post-medieval Pottery SMR no. 54258 TA 1155 0131 A watching brief at Caistor Grammar School yielded post-medieval material including 18th to 20th-century pottery.
- **33.** Lithic Scatter SMR no. 52686 TA 1150 0130 The excavation of the foundation trenches for the Caistor Grammar School produced a lithic scatter. The scatter was dated to the Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age by a blade of diagnostic type.
- 34. Silver Sceatta SMR no. 52687 TA 1150 0130 A silver *scaetta* of Eadberht, King of the Northumbrians (737-758) was found by E. and R. Russell in 1979.
- 35.Saxon PotterySMR no. 54257TA 1155 0131A sherd of Saxon green sand ware pottery was uncovered during a watching
brief at Caistor Grammar School in 1997. The sherd dates from the 5th to 7th
century.
- 36. Roman Pottery/Tile SMR no. 54256 TA 1155 0131 A watching brief at Caistor Grammar School, in close proximity to the western edge of the scheduled ancient monument area of the Roman town, encountered a range of Roman material. No features were uncovered but the finds included five fragments of tile, one of which was possibly part of hypocaust system. Other finds included a fragment of a grey ware bowl dating from the 3rd to 4th century.
- 37. Roman Ditch/Medieval SMR no. 51476 TA 1160 0135 pits

A watching brief carried out at Casitor Grammar School by Lindsey Archaeological Services identified a number of early medieval pits cutting into a Roman ditch.

38. **Caistor Roman Town SAM 148** TA 1168 0130 The Roman town of Caistor is often listed along with Horncastle as a later Roman walled town. The principle feature of the town, which survives at least in part, is the wall itself, which encloses approximately seven to eight acres (Pevsner and Harris 1995, 206). The walls of the town are believed to have been constructed, or at least modified, in the 4th century AD (Rahtz 1960, 177). The line of the Roman town walls follows the configuration of the ground surface, forming an irregular polygon 160m by 225m. The Roman and later town of Caistor stands on a spur of land at the western edge of the Wolds. External bastions were set around the wall. It is unclear, however, if these bastions were additions or were part of the original construction (Whitwell 1992, 69). A ditch has also been identified outside the southern side of the wall, although this is of uncertain date. Within the scheduled area around two thirds of the ground has been built upon, the remainder comprises gardens, allotments and open space (English Heritage 1974). The original structures, which stood within the walled area, are virtually unknown. Trial trenching within western areas revealed few signs of occupation apart from sherds of 4th-century pottery. Further excavations in the garden of the British Legion

club on Bank Lane (TA 1176 0132) uncovered on archaeological feature in association with two sherds of 3rd to 4th-century pottery and 26 residual pieces (Whitwell 1992, 70). It has been suggested, although not proven, that Caistor was the site of 1st-century military occupation and a 2nd-century Roman fortress.

39. Roman Ditch SMR no. 52698 TA 1163 0138

A large Roman ditch was investigated by Lindsey Archaeological Services as part of the excavation work at Caistor Grammar School. The ditch was believed to provide the first clear evidence of a ditch around the Roman town walls. Further evaluation was undertaken to ascertain if the retaining stonework discovered by an earlier evaluation in 1992 was a part of the Roman wall. The wall, however, did not appear to utilise the Roman foundations exposed in 1992 (Field 1992).

40.Roman Masonry?SMR no. 50871TA 1165 0130A mass of possible masonry within the gutter of a building in close proximity

to the parish church is believed to be potentially Roman. The masonry contains a lot of tile but seems to have no relationship with the road, gutter, drains or churchyard wall. If Roman, the masonry is believed to relate to some building inside the wall.

- 41. Evaluation trench SMR no. 54836 TA 115 011 An evaluation trench on land at no. 2 Cromwell View, Caistor identified the remains of a post-medieval cottage floor with evidence of repairs and demolition debris. A handmade brick floor aligned northwest to southeast with a mortar bonding is believed to represent the former location of a row of postmedieval cottages.
- 42. Medieval Pottery SMR no. 54246 TA 1164 0132 Excavation of a foundation trench for the new west gable of Caistor Grammar School revealed an east to west aligned wall and one sherd of 12th to 13thcentury pottery. Further medieval pottery and a piece of glass were also recovered from the site (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1997).
- **43.** Coin SMR no. 52680 TA 1168 0126 A coin of Louis XI of France dating to the 13th century was discovered under the church floor during the 1862 restoration.
- 44. Coin/Bead SMR no. 52683 TA 1170 0130 A bronze coin of Gallenius (253-268) and a jet or shale spacer bead of Romano-British date were located within Caistor.
- 45. Medieval Lynchet SMR no. 51568 TA 1180 0032 A probable medieval earthwork lynchet was identified by the NMP (Ref: TF1100: LI.237.1.1, 1993)
- 46. Human Skull SMR no. 55285 TA 11170 00800 Part of a human skull was found during digging at a house on the edge of Caistor. The skull was buried about 1.5m below current ground levels.

Listed Buildings and Historic Structures

- A. House of Industry SMR no. 52697 TA 1020 0140 The House of Industry at Caistor was founded by Mr William Dixon of Holton Le Moor in 1800 and its burial ground was consecrated in 1815. The building was the focus of Dixon's 'Society of Industry'. The building became the Union District Workhouse, as is indicated on the OS map of 1887 (Fig. 5). The building later became a mental hospital and is shown as an 'Institution' by the time of the OS map of 1946 (Fig. 7). The building was three stories high and had a U-shaped plan. A house on the site was demolished in 1998 during site clearance work. A site visit in July 1998 noted that several 20th-century buildings, the chapel and the burial ground were still extant (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1998).
- B. Pelham House SMR no. TA 10847 00126 A house associated with Pelham Brewery is now demolished. The building dated to the early 19th century and was constructed of lined stucco with a hipped slate roof. The building was listed grade II (DoE Ref: 3/18).
- C. Nettleton House SMR no. TA 11050 00729 Nettleton House lies to the east of the proposed development area within the parish of Nettleton. The house also known as the 'Elms' was constructed in 1827 of yellow brick with an ashlar dressing and a hipped slate roof. The building is listed grade II (DoE Ref: 3/13).
- D. The Old Rectory SMR no. TA 11048 00183 Formerly a rectory, this building is now converted into a house. The former rectory dates to the early 19th century and is constructed of coursed ironstone rubble with a red brick dressing. The building was apparently described as a house as early as 1822 (DoE 1985). The building is listed grade II (DoE Ref: 3/15).
- E. Glebe Farmhouse SMR no. TA 11083 00140 Glebe Farmhouse is of possible 15th-century date with 17th and 18th and 19th-century alterations. The farmhouse is timber-farmed and is constructed of coursed ironstone rubble. The earliest part of the building originally consisted of two storeys with a garret two-bay crossing advanced under a gable roof at the left hand end and a two bay single storey hall block now used for storage

F. Church of St John SMR no. 50215 TA 11110 00196 The Baptist

(DoE 1985). The farmhouse is listed grade II (DoE Ref: 3/16)

The lower two stages of the Church of St John the Baptist, Nettleton are Saxo-Norman in date and the church retains side alternate quoins largely concealed by later buttresses and a west doorway of a similar date. Saxo-Norman stonework also appears in the tower of the church. The upper stages of the church were added in the 15th century. The 15th-century structure has a plain parapet with the addition of 19th-century pinnacles. The 15th-century church was originally constructed in a decorated style. The remainder of the church dates from the 1874 rebuilding which followed rebuilding activities in 1805 (DoE 1985). The building is listed grade II* (DoE Ref: 3/14)

G. Mansgate House SMR no. TA 11282 00186 and Cottage

Mansgate House and cottage were formerly one house but are now separated into two. Both properties date to the 17th century with late 18th-century additions and alterations and minor 20th-century work. The properties are constructed of colour washed stone and brick (DoE 1985) and are listed grade II (DoE Ref: 3/17).

H. No. 1 North Kelsey Road SMR no. TA 11602 01386

This is an 18th-century house with an early 19th-century extension and alterations. The building is brick built with a pan-tiled roof and raised stone-coped gables. The 19th-century extension is an irregular two bays and two-storey extension. The building is listed grade II (DoE Ref: 9/77).

I. Roman Wall

SMR no.

A 4th-century Roman wall has been located in the south side of the graveyard of the Church of St Peter and St Paul. The wall represents an extant remnant of the south wall of the Roman town of Caistor. The wall is fifteen feet long and stands approximately ten feet high. The wall is constructed of limestone rubble with massive irregular foundations blocks and layers of herringbone core fixed by layers of poured mortar. The facing is robbed and the wall is approximately five feet thick. The wall is listed grade I (DoE Ref: 9/43).

J. Caistor Grammar School SMR no.

Caistor Grammar School was constructed in 1631 but has received numerous 19th-century alterations and was heavily restored in 1930. Francis Rawlinson the rector of the Church of St Nicholas at South Kelsey founded the school hall. The school is constructed of coursed limestone rubble with sandstone and limestone dressing. The single storey building has a rectangular plan with a 19th-century extension to the right. The building is listed grade II (DoE Ref: 9/50).

K. Church of St Peter SMR no. 52638/52637 TA 11676 01271 and St Paul

The earliest evidence for the Church of St Peter and St Paul is provided by 11th-century megalithic quoins at the western end of the nave on either side of the tower (Pevsner and Harris 1995, 205). The church, however, is believed to mark the location of an earlier religious structure. The ecclesiastical importance of Caistor as a settlement was clarified by the discovery in 1770 of an 8th or 9th-century *titulus* or dedication stone. This stone, discovered in the churchyard is believed to have dedicated a religious building, perhaps a precursor to the 11th-century structure. The presence of this *titulus* suggests that Caistor was an important Anglo-Saxon settlement that had retained its status following the end of the Roman period. The church also retains a 12th-century (west) doorway and 13th-century features including windows and doorways. Later additions were made to the church in the 14th and 15th centuries and the church largely retains it medieval character. A number of

TA 11660 01346

TA 11656 01223

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notable funerary monuments within the church and graveyard range in date from the 13th to the 17th century. The chancel of the church was rebuilt in 1848 and Butterfield undertook restoration of the church in 1862 (DoE 1966).

Two service trenches were excavated within the church in 1995 under archaeological supervision. The first, which ran along the north wall of the tower revealed a chamfered plinth, suggesting that the tower was of Norman, rather than Saxon date. The second trench was excavated during the removal of the modern floor levels inside the tower. This revealed an area believed to represent a lead working area and the foundations of the tower, which consisted of sandstone rubble.

5. Archaeological Potential of the Proposed Development Area

- 5.1 Cartographic information available from the time of the Caistor Enclosure Act onwards suggests that the proposed development area has remained undeveloped from at least the late 18th century. Nevertheless, although no archaeological features are recorded within the site limits, the presence of earlier occupation, industrial activity or burial sites cannot be ruled out.
- 5.2 In contrast to the proposed development site, the wider study area presents an archaeologically rich landscape. Prehistoric activity is represented in the form of lithic scatters and the identification of possible settlement features (3). In addition, to the east of the proposed development area, the discovery of a Bronze Age urn (19) is believed to mark the location of a Bronze Age cemetery. As a result, the possibility that unknown prehistoric features or finds may be located within the proposed development area cannot be disregarded.
- 5.3 The majority of finds and excavation work within the study area has taken place in or around the scheduled monument area of the walled town of Roman Caistor (SAM 148). Discoveries within the town have included a range of Roman finds and have also highlighted Anglo-Saxon and later medieval activity. Little is still known about the particular activities that may have occurred within the Roman town, however, and no internal structures have been identified to provide further information (English Heritage 1974). In contrast, extramural activities have been identified, such as pottery production sites both to the north and south of Navigation Lane from at least the 3rd to 4th centuries (22 and 25). It would also appear that the burial of the Roman dead was occurring beyond the town walls. A possible unfield cemetery (5) was discovered to the east of the proposed development area and four inhumation burials (21) were also encountered to the north of Navigation Lane and may represent an additional cemetery.
- 5.4 Caistor remained of significant regional importance in the Anglo-Saxon period. Stray finds of a coin (34) and pottery (35), in addition to the 9th-century *titulus* that may represent an Anglo-Saxon precursor to the Church of St Peter and St Paul (K), indicate the continuation of the settlement at this time. The use of land outside the settlement for burial activities also continued until the early Anglian period (18). By the time of the Domesday Book, Caistor is recorded as having a church, priest and four mills, although

unfortunately no medieval architecture with the exception of the Church of St Peter and St Paul survives. Finally, post-medieval buildings are also scarce, but the town's core established in the Roman period, remained occupied through to the present day.

5.5 Given the evidence for extramural industrial activity in terms of pottery production and the prevalence of burial grounds around Caistor during the Bronze Age, Roman and Anglian periods, it is recommended that a geophysical survey within the proposed development site should form a preliminary stage of archaeological investigation. This may assist in the identification of pre 18th-century features that may have been masked by ridge and furrow, are invisible to techniques such as aerial photography and were not recorded on late 18th-century and subsequent maps. The results of such a survey could then be used to inform on any further stages of archaeological mitigation that may be required.

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Lincolnshire Archives

National Monuments Record, Swindon

Navigation Lane, Caistor, Lincolnshire

Acknowledgements

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Project management Jane Richardson PhD

Report Jason Dodds BSc. Dip.

Illustrations Jason Dodds

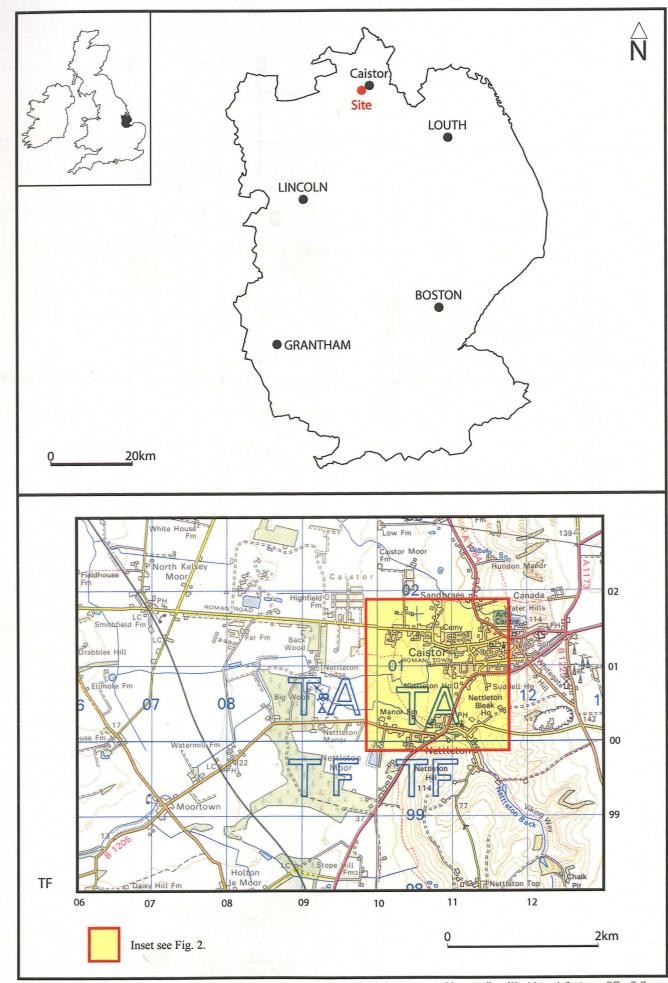


Fig. 1. Site location

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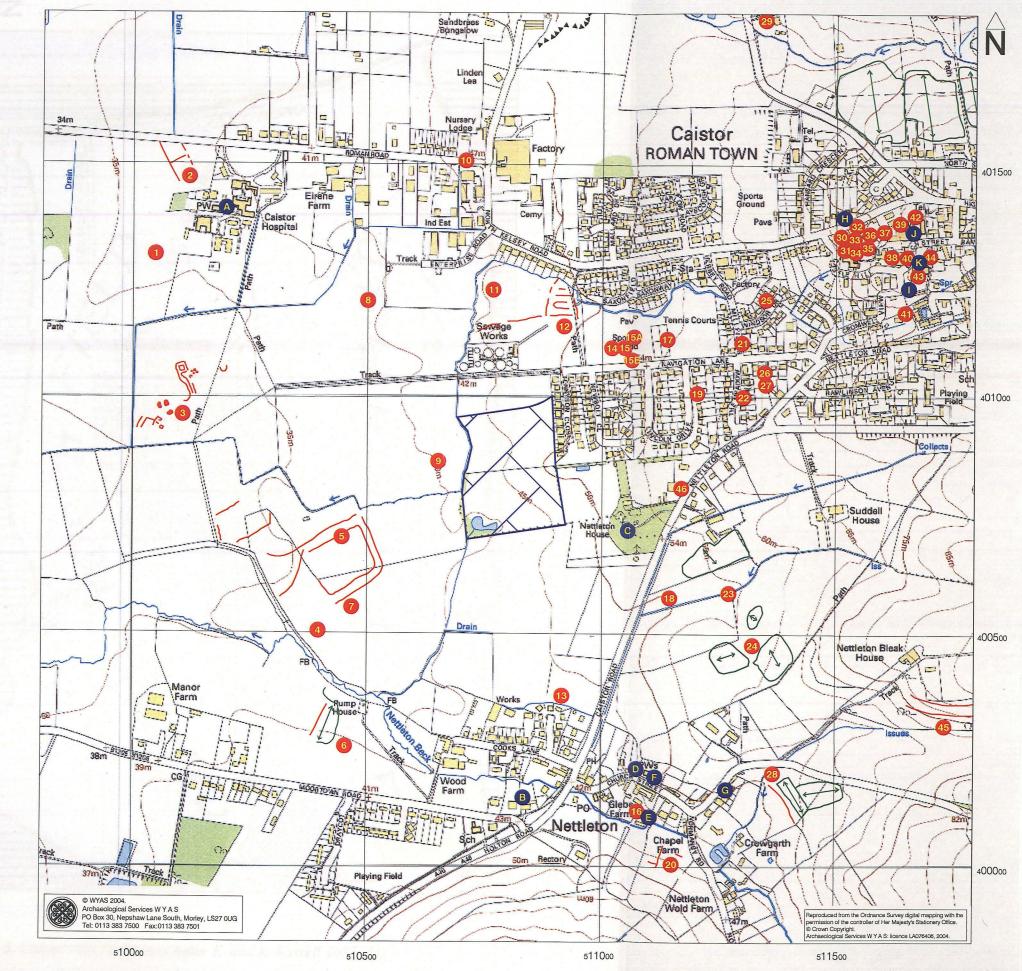
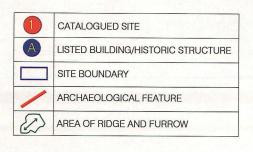
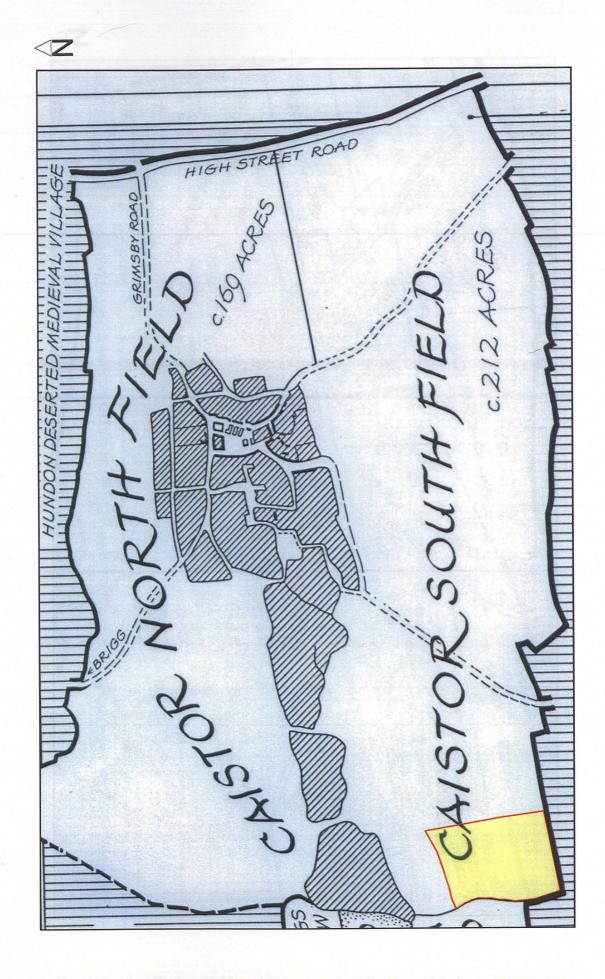


Fig. 2. Location of Catalogued Sites, Find Spots and Listed Buildings, 1: 8,000



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Fig. 3. Caistor Old Enclosures (after E. and R. Russell 1987, 54)

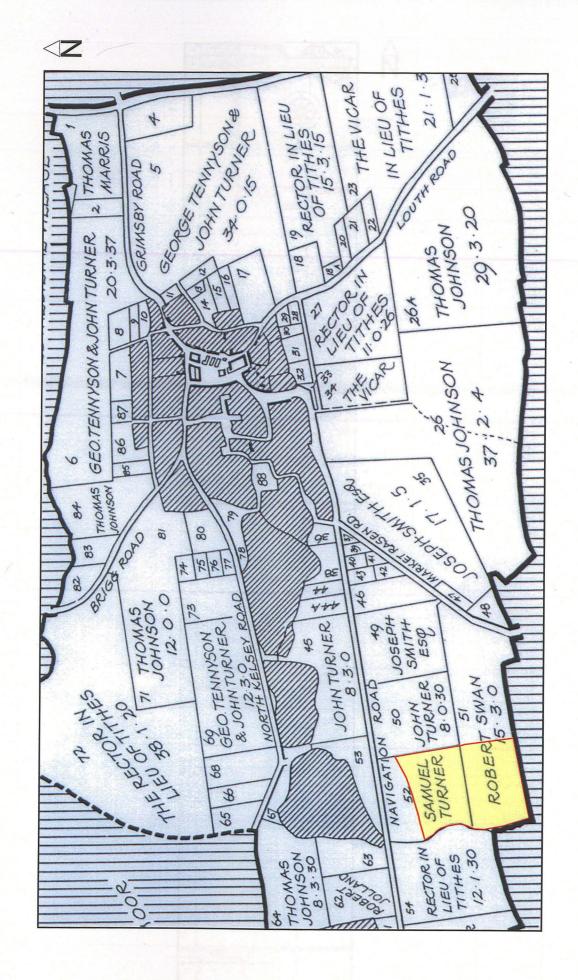
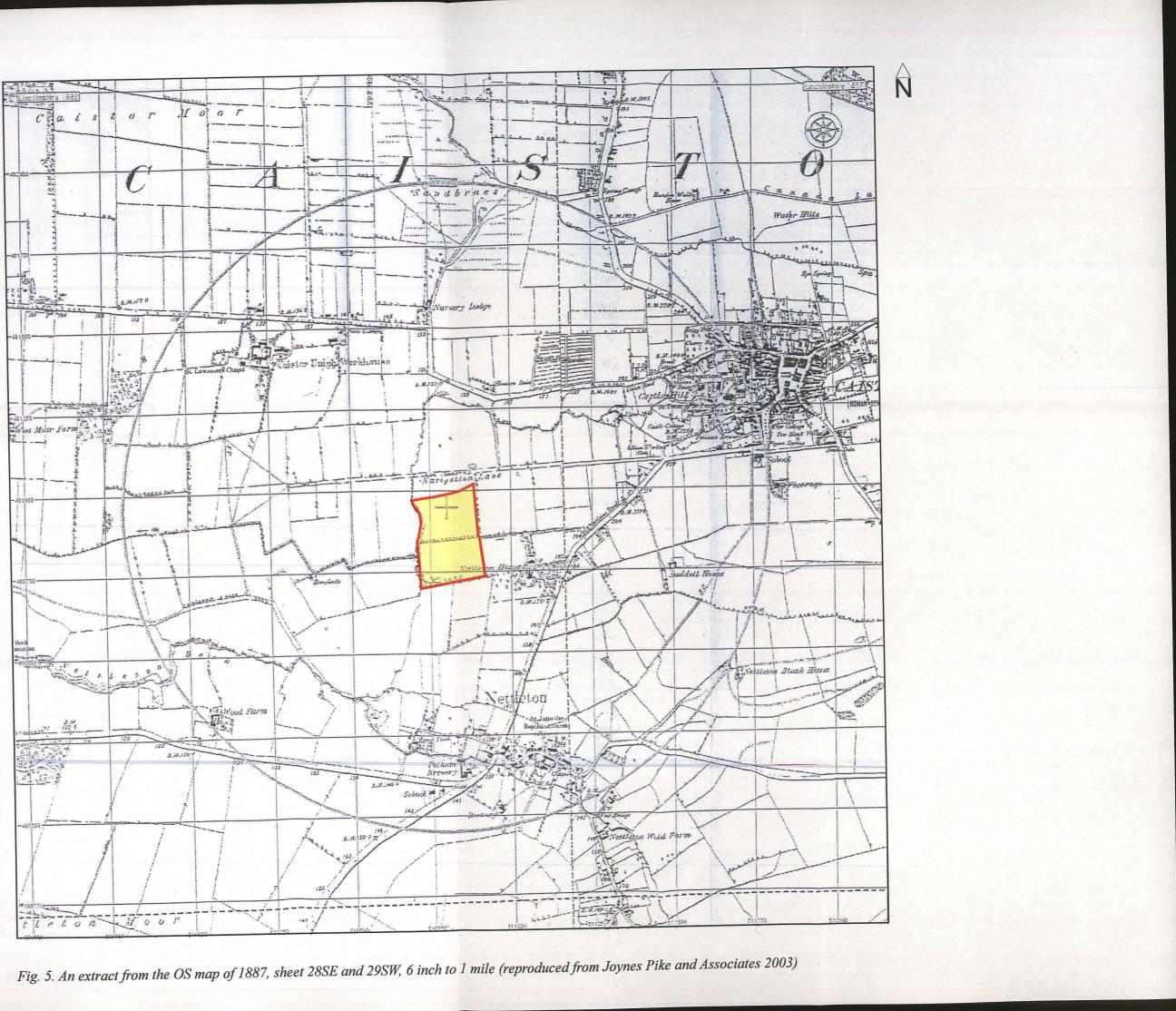


Fig. 4. Caistor Enclosure Map, 1798, no scale (after E. and R. Russell 1987, 54)

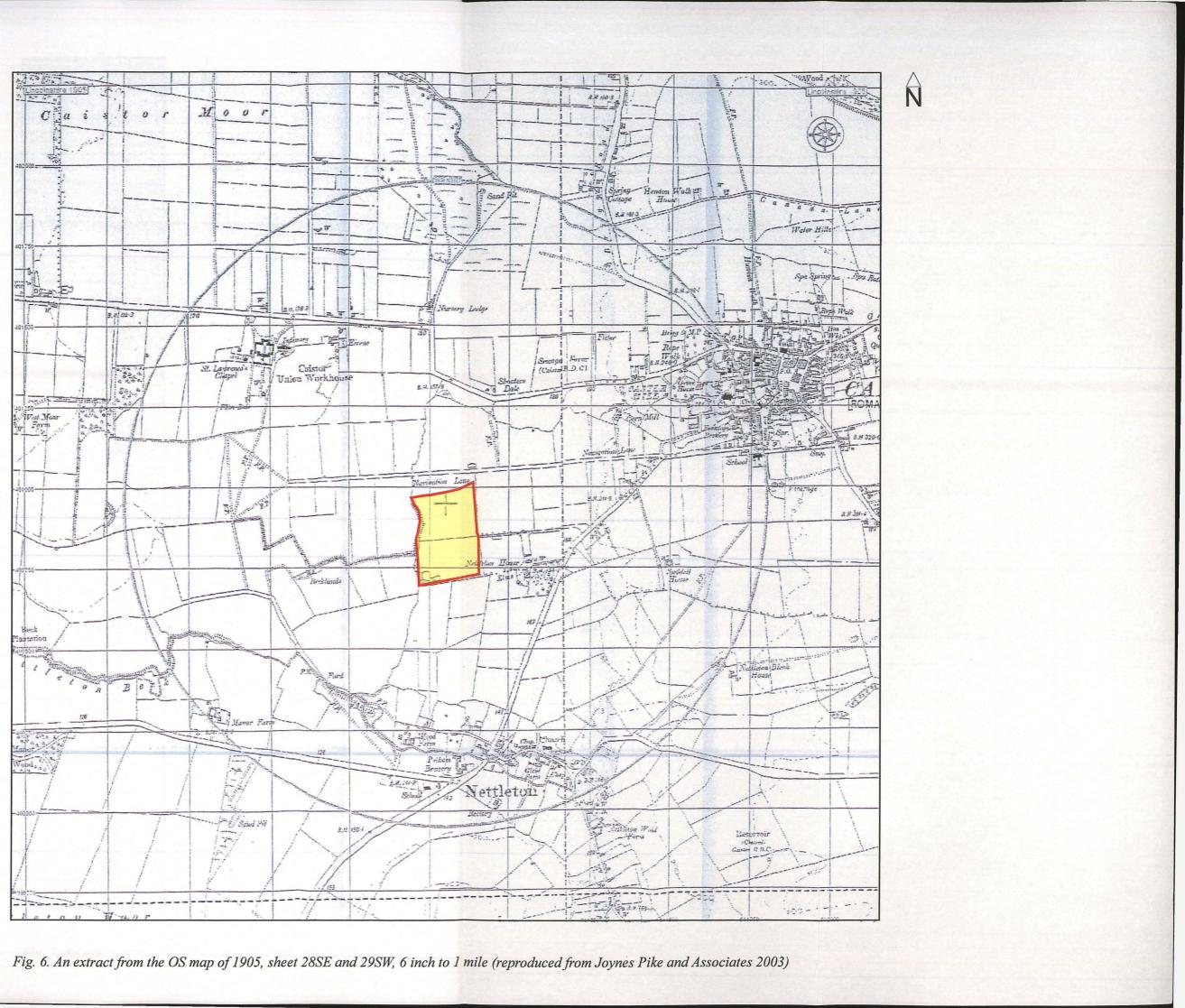
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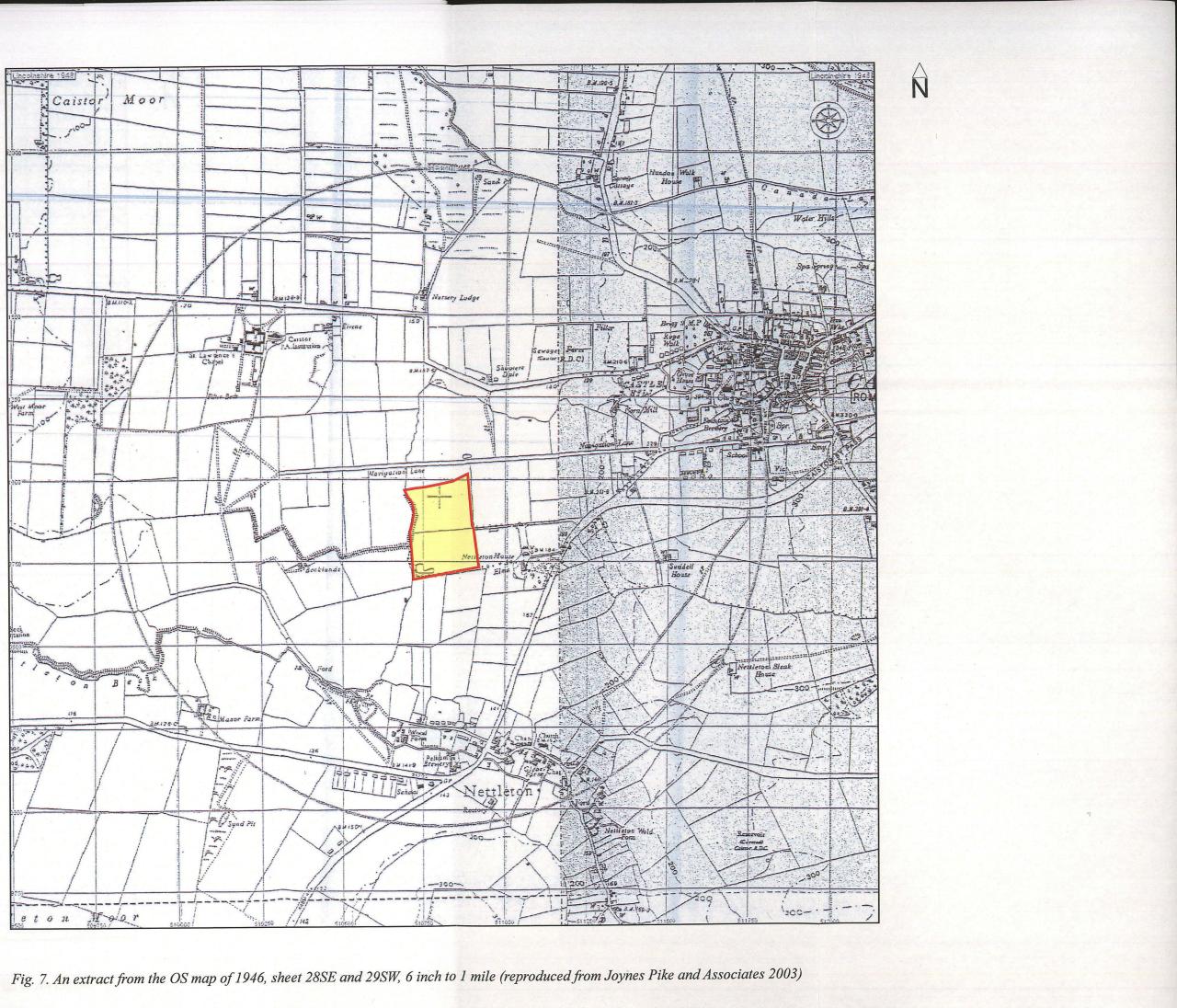


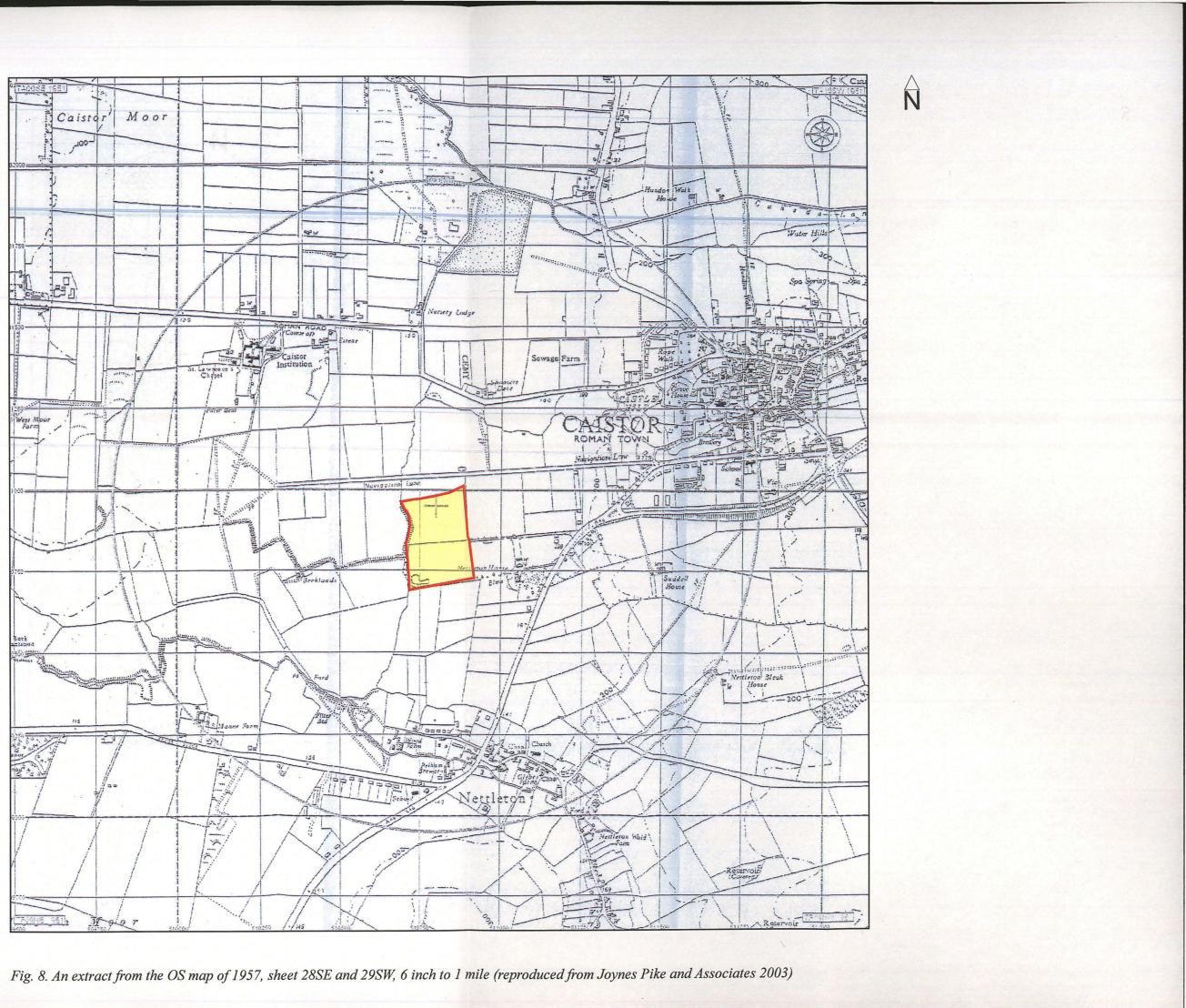
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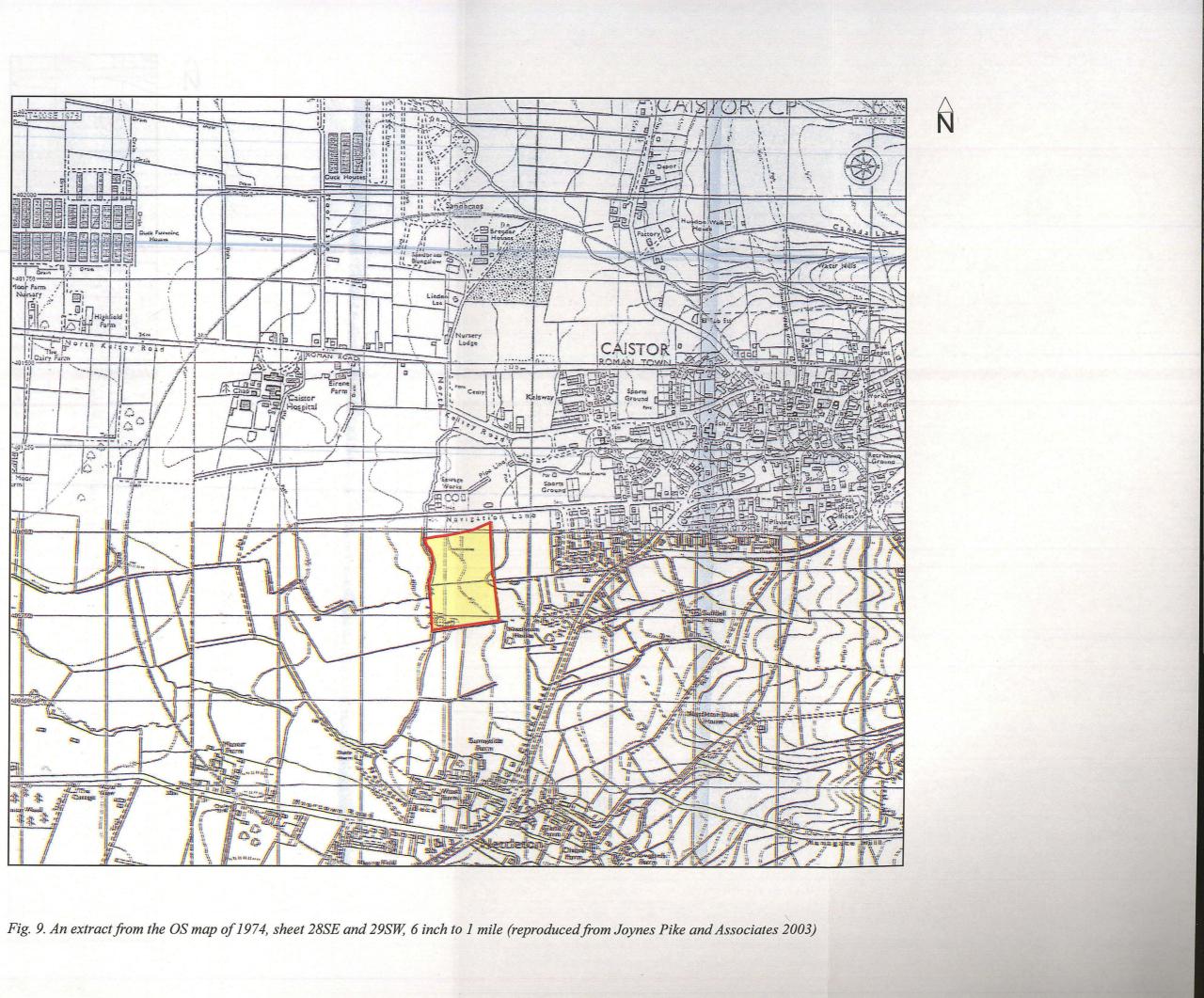
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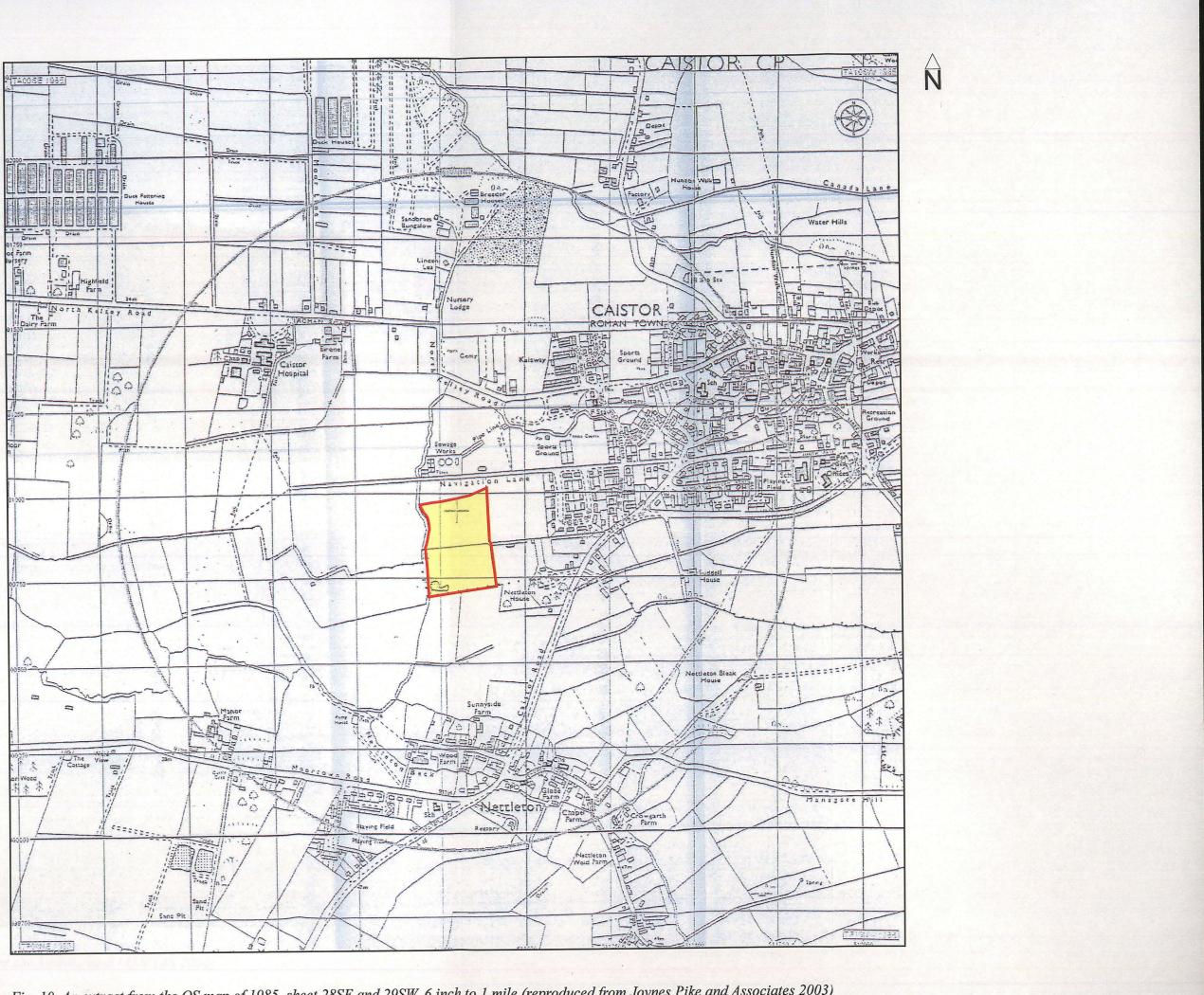


Fig. 10. An extract from the OS map of 1985, sheet 28SE and 29SW, 6 inch to 1 mile (reproduced from Joynes Pike and Associates 2003)



Plate 1. Proposed development site looking southwest (ASWYAS 2004)



Plate 2. Proposed development site looking west (ASWYAS 2004)