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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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Scarle Supply Zone Reinforcement Scheme

(Anglian Water pipeline through Eagle, Swinethorpe and Harby)

Archaeological Desktop Assessment

NGR: SK 8753 6612 - SK 8856 7143

LCNCC Museum Accn. No: **14.96**

Site code: **SWS 96**

Report prepared for Anglian Water Services

January 1996

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Fig. 5 Eagle and Harby in 1824 (Reproduced at enlarged scale from the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:63,360 map, Sheet 83).

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Summary

The proposed route of the Scarle Supply Zone Reinforcement Scheme water pipeline (through the parishes of Eagle with Swinethorpe, Lincs. and Harby, Notts.) passes through an area of earthworks recorded on air photographs and interpreted as medieval cultivated plots at the edge of the present settlement of Harby. Two flint artefacts have been found on the surface of a field crossed by the route at Eagle, and other prehistoric finds have been reported from the vicinity.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Anglian Water Services in January 1995 to prepare a desk-based assessment of archaeological remains close to the proposed route of a 5.5km pipeline linking an existing main in the disused railway track at Harby (Notts.) with another existing main south of Eagle village (Figs. 1 and 2). A 30m wide easement will be defined, of which about 20m width will be stripped of topsoil. A 650mm wide trench will be excavated for the 350mm diam. pipes. The pipeline is required to improve the supply of water with a permitted level of iron content to villages east of the Trent which have experienced some problems during times of high consumption since the closure of a pumping station at North Scarle.

The County Archaeological Officer for Lincolnshire requested this assessment; however, research necessarily included part of Nottinghamshire and the report covers the entire proposed route.

Method

Research for this assessment was conducted by the author between 15th January and 29th January 1995 and included:

- Searches of SMR information held by Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Sites and Monuments Records and the North Kesteven District Council's Community Archaeologist (Heckington)
- Searches of documentary and cartographic archives held at the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Archives Offices
- Examination of published sources held by Lincoln and Newark libraries' local studies collections

- Examination of vertical air photographic coverage held by the Lincs. County Council Planning Department, and consultation of the national air photograph libraries maintained at Cambridge and Swindon
- Consideration of borehole information for the pipeline route supplied by Symonds Travers Morgan
- Inspection of the route from adjacent roads and conversations with local residents and archaeological fieldworkers

Results

Topography and Geology

Although the village of Eagle is at about 29.5m OD, most of the land crossed by the route lies between 7.5m OD and 13m OD; the ground rises to the east and SW of the route. The River Trent flows south to north about 6km west of the route.

The modern landscape is mostly of arable fields with some hedges; the local woodland is not close to the pipeline course. Deep field ditches and occasional open drains serve to drain the ground at Harby which was described as marshy in the late 18th century (Throsby 1797) but by the mid-19th century had been well drained (Wake 1867, 71). Infrequent major flooding of the Trent had caused flooding at Harby in 1795, and in 1852 cattle from the Trentside village of Spalford were taken to the higher ground at Eagle to escape rising waters.

Borehole Information

Six trial borings were made along the proposed Anglian Water pipeline route in December 1995 by A.F. Howland Associates; the report was supplied to LAS by Symonds Travers Morgan. Most of the borings identified a topsoil depth of about 0.3 to 0.4m, overlying sandy material above clay deposits. An exception was at Borehole 4 (about 400m NW of Eagle Road, Eagle) where possible made ground 0.4m thick was noted, incorporating flint gravel and brick fragments (Tisdale and Howland 1995, 9-11). The brick inclusions indicate some form of human activity which almost certainly post-dates the 17th century when bricks became commonly used. This may represent the position of a former bridge across the drain, or the site of a shed or animal water trough (marked as BH 3 on Fig. 3). Despite the 6m depth of the borehole beside an open drain, no groundwater was observed to enter the hole during boring; only occasional sand was reported from the bore, and the predominate stiff clay deposits may have prevented groundwater seepage during the augering.

Wake reported that 'Saunders' said that it was reputed that coal could be obtained at Swinethorpe but that the mines had not hitherto been worked (Wake 1867, 73). A local tradition recorded in 1932 that plans by the owner of The Jungle [a sham castle, built in 1820] to mine coal in Swinethorpe had been shelved after intervention from existing coalfield owners (Shepperd 1932, 67). In 1927 the Lincolnshire Boring Syndicate struck an upper seam of

coal 826m below the surface at the 'Doddington Boring' in Harby parish, beneath deposits of ironstone, sand and clay (Kelly 1928, 89).

Woodland

Great Low Wood in Eagle is thought to represent a surviving area of ancient woodland but presumably the medieval extent of wooded land was much greater than shown on modern maps. Eagle Woodhouse may denote a dwelling within woodland (now absent); Swinethorpe suggests a derivation from swine, likely to have grazed in woodland. Much of the present woodland on the western edge of Eagle parish has been adapted for game cover and may not be on the site of ancient woods; the absence of early maps restricts the identification of such land use.

Quarries

The sands and gravels in parishes to the west of Eagle have been exploited for construction materials this century, leaving large expanses of water-filled lakes or reclaimed land. Eagle and Harby appear to have escaped minerals extraction in the recent past, although slight traces of possible past quarrying have been identified. The 1840 Enclosure Plan for Eagle Low Moor (LAO Kesteven 31) marks a pond to the south of Eagle Road, with a footpath skirting its western side. This pond is no longer marked as a feature on modern maps and has been backfilled.

The placename Cockpit beside the Eagle/Doddington parish boundary was not found to be associated with any visible archaeological feature when the location was inspected after 1956 (OS 1956). Regardless as to whether the pit was used for sport or was related to game rearing, the origin of the 'pit' may reflect small-scale gravel quarrying.

Miscellaneous small ponds within fields are marked on the various Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 maps consulted. Those to the north of the Harby parish boundary may be clay pits cut into alluvium deposits; the path to the NE of the village is called Clay Lane. Although some of these features may have been dug to provide a water supply for cattle, others might have been for building materials (either for brick clay or for mud-and-stud buildings) and may be associated with the sites of removed structures. Bricks are known to have been made from clay quarried close to Doddington Hall in the 17th century. Lesser buildings in Eagle are known to have been of mud-and-stud, later encased in brick by the early 20th century, and almost all cottages on the Doddington Hall estate were thatched until the early 19th century (Shepperd 1932, 67; Cole 1897).

Railways

The northern limit of this pipeline joins an existing service laid along the disused corridor of the Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railway, served by Harby Station. This line was constructed in 1896 to serve as a cheaper alternative line for coal movements; it was originally intended to run beneath Lincoln in a series of tunnels, with its station site at the Arboretum. In practice the line (known as the Grand Central section of the LNER) joined

another railway near New Boultham. Although the line received the full backing of the owner of Doddington Hall Estate (the largest local landowner) who became a Director, his submission in support of the Act to permit the line contains no relevant information about Harby other than a comment about the bad state of the roads to the existing station at Saxilby (LAO Jarvis 1891 3/A/5/8/6). Additional detailed research into this railway has not been conducted for this assessment; no finds were reported at Harby as a result of the 19th century railway construction at the northern limit of the proposed pipeline.

Existing pipelines

The proposed pipeline route passes close to a high pressure gas pipeline to the east of Corner Farm, Swinethorpe. No local record was found of any archaeological discoveries in the area during construction of that pipeline, but the British Gas archaeological section has recently been disbanded and it was unclear where field records might have been deposited if the trenching had been archaeologically monitored.

Roads

The southern limit of this pipeline route lies 3.5km north of the A46 Lincoln - Newark road, aligned along the course of the Roman Fosse Way. None of the roads crossed by the pipeline route are known to be earlier than medieval in origin but there is poor cartographic coverage for this area until the 19th century. Accounts of Queen Eleanor's death at Harby in 1290 provide no useful information about the route taken by the cortege; surviving roads may have been used but a footpath to Doddington crossed by the pipeline route may have been of higher status at that date.

Previous Archaeological Finds (Figs. 3 and 4)

1. Prehistoric and Roman

Air Photographic coverage

The air photographs collection held by the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography (CUCAP) was consulted, but found to contain only vertical coverage (where any archaeological features are difficult to distinguish). Archaeological sites identified from the collection maintained by the National Monuments Record at Swindon have been sketch plotted at 1:10,000 scale by the RCHM(E) Lincolnshire Mapping Project (York). Permission was obtained to reproduce the plotted cropmarks close to the pipeline route (Fig. 4).

The Lincolnshire County Council Planning Dept. holds vertical coverage of the county (extending over the border on some frames) and these photographs were inspected. A NE-SW linear cropmark was seen extending to the NE of the southern limit of the new pipeline route, but this was thought to be geological. Cropmarks of small pit-type features, perhaps tree throw-holes, were identified to the south of Thorpe Lane, Eagle, adjacent to the route. A west-east linear cropmark to the north of Eagle crossed the pipeline route and extended from a footpath NW of the village eastwards to a footpath

into Whisby; this may represent a well-used modern field path or a medieval (or earlier) route towards North Scarle village. Other uninterpreted marks, possibly geological, were noted in Swinethorpe and Harby.

All the air photographs located (including those not examined) are listed in Appendix 2. Possible archaeological features are marked on Fig. 3.

Archaeological Findspots

The County Sites and Monuments Records for Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire were consulted and previously reported sites and findspots close to the pipeline route were noted (Appendix 1).

Entries of particular relevance at Harby consist of a flint sickle (NSMR 4729) and a stone axe (NSMR 5896) and a new unaccessioned record of building foundations. Entries relating to Eagle and Swinethorpe include an Iron Age beehive quern (LSMR 60418) and a Neolithic polished stone axe (LSMR 60419), with other Neolithic artefacts within 0.5km of the route. Roman pottery has been found 1km east of the route in Doddington parish.

Recent discoveries from Eagle were reported to the author during preparation of this assessment, and will be entered onto the LSMR. Two worked flint flakes were recovered in 1995 from the field to the NW of the playing field (OS Field no. 0015) adjacent to the pipeline route; these finds were made as casual surface finds while exercising dogs. A local metal detector user has recovered small numbers of items including Roman coins while prospecting in the two parishes, but details of the relevant findspots could not be obtained at short notice. Two other worked flints were found during fieldwalking on Eagle Moor in 1994-5 by the newly formed Eagle Archaeological Group (Palmer-Brown, pers. comm.; Eagle Eye 1994).

2. Saxon, Medieval and Post-medieval (Fig. 5)

Placenames

The placenames of Harby and Eagle are believed to indicate Scandinavian (Danish) influence, common along the routes of Roman roads (the Fosse Way) and navigable waterways (the Trent) (Hill 1990, 24 and 25). In the 1086 Domesday Survey Eagle appears under several entries, variously spelled as Akeley, Acley, Aclei, and Aycle. All of these versions could derive from the Old English for oak and meadow (Cameron 1977, 188). Harby was recorded as Herdrebi, perhaps lands owned by Herrodr (Glover *et al* 1940, 205). Swinethorpe was not mentioned in either the 1086 Domesday Survey or the 1115-18 Lindsey Survey (Foster and Longley 1924).

Hobba dyke, a drain running east to west from Doddington through Harby to the Trent, passes close to 'fishponds' beside Doddington Hall but these were created after 1749 (Cole 1897, 247). No satisfactory derivation of the name has been suggested; 'hob' might be a similar element to that in 'hobgoblin', meaning something mythical, but it may perhaps more confidently be seen as a corruption of the Harby placename.

The entries in the 1086 Domesday Survey show that the local value of land at Eagle had not been appreciably affected by the Norman Conquest of 1066; a church and a priest were recorded. The value of the Harby lands had halved from 40 shillings to 20 shillings between the Conquest and 1086 (Throsby 1790; 1, 384).

The settlement at Swinethorpe was not mentioned in either the Domesday Survey or the later Lindsey Survey, but this may simply reflect that no assessed lands lay within the former parish. A nunnery is known to have existed between Eagle Hall and Broadholme but its site (presumed to be in Swinethorpe) is not known from documentary sources. Parish jurisdiction for the settlement at Swinethorpe has moved from Clifton parish to Harby and since to Eagle; the former North Kesteven District Council Community Archaeologist suspected that remains of a deserted medieval village might be present close to Corner Farm (parish file).

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Neither of the two statutorily protected archaeological sites near the route are likely to be affected in any way by the pipeline.

a) Eagle Hall: Site of medieval preceptory; earthworks and moat (LSMR 60126; SAM 22620)

b) Harby: Site of manor house (NSMR 4711; SAM: Notts. 47)

The only known physical remains of the manor house are buried substantial foundations within a rectangular formerly moated enclosure. A chantry chapel was ordained at Harby (apparently beside the manor house) in 1294 by the Archbishop of York but eventually suppressed in the mid 16th century. All Saints' Church, built 1875-77, incorporates a medieval font and reused Norman stonework near the vestry door.

Gough claimed that there had been a cross erected at Harby in memory of Queen Eleanor (who died at the manor house in 1290) but all other authorities seem in agreement that Harby was too remote to justify such a public monument (Gough 1808). At the end of the 19th century the vicar of Harby said that there was no trace of any cross, and that there was no local tradition of the former existence of one (Stapleton 1892, 25).

Earthworks

Earthworks thought to represent part of the medieval settlement of Harby were formerly in fields to the east of the parish church, extending southwards along the road to Eagle close to the pipeline route. At the northern limit close to existing development, the earthworks may have been of buildings; foundations and pits were observed in Town Field by the Nottinghamshire Assistant Archaeological Officer where a previous farmer had reportedly levelled uneven ground (Spence, pers. comm.). Further to the south, cropmarks of ridge and furrow cultivation and disused tracks can be seen on air photographs taken up to 1981; some physical trace of these features remains.

Post-medieval features

A pinfold, or public plot for impounding stray livestock, was situated on land immediately outside Eagle village on the Swinderby Road. The premises marked (OS 1905) lay on the western side of the road and included a circular feature (possibly a pond). The pound walls were described as 'very much dilapidated' in 1932 by the local vicar (Shepperd 1932, 66).

A roadside stone trough between Eagle village and Eagle Barnsdale, opposite a footpath across fields, was noted by the same writer. This trough was attached to a lead pipe bringing water from a spring in the middle of the field reputed to have medicinal properties. From the description, this trough may have been on the west side of Swinderby Road as a footpath leads from the east side to Durham Castle.

Durham Castle, a name for '19th century brick cottages' to the east of the Eagle Barnsdale road on 19th and early 20th century OS maps, seems to have occupied the site now named The Bungalow (OS 1956). The cottages were built by a local man with the proceeds of an unexpected inheritance from a Durham relative (Shepperd 1932, 66).

Wartime Installations

Research for this assessment has not located any records of defensive structures such as pill boxes or other wartime features close to the pipeline route. It is likely that the route lies sufficiently far from the Trent and the major roads to have been a useful position for such installations. However, as the route has not been investigated on foot, this assumption cannot be confirmed. There is a growing interest in wartime features and often they are now viewed as part of the archaeological record for recording purposes.

Recommendations

A rapid inspection of part of the pipeline route from the local roads found that arable crop cover in most fields had passed the point where fieldwalking would provide useful information; the ground surface was clearly visible in only a few fields. Only about 2 fields near the route have been fieldwalked (not with systematic finds retrieval) and the sparcity of reported archaeological finds from the area does not necessarily reflect the level of past activity. A rapid inspection of all the route on foot would locate surviving earthworks and other visible features of potential interest which might be affected.

Geophysical survey could be conducted except where the existing high pressure gas main and the Eagle Rising Main pass close to the route; in practice the only section of the route where this seems potentially useful is in fields to the south and east of Harby village where medieval settlement remains might be located (indicated on Fig. 4).

An intermittent watching brief during topsoil stripping, combined with simultaneous close inspection of the entire stripped easement surface would enable almost all archaeological sites to be located in advance of trench

excavation. Retrieved artefacts would indicate the approximate date range of activity at any findspot. This process would show the archaeological potential of the possible medieval site at Harby village but would not necessarily reveal structural foundations unless topsoil was entirely removed as part of the stripping operation.

Archaeological features such as pits and ditches might be revealed during pipe trench excavation but at that stage little opportunity remains for detailed recording without causing delay. An intermittent watching brief during the trench excavation would act as a final confirmation that any archaeological sites present had been recorded at some level.

Acknowledgements

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Nick Booth

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Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
30th January 1996

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LAO = Lincolnshire Archives Office

NRO = Nottinghamshire Archives Office

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Appendix 1:

Gazetteer of Archaeological Remains

Abbreviations:

NGR: National Grid Reference

LSMR: Lincs. County Sites and Monuments Record

NSMR: Notts. County Sites and Monuments Record

HTL: Index of Sites and Finds, maintained by North Kesteven Community Archaeologist. Parish code 27/.

Eagle with Swinethorpe

<i>NGR (TF)</i>	<i>SMR /HTL</i>	<i>Description</i>
8651 6574	60126g/6	Site of preceptory; moats marked on OS map Scheduled Ancient Monument SAM 22620
863 653	60414	Great Low Wood: ancient woodland
870 688	60420c/3	Medieval pottery sherds and limestone rubble found after post-war ploughing. ?Site of Swinethorpe Nunnery
878 672	60418a/5	quern
871 689	60419b/4	polished stone axehead
8758 6721	60407L	2 Anglo-Saxon crosses in North Aisle of All Saints' Church
88 64	60416	Tunman Wood: ancient woodland
889 684		cropmarks of NW-SE rectangular enclosures 1971
875 695	/2	possible site of deserted medieval village
890 666	/7	cropmarks of possible Bronze Age barrow cemetery
890 666	/8	2 flint artefacts, 1994
8785 6715		2 flint flakes from fieldwalking, 1995

Doddington

<i>NGR (TF)</i>	<i>SMR /HTL</i>	<i>Description</i>
885 694	i	Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead and polished stone axe
885 696	d	polished stone axe
890 697	k	Romano-British pottery and quern fragments
892 698	j	Romano-British pottery
8923 7106	h	polished stone axe, 1975
894 701	i	post-medieval brick pits
893 678		cropmarks of extensive rectangular enclosures

Harby

<i>NGR (TF)</i>	<i>NSMR</i>	<i>Description</i>
8781 7051	4710	All Saints' Church; medieval font, church rebuilt 1875
8775 7055	4711	Medieval moated site of 'Queen Eleanor's Palace';

			substantial building remains of manor house and two visible sides of moat. Scheduled Ancient Monument SAM 47 Notts.
880	707	4729	Neolithic flint sickle
88	70	5896	Neolithic stone axe
8804	7060	new record	Portal-framed building in field corner; ditches and pits. Other undulations levelled in past

Appendix 2:

Air Photographic Coverage

Lincs. County Council

HSL UK 71/85 2nd June 1971 6000ft 6" Run 87/1383

Run 87/1384

Run 87/1385

Run 89/1498

Geonex 30th Sept. 1993 1:25,000 114 93 217

114 93 260

RCHM (Swindon) Details of cover not known; sketch plot held by Lincs. SMR

CUCAP (Cambridge)

12th July 1972 1:10,000 RC8 AD 63

RC8 AD 64

10th Aug. 1995 1:10,000 ZKnEV 43

ZKnEV 44

ZKnEV 45

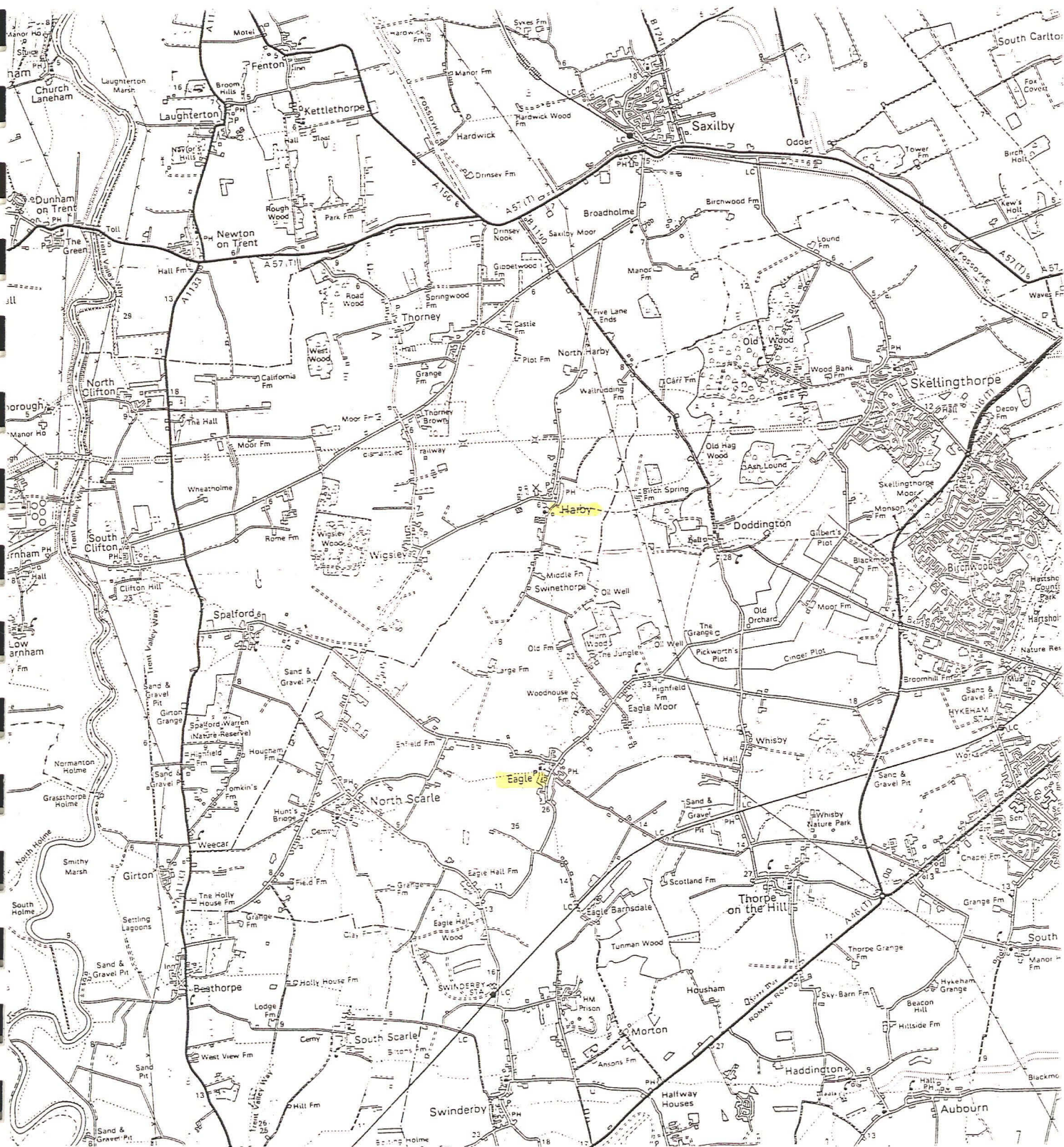


Fig. 1 Location of Harby and Eagle

Fig. 2a



Fig. 2a-f The proposed water pipeline route (reproduced at reduced scale from 1:2500 plans supplied by Anglian Water; drawing nos. 2G/40898/R/001-6)

Fig. 2b

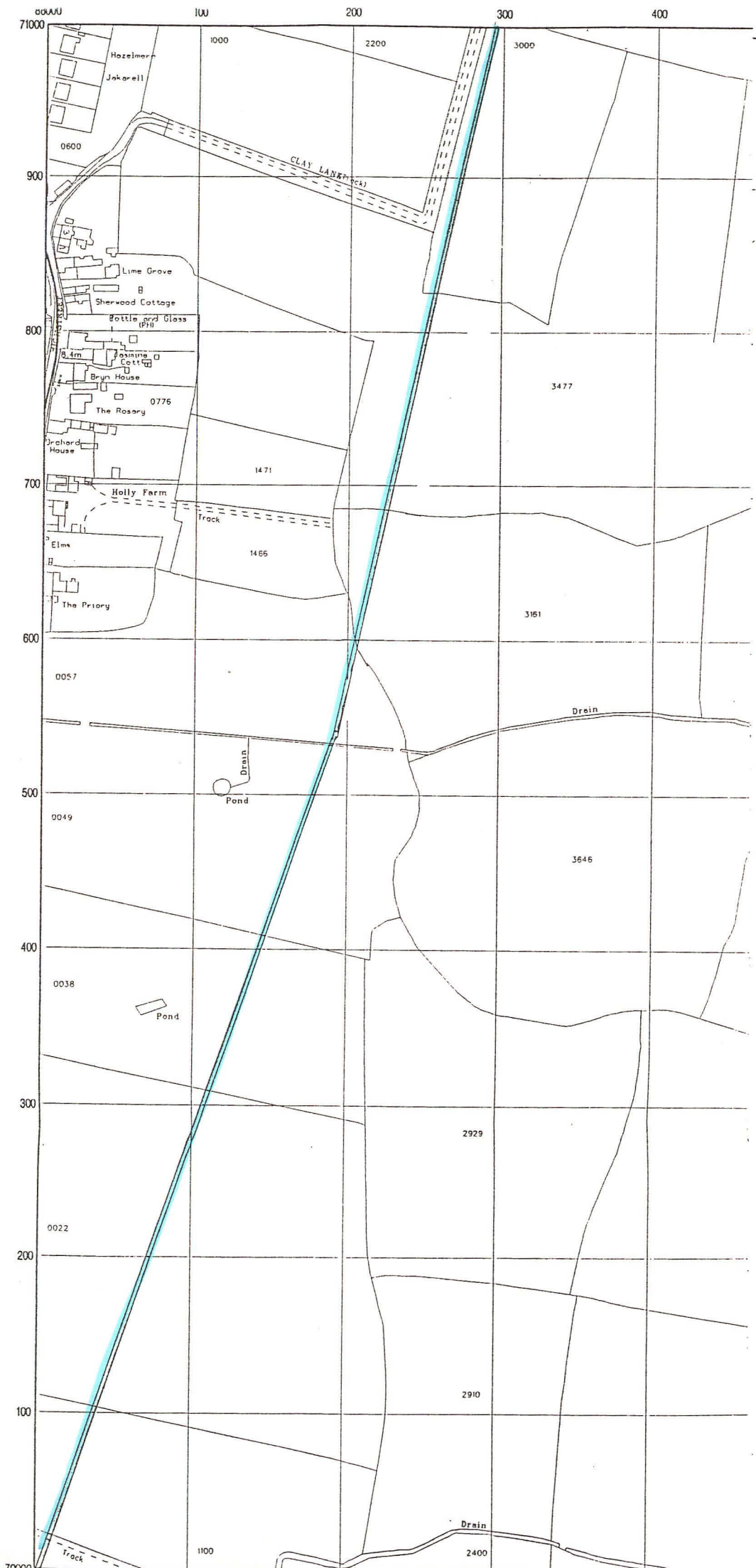


Fig. 2c



Fig. 2d

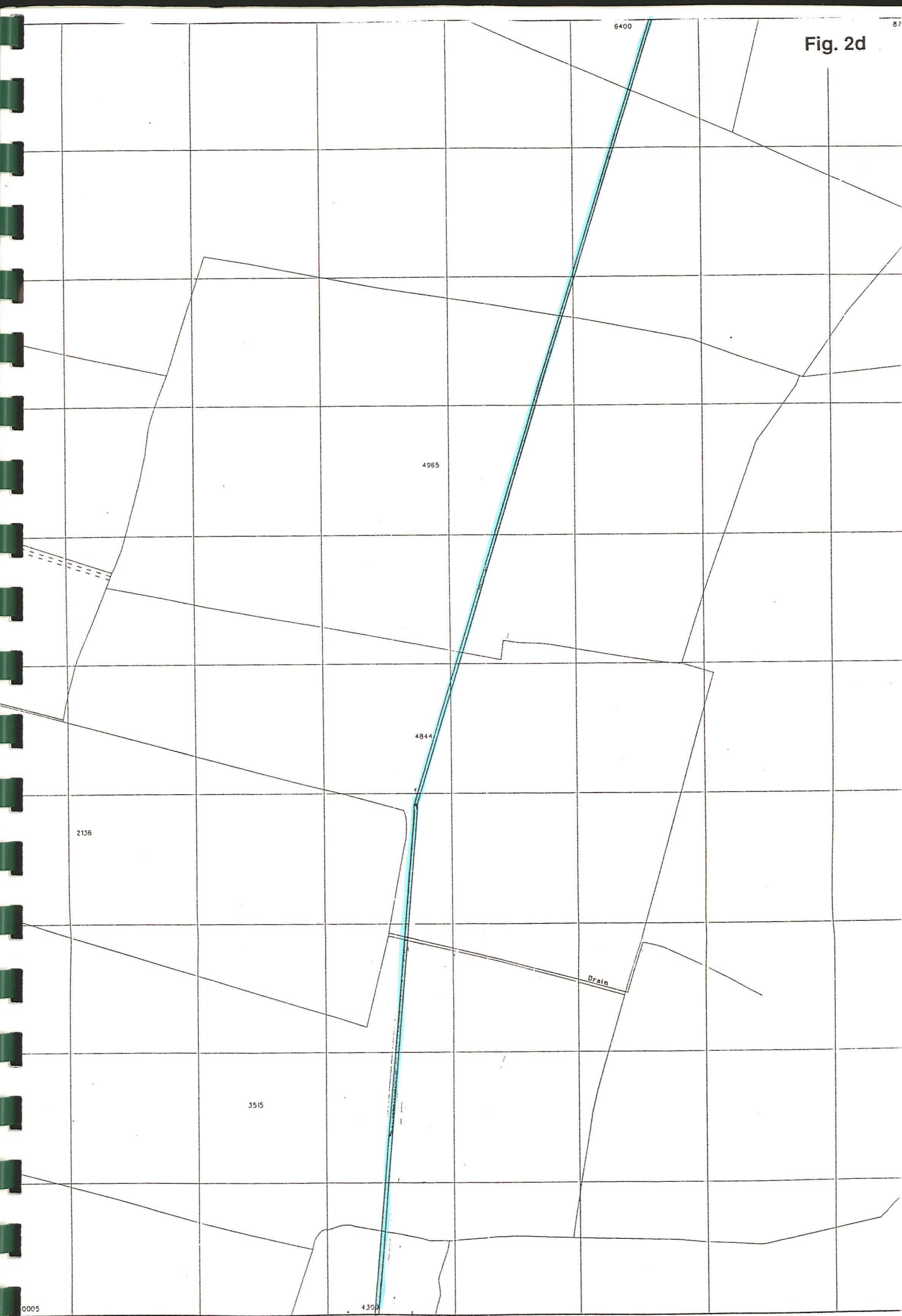


Fig. 2e

0001

0080

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0004

4300

4861

6161

3856

4142

5243

6542

6944

BM 20.54m

22.6m

SCARLE LANE

26.4m

4931

BM 29.66m

Tank
County Primary School
Playing Field
7421

29.5m

BM 29.81m

Excelsior House

All Saints Church

4717

BM 30.59m

Kelvedere

Lansdown

West Mount

CHURCH LANE

Church Farm Cottages

Devon House

Garage

The Kimball

1400

Sheep Dip

Hall

Outdoors

CHURCH VIEW

Stone Hall

Depot

7700

DRIBBACK LANE (TABLE)

BRICK LANE

10

11

12

13

Woodford

Drayton Cottages

Church Farm

Excelsior House

Excelsior House

Excelsior House

Excelsior House

Excelsior House

Excelsior House

Excelsior House

Excelsior House

Excelsior House

Excelsior House

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Track

Drain

Drain

Playing Field

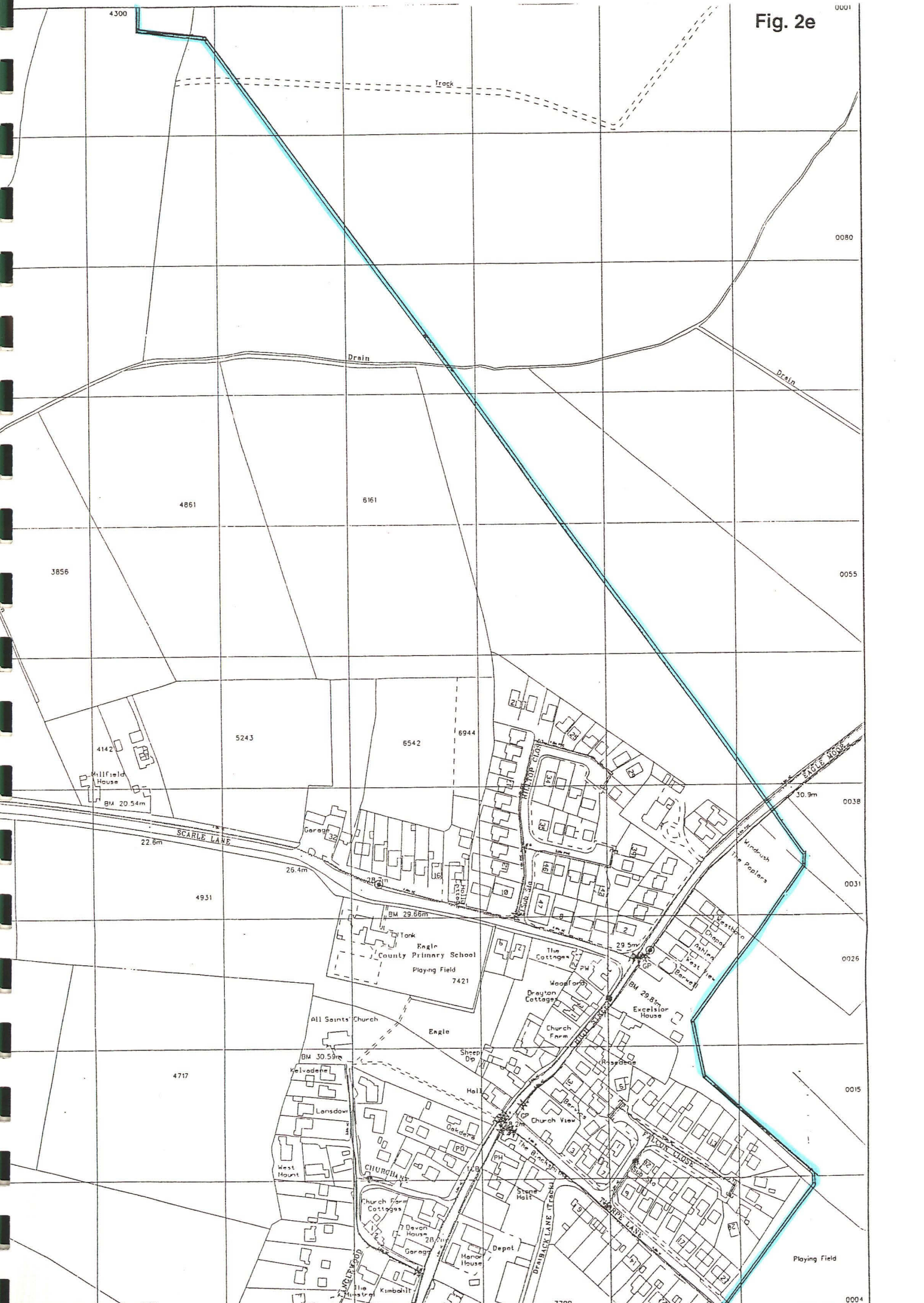
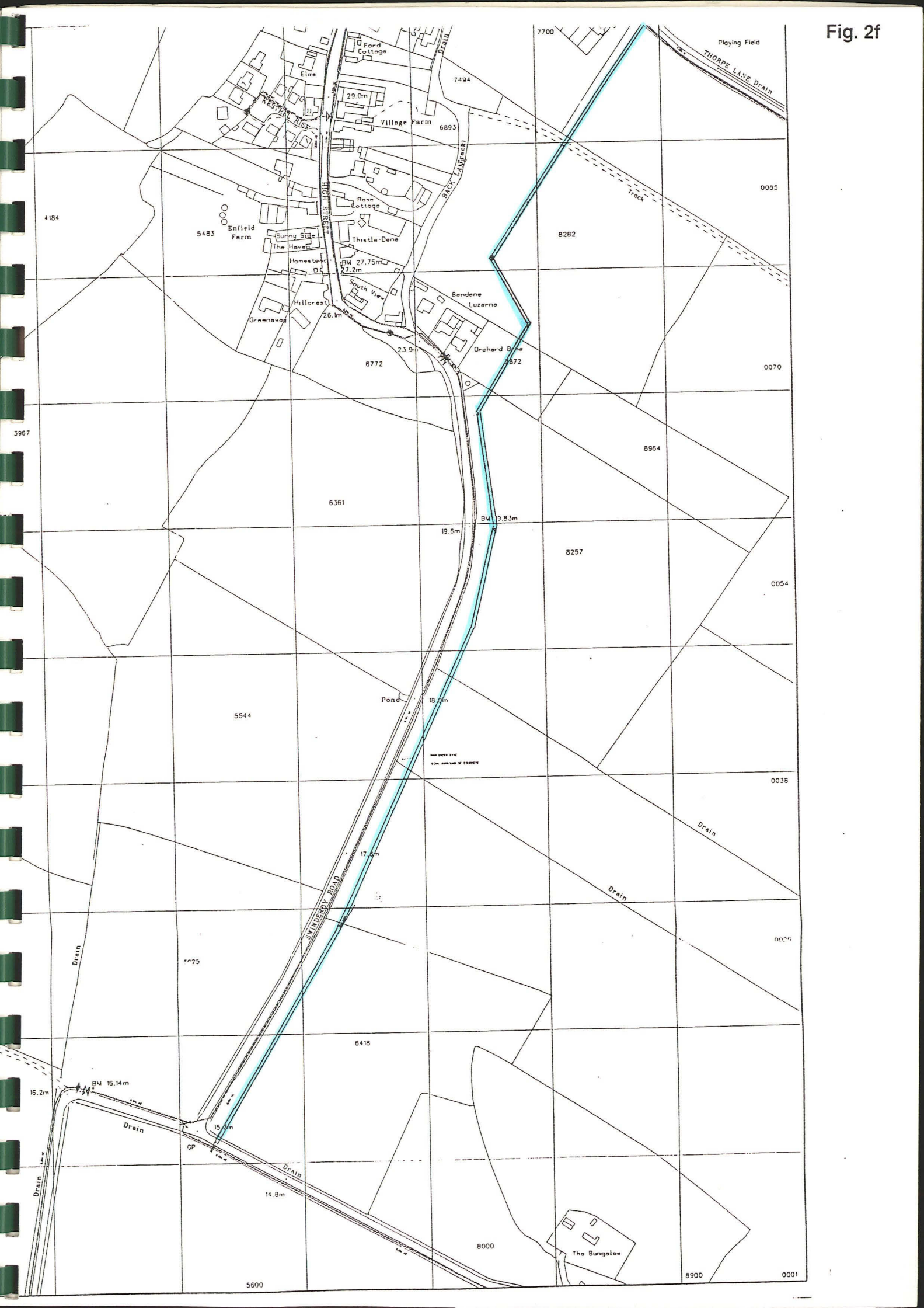
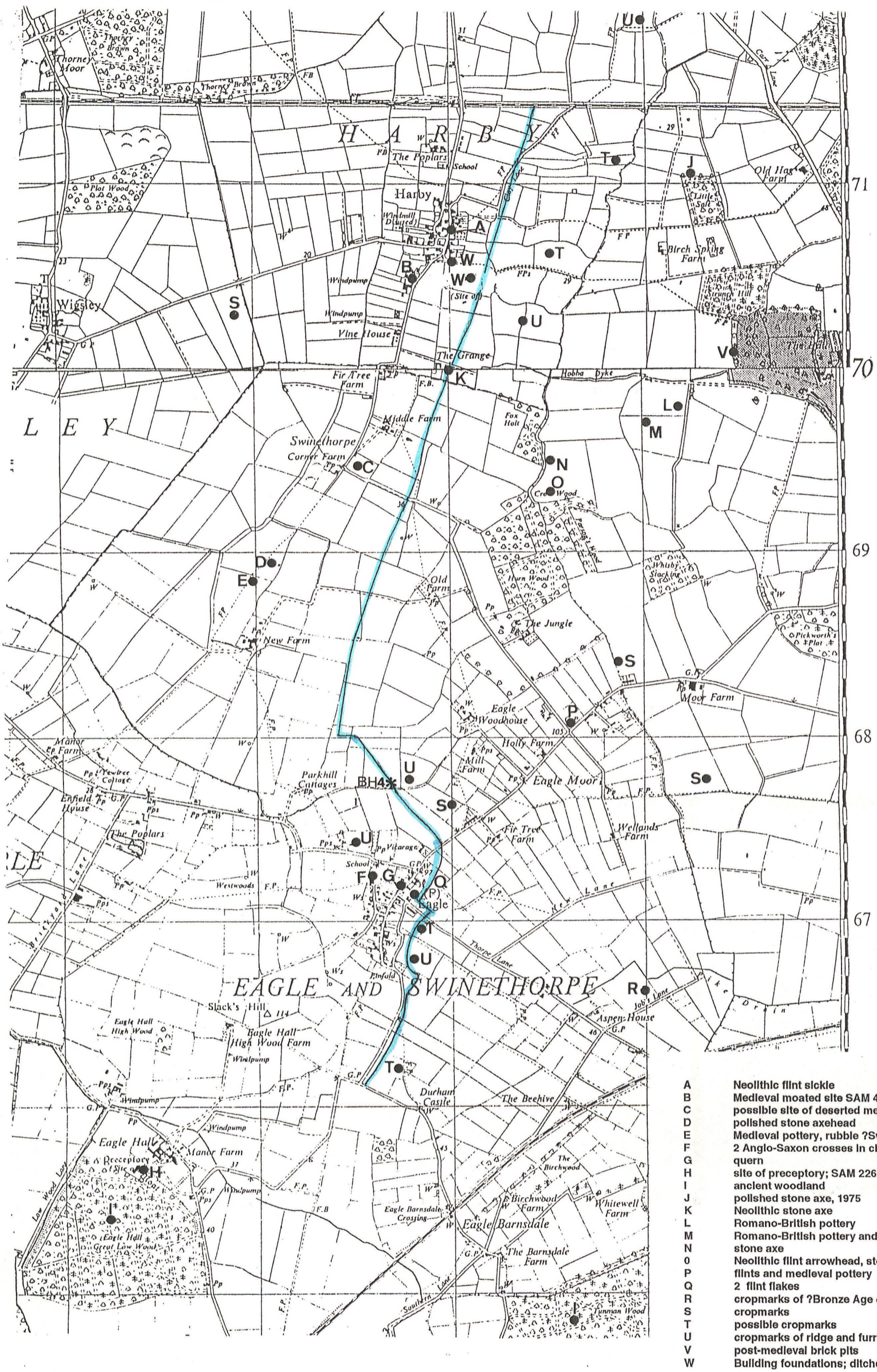


Fig. 2f





- A Neolithic flint sickle
- B Medieval moated site SAM 47 Notts.
- C possible site of deserted medieval village
- D polished stone axehead
- E Medieval pottery, rubble ?Swinethorpe Nunnery
- F 2 Anglo-Saxon crosses in church
- G quern
- H site of preceptory; SAM 22620
- I ancient woodland
- J polished stone axe, 1975
- K Neolithic stone axe
- L Romano-British pottery
- M Romano-British pottery and quern fragments
- N stone axe
- O Neolithic flint arrowhead, stone axe
- P flints and medieval pottery
- Q 2 flint flakes
- R cropmarks of ?Bronze Age cemetery; 2 flints
- S cropmarks
- T possible cropmarks
- U cropmarks of ridge and furrow
- V post-medieval brick pits
- W Building foundations; ditches, pits etc.

Fig. 3 Archaeological findspots close to the route (based on the 1956 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map, Sheets SK 86 and 87. Crown Copyright; reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

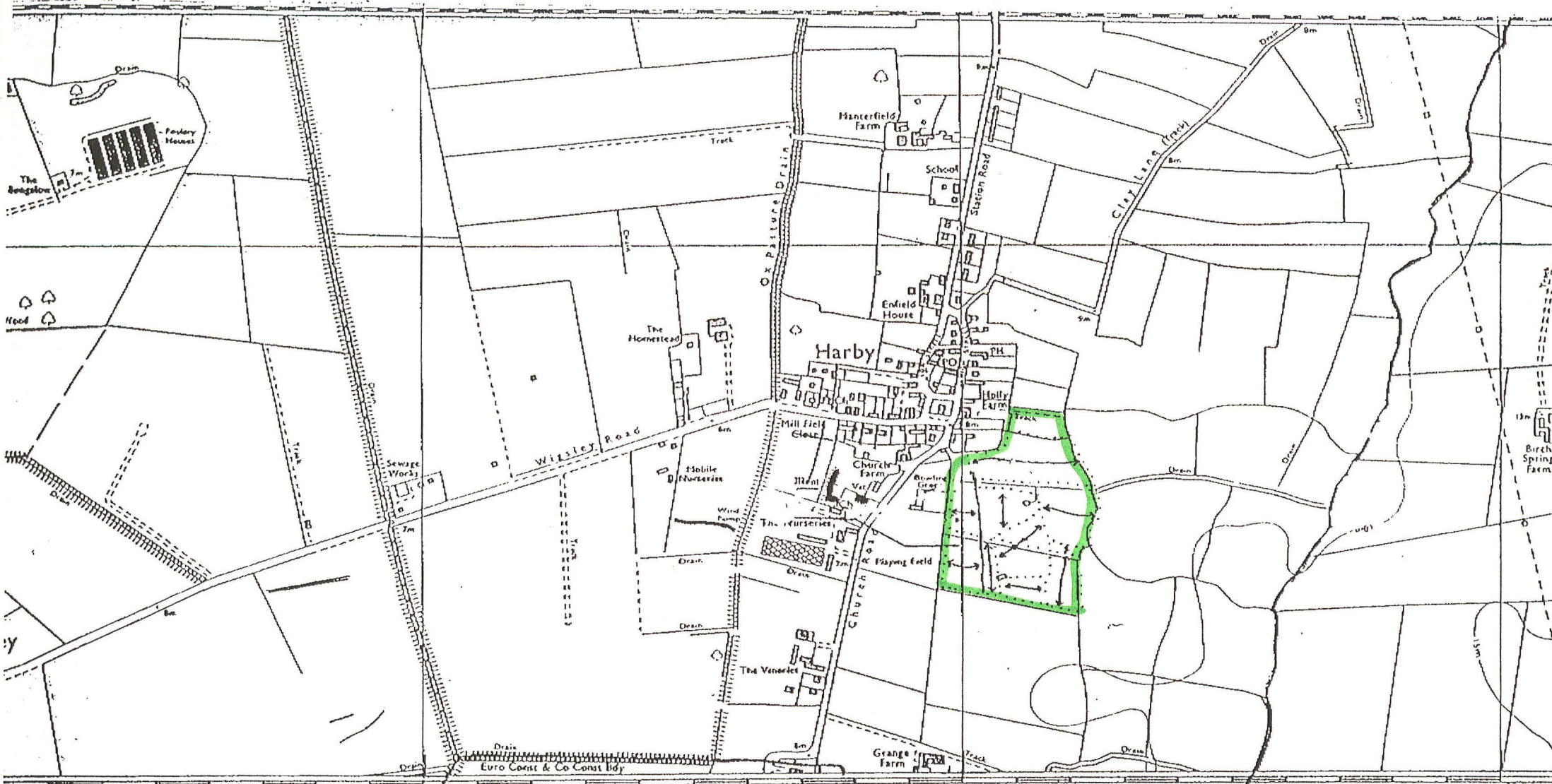


Fig. 4 Sketch plot of cropmark features at Harby (reproduced with permission from part of the RCHM(E) Lincolnshire Mapping Project, based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map. Crown Copyright; reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A).

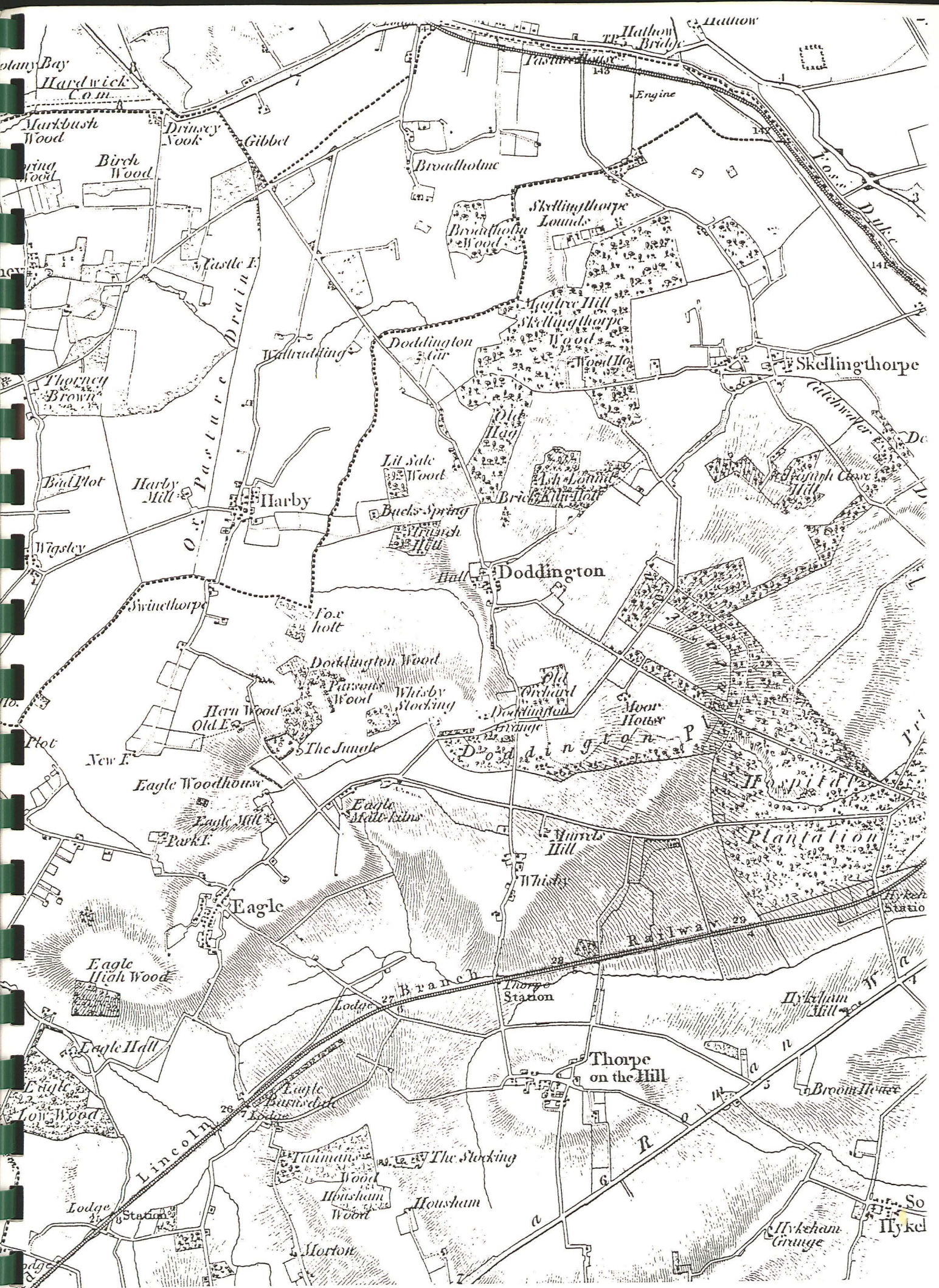


Fig. 5 Eagle and Harby in 1824 (Reproduced at enlarged scale from the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:63,360 map, Sheet 83).