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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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Langtoft, land between Ash Close and 31 Stowe Road:

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

NGR: TF 118 119

LCNCC Museum Accn No. 9.96

Planning Application No. **SK/95/0902/50/37**

Report prepared for Bidwells Chartered Surveyors

January 1996

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5/1/06

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Langtoft, Land between Ash Close and 31 Stowe Road: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

NGR: TF 118 119

Site Code LSR 96

LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 9.96

Planning Application No. SK/95/0902/50/37

Summary

The proposed development area lies within a complex of cropmarks identified on various air photographs as of probable archaeological origin. These may be of prehistoric, Iron Age and Romano-British date. A small number of artefacts of Neolithic to Romano-British date have been found on land close to the area, although none are reported from the area. No later archaeological sites are expected to exist within or beside the area.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Bidwells (Chartered Surveyors) in November 1995 to prepare a desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of a proposed development area at Langtoft (Fig. 1). The assessment had been requested by South Kesteven District Council in advance of determining an application for outline planning permission [SK 95/0902/50/37]; this report has been prepared to a specification approved by the SKDC Community Archaeologist. For archiving purposes, this project was assigned Site Code LSR 96, and Museum Accession No. 9.96.

The proposed development site covers a rectangular area of 1.39ha and lies at the west end of Langtoft village, between Ash Close and 31 Stowe Road, along the Stowe Road frontage (Fig. 2). The plot had been identified in the S. Kesteven Local Plan for future housing development [Area H5.33].

Method

The desk-based assessment aimed to include all available relevant sources of information that identified possible archaeological constraints on developing the proposed area. The plot lies outside the established, medieval, settlement core and this restricts the number of potential documentary sources. Research was conducted by both authors.

Unpublished typescript reports describing the previous detailed archaeological studies in Langtoft (on sites close to the village centre apart from a fieldwalking survey conducted on land to the north of this plot) were studied. No relevant articles were traced in published sources.

Air photographic collections of the RCHM(E) National Monuments Record (Swindon) and the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photographs were consulted; a plotted indication of identified cropmarks was obtained from Rog Palmer (Air Photo Services), and staff at CUCAP advised that no cropmarks were visible at the stated location on photographs in their

collection (Appendix 2). Further photographs held in the South Kesteven Community Archaeologist's parish file were examined.

Sources consulted included the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record, the Community Archaeologist's Index of Sites and Finds and the parish files at both locations. Ordnance Survey and estate maps together with other deposited documents were examined at the Lincolnshire Archive Office; those of relevance are referenced in the text. The Lincolnshire Local Studies Collection did not include any relevant additional information.

A site visit was made by G. Tann on 7th January 1996 when the field was seen to be under arable crop but with a small part of the field surface still visible. The field was not entered on this occasion although record photographs were taken (but not used for this report).

Soils and Landuse

The soils within the proposed development area are usually well drained and much of the area is arable. It is thought that the arable land use has existed since antiquity. Land to the west of the study area has been quarried for sand and gravel, apparently after 1945 (OS 1905 and OS 1955; Fig. 3).

Historical Information

The placename 'Langtoft' is thought to be Old Scandinavian, *lang toft*. The toft element may mean either a plot of land or a house site; the linear layout of the present village still reflects the early name. Langtoft is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, when the estate was recorded as belonging to Crowland Abbey both before and after 1066.

The proposed development area lay within Langtoft's Middle Field when the Enclosure map was prepared in 1813 (LAO Kesteven 46). A small rectangular parcel (comprising 3 rods and 22 poles at the western side of the study area) was glebe land. At that date the village pattern was similar to that shown on Ordnance Survey maps of the mid 20th century, with ribbon development along either side of the SW-NE Stowe Road/West Road extending as far west as the Black Bull Inn. A minor parallel road linked the rear of premises on the southern side of the road, with occasional development on its southern side.

The present A16 Trunk Road through the centre of Langtoft, running NW-SE past the church, was the Bourne to Peterborough Turnpike road. Its junction with Stowe Road was improved in the early 20th century, straightening a staggered crossroads.

Archaeological Background (Figs. 4-6)

Langtoft parish lies on the fen edge in Southern Lincolnshire, an immensely rich area of the county with archaeological remains of all periods. Evidence of archaeological activity from fieldwork other than air photography has been limited, although some finds have been made during topsoil removal and some others from casual discoveries on the ground surface. The

intensive fieldwalking survey conducted by the Fenland Project did not include parts of Langtoft parish as intended, because access to much of the land was denied (Hayes and Lane 1992, 164).

King Street, a north-south Roman road linking Bourne with Peterborough passes 1km to the west of the proposed development area, bounding the modern quarry. The Car Dyke, a long distance feature believed to have been dug as a Roman canal between Lincoln and Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire runs 1.5km to the east of the proposed development area.

Air photographic coverage

A very large number of archaeological features have been recorded in the Langtoft area, mostly in the form of cropmarks. The area is ideal for aerial photographic recognition of archaeological features because of the gravel lying beneath a thin overburden of Badsey Series soils which emphasises differences in moisture retention. An area to the west of the proposed development area was chosen by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (England) (RCHME) for detailed study in 1960; although the detailed plotting of features did not include the proposed development area, it indicated the densely occupied nature of the district in antiquity. The Fenland Survey identified four possible Bronze Age barrow sites in Langtoft from air photographs, but to the east of the area of this assessment (Hayes and Lane 1992, 171).

Cropmark plot by R. Palmer (Air Photo Services)

LAS was supplied with a copy of a plot of cropmarks identified on air photographs held at the RCHM(E) National Monuments Record collection at Swindon (reproduced at 1:10,000 as Fig. 5). No information was available about the photographs examined during the preparation of the plot.

The plot shows the SW-NE linear feature thought to be a droveway, flanked by a single ditch on either side (except near the modern quarry where multiple phases of ditch are evident). Two groups of rectangular enclosures are shown beside the northern ditch, one beside the quarry and the other 150m to the east. A single ditch is plotted between the existing houses north of the quarry and the eastern complex. No features are plotted within the proposed development area or in the field to the north of Stowe Road.

Other air photographs of the vicinity of the proposed development area include:

- 1) Air photograph taken for South Lincs Archaeological Unit, showing Langtoft from the SW. This undated photograph is numbered 10c and 10/4, misidentified as Greatford parish on one copy, and variously located to TF 100 123 and TF 125 115. A small monochrome print and a larger version are held in the Langtoft parish file at the office of the SKDC Community Archaeologist. Part of the larger scale photograph has been reproduced in this report with the permission of the Community Archaeologist (Pl. 1).

The driveway is apparent across the width of the photograph, visible either side of Peterborough Road. The two parallel ditches pass immediately to the north of a west-east kink in the field boundaries near the quarry but this coincidence seems to be fortuitous. A more obvious ditch which links the two stretches of existing hedgeline is presumably a backfilled post-medieval field boundary.

Two further stretches of possible ditch enter the field from its western side north of the driveway, one coinciding with the boundary division between the quarry grounds and the residential properties. They extend almost halfway across the field but with no clear purpose. From their position, these may be backfilled trenches for post-medieval or modern land drainage pipes.

A circular mark, possibly a ringditch (such as found around prehistoric burial mounds) can be seen close to the centre of the field, apparently immediately to the south of the proposed development area.

Other minor cropmarks within the development area are not clear enough to be recognisable archaeological features. Outside the area, cropmarks of field systems unrelated to the present pattern, a complex enclosure and a large ringditch can be seen in fields to the south and SE.

This cropmark site has been known since its publication in 1945 (Riley 1945, 151). The Ordnance Survey Field Investigator J. Baird recorded in 1965 that some of the area of TF 117 118 was under crop but with other parts now gravel pits. There was no visual evidence of settlement in the area under crop and nothing was recorded as having been found during excavation in the gravel workings (OS Record Card; SMR 33422).

2) RAF 3108 CPE UK 1932 17/1/1947

The area of the proposed development was arable field, probably at stubble; it is almost entirely obscured by vehicle tracks which have entered from two accesses on the northern hedgeline. No archaeological features are visible north of the driveway south of the proposed development area.

Other air photographs including the proposed development area were not examined (Appendix 2).

Previous Archaeological Fieldwork

A fieldwalking survey was conducted at 25m transect intervals in the field to the north of Stowe Road in February 1994 as part of an archaeological evaluation of a plot of land for a housing development (Samuels 1994). This project produced a small number of archaeological finds, and represents the most recent detailed examination of this part of Langtoft (Fig. 6). The field had been freshly ploughed but no geological or archaeological features were visible as soil marks or physical features at ground level. A single Neolithic/Bronze Age retouched flint blade, one sherd of Romano-British pottery, four medieval sherds and a small number of more recent finds were recovered. This level of finds is insufficient to indicate the presence of any

archaeological site in isolation, or to date the nearby cropmark complexes. The development by Allison Homes has since occurred without further archaeological remains being reported.

Towards the eastern side of Langtoft village, an archaeological evaluation of remains at Langtoft Hall Farm was conducted by Lindsey Archaeological Services in 1991 (Field and Clark 1991). The project included a photographic record of standing fabric at the Hall, sketch plotting of surviving earthworks and a geophysical survey.

Five archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated during the assessment of a development plot to the north of West End (Stowe Road in the village centre) in 1991 (French 1991). This produced pits and ditches thought to be Iron Age or Romano-British, although difficulty in dating flint-tempered pottery wares was noted. Waterlogged deposits were recorded below 6.75m OD.

A fieldwalking survey of two adjoining areas containing cropmarks at the junction of Stowe Road and the A15 Peterborough Road was made in 1994, when 9 flint artefacts and pottery of the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods was recovered (Challands 1994). Two medieval pottery scatters were identified and interpreted as of possible dwelling sites; the earlier pottery was very abraded and shell-tempered fabrics were not satisfactorily dated.

Conclusion

The proposed development lies on land immediately beside undated cropmark features which may include a levelled prehistoric burial mound, a droveway linking the Roman King Street with the Roman Car Dyke canal, a field system and at least one possible habitation site. Cropmark sites can be elusive and very dependent on ground conditions when photographs are taken. The absence of recorded features (especially within a locality where numerous cropmarks are known and past activity is known to have been intensive) cannot be assumed to denote the absence of archaeological sites.

A small number of archaeological finds ranging from Neolithic to Romano-British have been found in the close vicinity although there has been no archaeological excavation to determine the date or nature of the cropmark sites.

There is no reason to suspect any medieval site within the area, and no later industrial or military features are known to be present in the field although a brick structure stands at the eastern edge of the former quarry to the west.

Possible Options for Further Work

Although this assessment found no existing evidence for archaeological remains within the defined proposed development area, the southern limit is immediately adjacent to a cropmark site of a previously unidentified probable ring-ditch (or levelled prehistoric burial mound). The air photographic

coverage is insufficient to prove that no archaeological features extend into the proposed development area.

The crop growth (as of January 1996) is probably too advanced to permit a useful fieldwalking survey which would be used to recover surface artefacts often indicative of buried archaeological features. A walkover survey restricted to exposed soil in tractor wheel lines etc., might indicate the presence or absence of dense artefact scatters - relevant if the adjacent cropmark sites are of Romano-British date but of limited help for other periods.

A geophysical survey would be possible despite the growing crop, probably causing minimal damage to the cereal at this stage. This could be expected to show the positions of any significantly sized features such as ditches or pits, although it would not identify their date or function.

Evaluation trenching, excavating random or targeted sample trenches by machine with subsequent hand-cleaning and recording, would cause some damage to the growing crop but would enable restricted examination of the soil horizon below the ploughsoil, revealing traces of archaeological activity if present and giving an indication of the date of such activity.

There seems little reason at this stage, given the available information, to consider larger scale archaeological excavation within the application plot, or to avoid parts of the area with any future development (although the zone immediately south of the area is clearly archaeologically sensitive).

If development occurs, archaeological monitoring of groundworks might provide more conclusive information about the level of archaeological activity on the area by allowing the recognition and recording of archaeological features not previously identified or not considered sufficiently significant to affect development.

Acknowledgements

LAS were grateful for the co-operation and help received from:

S.G. Sillery (Bidwells)

staff at the Lincs. County Sites and Monument Record, the Lincolnshire Archives Office and the City and County Museum

Jenny Stevens (South Kesteven District Council Community Archaeologist),
Rog Palmer (Air Photo Services)

staff at the University of Cambridge Committee for Aerial Photography and at the National Monuments Record Air Photographic Collection (Swindon).

Jane Frost assisted in researching SMR information and also produced the report.

Naomi Field and Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
11th January 1996

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- OS 1955 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheet TF 11 (last full revision 1899-1929; partly revised 1938-50).
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- Samuels, J. 1994 *An Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation for a Property Development off Stowe Road, Langtoft* Unpublished report by John Samuels Consultancy for Allison Homes, March 1994.

Appendix 1:

Gazetteer of Archaeological Remains

Abbreviations:

NGR: National Grid Reference

SMR: Lincs. County Sites and Monuments Record

HTL: Index of Sites and Finds, maintained by South Kesteven Community Archaeologist. Parish code 50/.

NGR (TF)	SMR	/HTL	Description
115 125	33395		Romano-British pottery sherds
115 125	33396		Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds
1268 1295	33412/13		Langtoft Hall; 2 sherds medieval pottery found 1976
137 139	33413/08		Romano-British pottery, 1959
1230 1257	33414/09		Roman urn
1181 1153	33416/03		polished stone axe, 1953
116 115	33417/21		cropmarks of Romano-British settlement
138 138	33419/05		Iron Age and Romano-British pottery
" "	33420/06		with pits
1220 1138	33421/18		cropmarks of ringditch, pits, enclosures and ?double-ditched track
117 118	33422/22		cropmarks of field system; ?Romano-British
	33423		moated medieval manor site
	33424		Car Dyke: Roman canal course
1255 1329	33425/15		moated medieval site
1244 1247	33427		dovecote
1234 1255	33428/12		church (St. Michael or St Michael and All Angels)
1264 1293	33452		dovecote
1265 1287	33453		medieval fishpond
121 129	33526/19,20		cropmarks: ?4 adjoining ponds
124 124	34085		cropmarks of ring ditch, double linear ditch and pits
128 126			cropmarks of rectangular enclosures and circular pits [2316/37]
110 102			cropmarks of triple linear ditch apparently converging with King Street
125 124		/07	Roman coin hoard, c. 1820
10 11			cropmarks, ?Romano-British settlement
125 125		/02	dugout timber canoe, 1839
147 141		/04	?Bronze Age saltern site, 1989
148 140			mid Iron Age saltern
...continued			

NGR (TF)	SMR	/HTL	Description
1388 1413		/10	Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon pottery, pre 1961
1084 1215		/11	Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon pottery, 1959
126 124		/14	medieval site (of old hall?)
121 124		/23	cropmark site, evaluated 1991
123 121		/32	cropmark of ringditch
119 120-132	127	/31	cropmark of SW-NE ditched driveway

Appendix 2:

Air Photographic Coverage including the study area

- 1) Air photograph taken for South Lincs Archaeological Unit, showing Langtoft from the SW; held in the Langtoft parish file at the office of the SKDC Community Archaeologist.
- 2) RAF 3108 CPE UK 1932 17/1/1947
- 3) Cropmark plot by R. Palmer (Air Photo Services) of cropmarks identified on air photographs held at the RCHM(E) National Monuments Record collection at Swindon (reproduced at 1:10,000) [TF 1212/7 and TF 1212/11]
- 4) CUCAP RC8-M 156; 4.7.1969 1:10,200
- 5) CUCAP RC8-M 157; 4.7.1969 1:10,200
- 6) CUCAP RC8-U 33; 31.12.1970 1:5,000
- 7) Lincs. County Council colour survey, Film 58/93 257 7-8/9/1993 1:25,000
- 8) Lincs. County Council colour survey, Film 58/93 258 7-8/9/1993 1:25,000

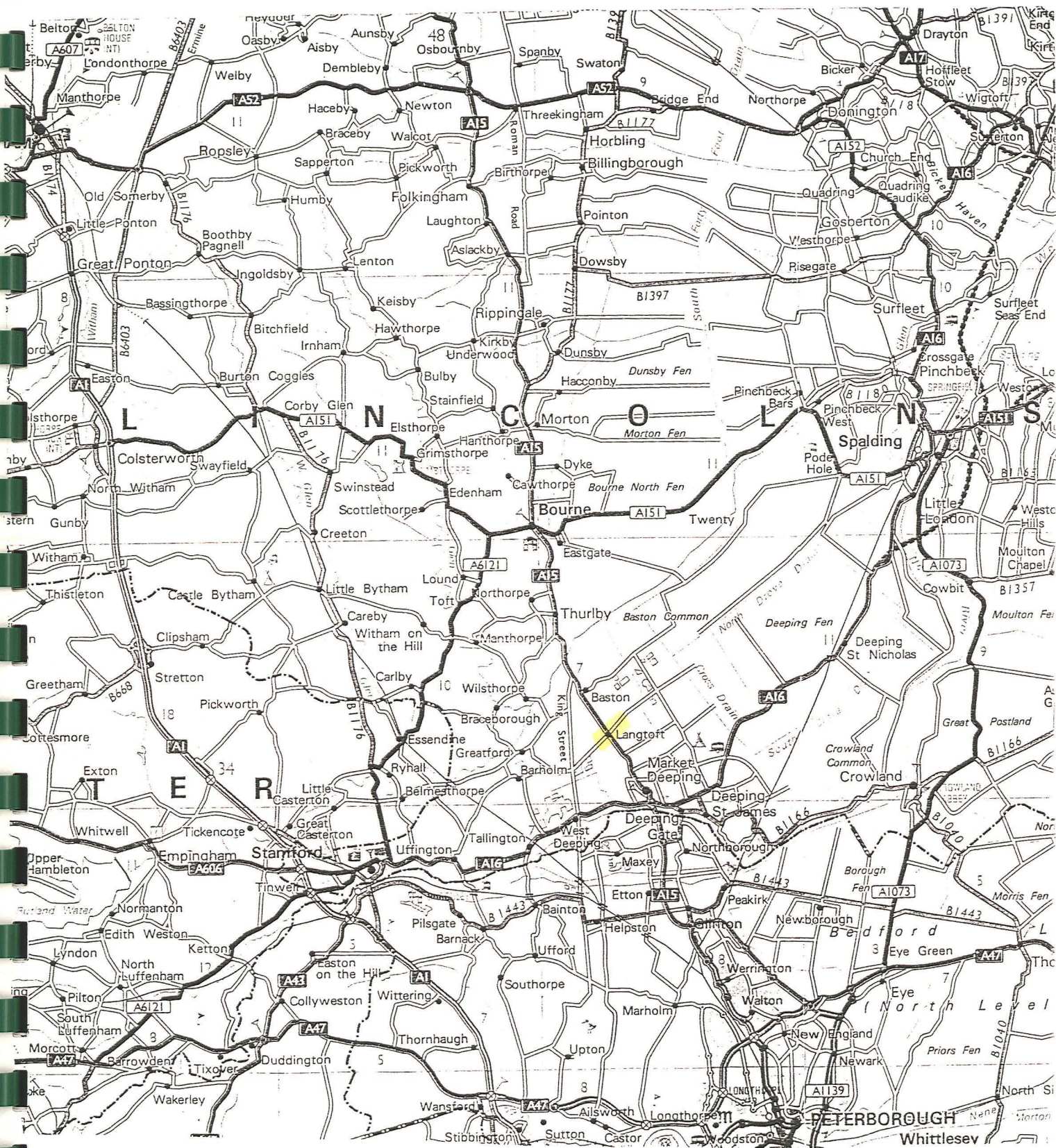


Fig. 1 Location of Langtoft

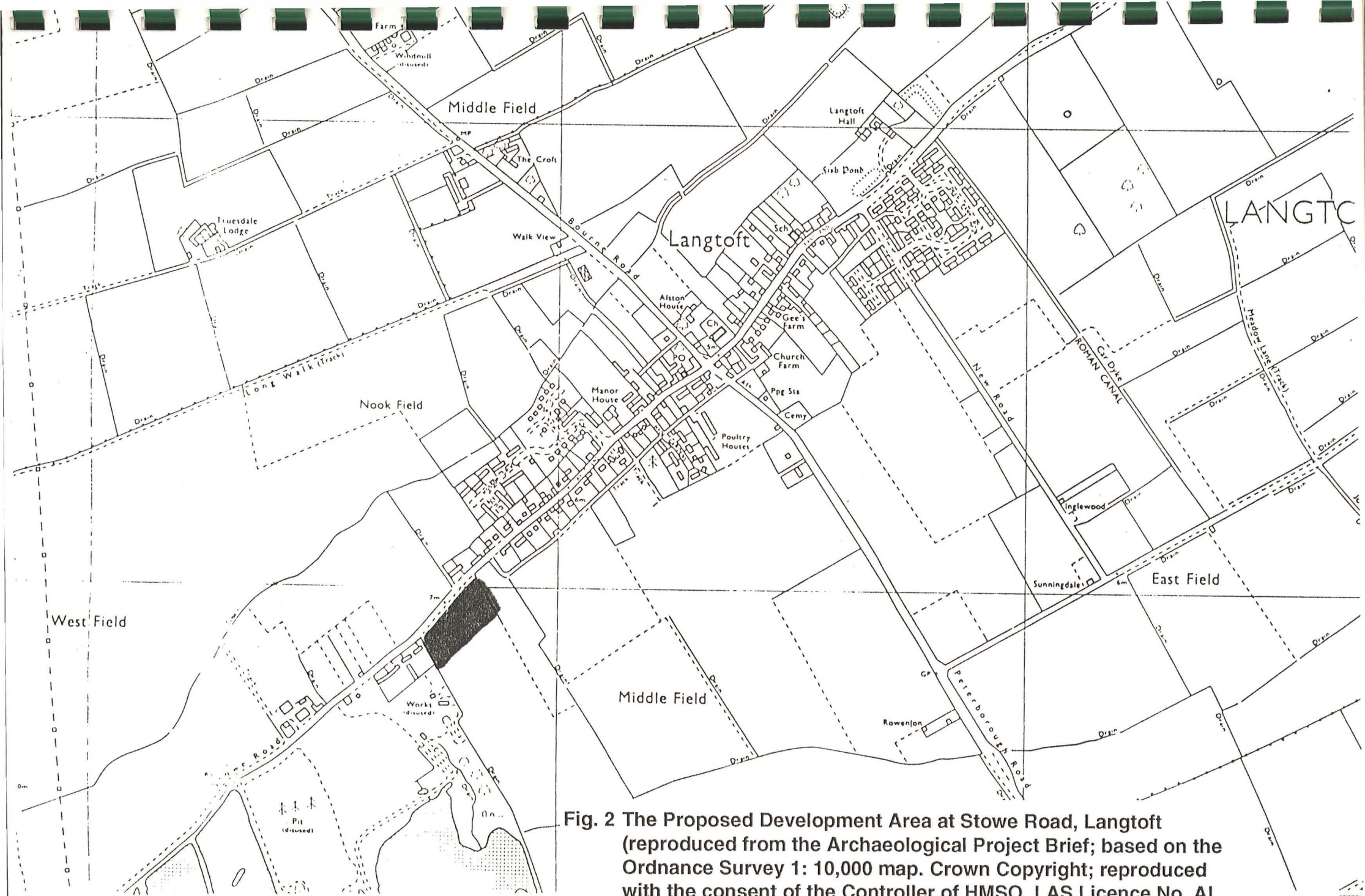


Fig. 2 The Proposed Development Area at Stowe Road, Langtoft
 (reproduced from the Archaeological Project Brief; based on the
 Ordnance Survey 1: 10,000 map. Crown Copyright; reproduced
 with the consent of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL
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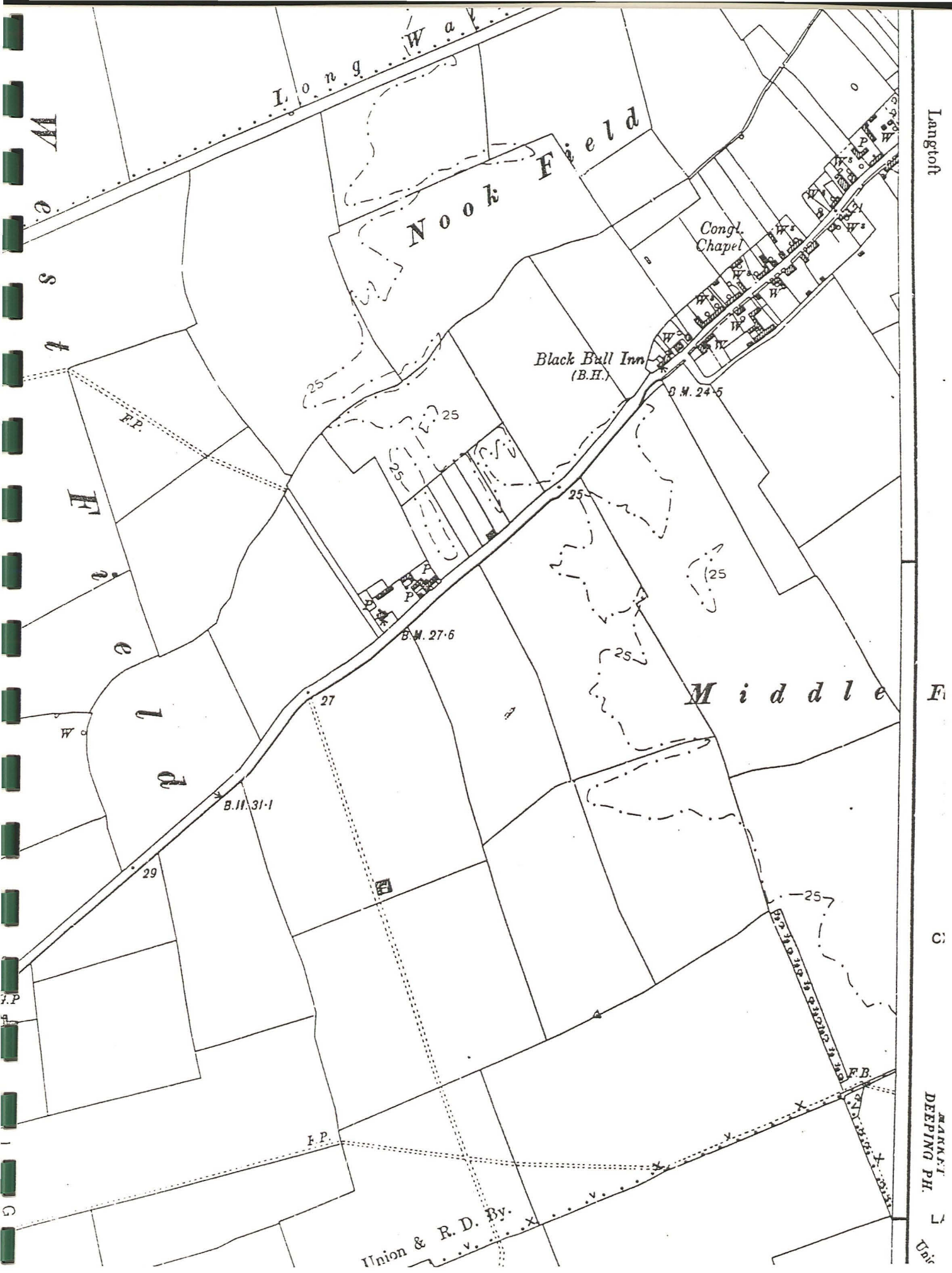
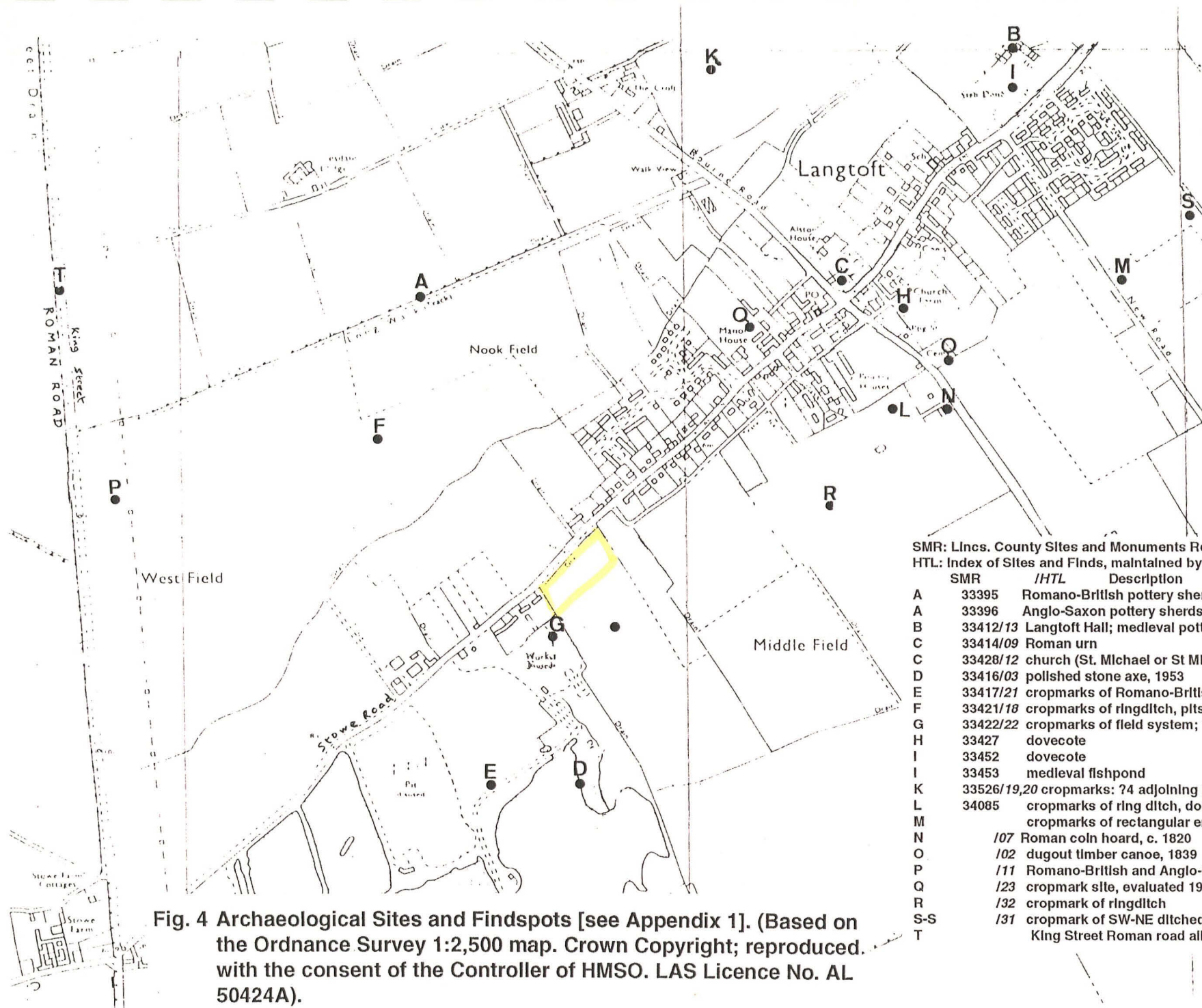


Fig. 3 Stowe Road Langtoft in 1902 (Reproduction at enlarged scale of the 2nd edition 1905 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map Sheet 146 SE [surveyed 1886, revised 1902] . Crown Copyright; reproduced with the consent of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 5042



SMR: Lincs. County Sites and Monuments Record
 HTL: Index of Sites and Finds, maintained by SKDC Community Archaeologist.

SMR	I/HTL	Description
A	33395	Romano-British pottery sherds
A	33396	Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds
B	33412/13	Langtoft Hall; medieval pottery
C	33414/09	Roman urn
C	33428/12	church (St. Michael or St Michael and All Angels)
D	33416/03	polished stone axe, 1953
E	33417/21	cropmarks of Romano-British settlement
F	33421/18	cropmarks of ringditch, pits, enclosures and track
G	33422/22	cropmarks of field system; ?Romano-British
H	33427	dovecote
I	33452	dovecote
I	33453	medieval fishpond
K	33526/19,20	cropmarks: ?4 adjoining ponds
L	34085	cropmarks of ring ditch, double linear ditch and pits
M		cropmarks of rectangular enclosures and circular pits
N	/07	Roman coin hoard, c. 1820
O	/02	dugout timber canoe, 1839
P	/11	Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon pottery, 1959
Q	/23	cropmark site, evaluated 1991
R	/32	cropmark of ringditch
S-S	/31	cropmark of SW-NE ditched droveway
T		King Street Roman road alignment

Fig. 4 Archaeological Sites and Findspots [see Appendix 1]. (Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map. Crown Copyright; reproduced with the consent of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

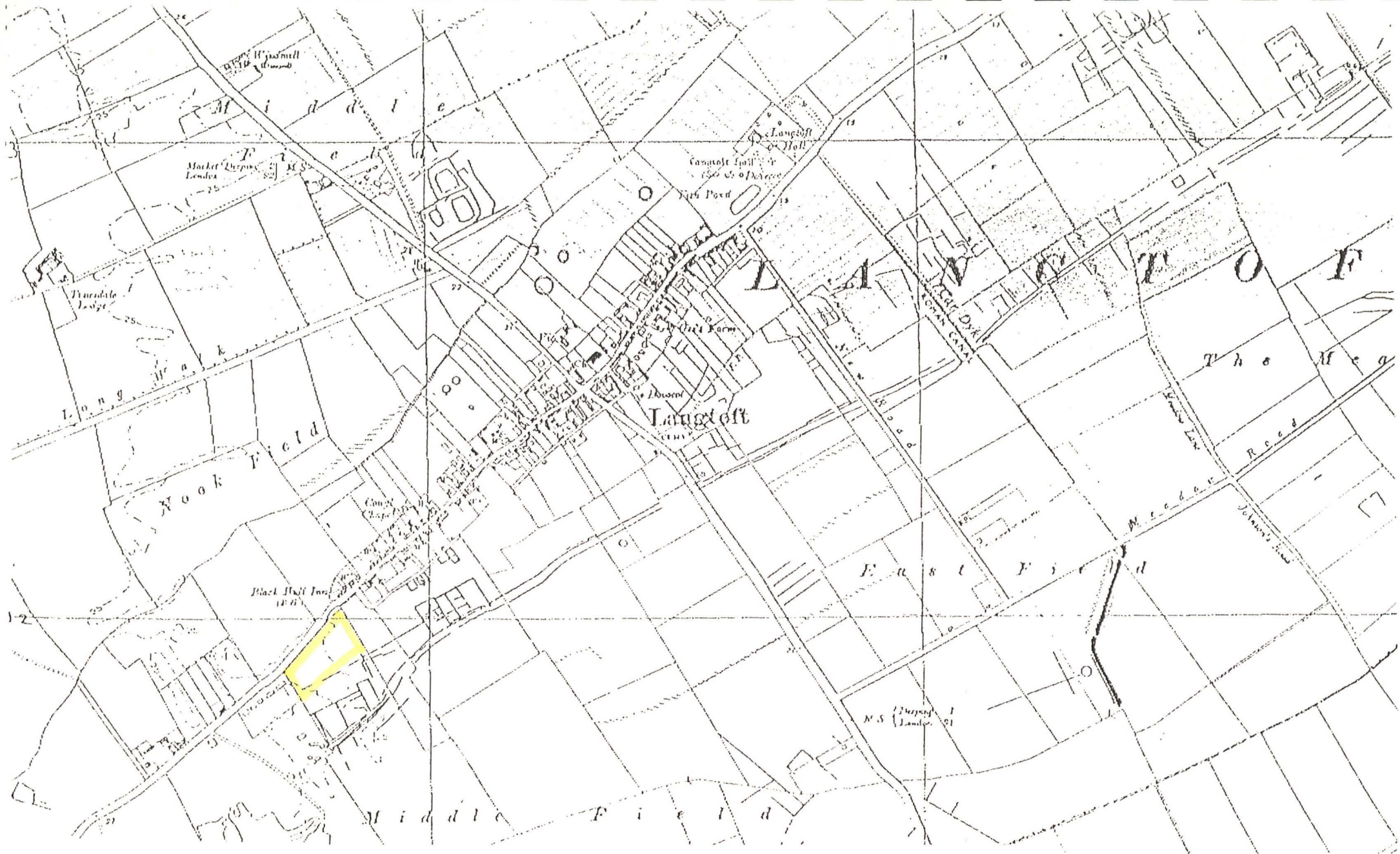


Fig. 5 Plot of Air Photographic Cropmarks using data from photographs held at the National Monuments Record. Copyright R. Palmer, Air Photo Services. (Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map, enlarged to 1:10,000. Crown Copyright; reproduced with the consent of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

- Worked flint
- ▲ Romano-British pottery sherd
- Medieval pottery sherd

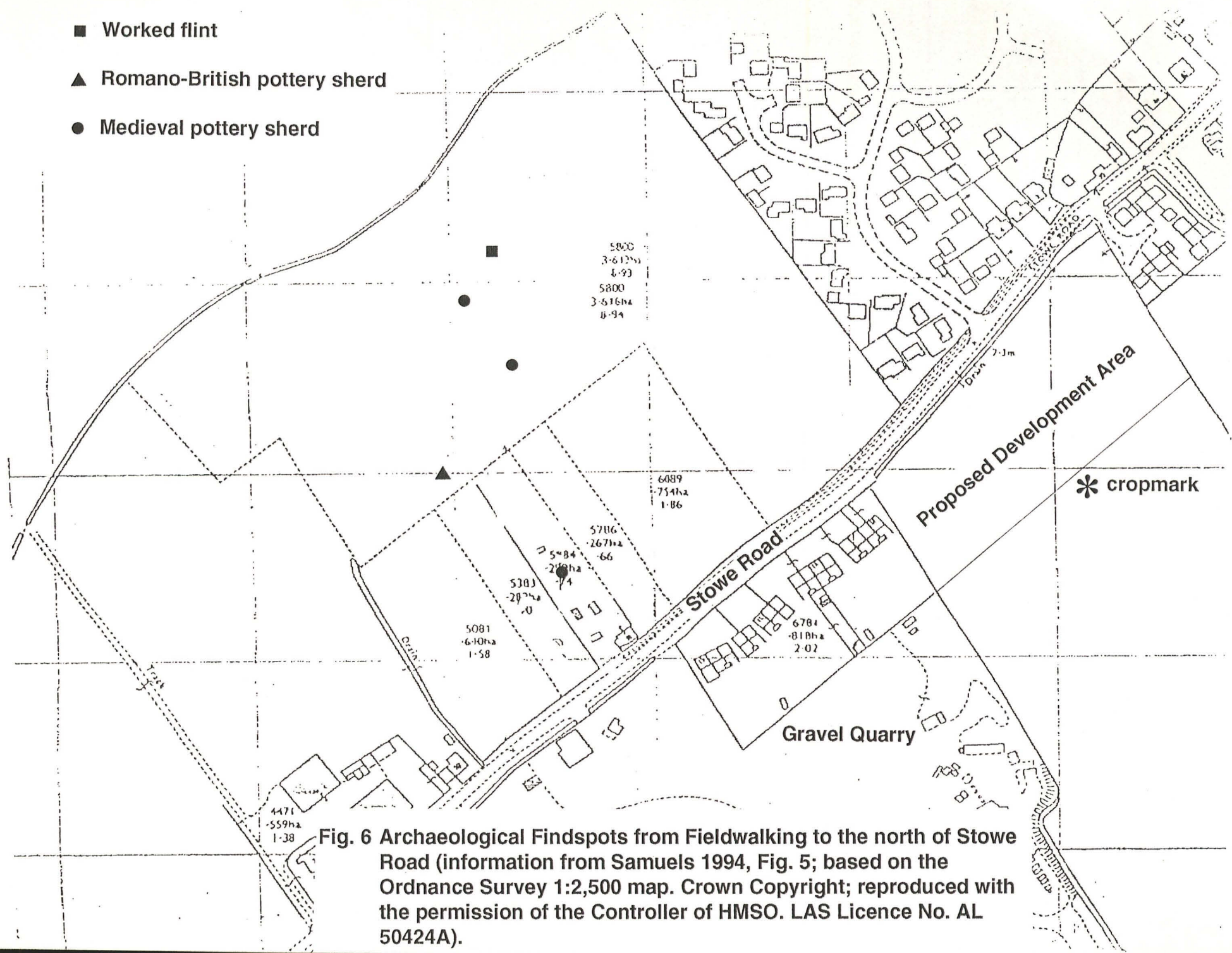


Fig. 6 Archaeological Findspots from Fieldwalking to the north of Stowe Road (information from Samuels 1994, Fig. 5; based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 map. Crown Copyright; reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).



Pl. 1 Reproduction of an air photograph showing cropmarks to the south and SW of the proposed development area. Looking north. (Photograph from the SKDC Community Archaeologist's Langtoft parish file, reproduced with permission).