

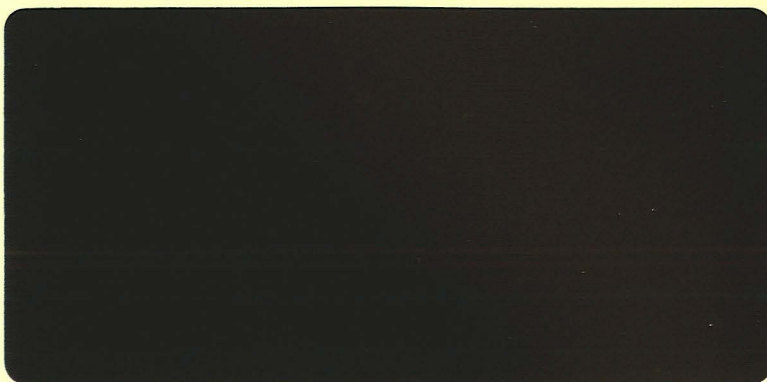
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**DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT OF THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF
LAND AT
HOPLANDS BRIDGE,
SLEAFORD,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SHB96)**



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Work Undertaken For
North Kesteven District Council

Report Compiled by
Gary Taylor

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1. SUMMARY

A desk-top assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development of land next to Hoplands Bridge, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. Numerous archaeological sites and findspots are located on and in the vicinity of the proposed development area.

Artefacts of Bronze Age date (2000 - 700 BC) have been found near to the site, though these perhaps represent casual losses rather than actual occupation in the immediate proximity.

A major settlement was established in the proximity of the proposed development site during the later part of the Iron Age (700 BC - AD 50). This settlement, located where a track crossed the River Slea, was one of the principal centres of the Corieltavi, the Iron Age tribe that occupied part of the East Midlands. The settlement had a major involvement in coin production and possessed the largest known mint of the period in Europe. Subsequently, the Iron Age settlement was succeeded by a Romano-British (AD 50-400) occupation site and the prehistoric track became a Roman road.

A church was built in the vicinity during the medieval period (AD 1066-1500). It is probable that the cemetery associated with the church partially falls within the investigation area. Additionally, a manorhouse was constructed on land immediately west of the proposed development site. However, it is improbable that manorial remains extend into the area of interest. Evidence suggests that a watermill was located in the proximity of the proposed development area, though the exact location of this mill is unknown.

Located east of the town centre, it seems

probable that much of the investigation site was open agricultural land during the later medieval and post-medieval periods. In consequence, archaeological deposits present on site are likely to be in a good state of preservation.

In the mid-nineteenth century, a railway track was laid across the area and now forms the eastern boundary of the proposed development site. Since the 1960s the southern part of the site has increasingly been built upon.

The proposed development site almost certainly falls within the area of the Iron Age and succeeding Romano-British settlements. In particular, the Iron Age occupation and mint is assessed as regionally and perhaps nationally significant. Additionally, remains associated with the locally important medieval church of St. Giles may extend into the area of proposed development. Ground conditions are inappropriate for geophysical survey across the whole of the area at present. However, if mown, the northern part of the site would be suitable for geophysical examination.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by North Kesteven District Council to undertake a desk-top assessment of the area south of Hoplands Bridge, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. This was to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development of the site, as detailed in planning application N/28/0838/91. This archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with a brief set by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer (Appendix 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Sleaford is situated 27km south of Lincoln and 26km west of Boston, in North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The town stands on the River Slea and its tributaries which flow northwestward to join the Witham.

Located at a height of *c.* 12m OD, the investigation area is situated north of Boston Road and east of St. Giles Avenue, approximately 1km east of the town centre, as represented by the parish church of St. Denys. At its northern limit the site is bordered by the Old River Slea and at the east side by a railtrack. The investigation site is at the junction of three parishes. The northern part of the site is in Ewerby and Evedon and the southern side of the area is in Kirkby La Thorpe. Old Sleaford parish bounds the area to the west and north.

Centred on National Grid Reference (SK78706240), the proposed development site covers approximately 4 hectares (Fig.

TF0767
46202).

Although as an urban fringe the investigation area has not been fully mapped by the Soil Survey, it is probable that three soil regimes occur on the proposed development site. At the extreme north of the area, alongside the Old River Slea, is a strip of Clayhythe Series calcareous humic gley soils over calcareous sandy gravelly glaciofluvial drift. (George and Robson 1978, 101-2) To the south, but still in the northern half of the site, are St. Lawrence Series stagnogleyic brown calcareous earths over calcareous loamy drift (*ibid.*, 84) The southern part of the site, presently occupied by buildings, probably consisted of Newsleaford Series gleyic brown calcareous sand on calcareous Fen sand and gravel (*ibid.*, 86-7).

3. AIMS

The aims of the desk-top assessment were to establish the type and extent of archaeological activity present on the site, in particular the expected survival and quality of any archaeological remains. Such location and assessment of significance would permit the formulation of an appropriate response to integrate the needs of the archaeology with the proposed development programme.

4. METHODS

Compilation of the archaeological and historical data relevant to the area of the proposed development site involved examination of all appropriate primary and secondary sources available. These have included:

- historical documents, held in Lincolnshire Archives
- enclosure, tithe, parish and other maps and plans, held in Lincolnshire Archives
- Ordnance Survey maps
- the County Sites and Monuments Record
- the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer
- aerial photographs
- archaeological books and journals

Information obtained in the literature and cartographic examination was supplemented by a visit to the proposed development site. This reconnaissance investigated the present land use and condition; the presence, or otherwise, of dumped materials; and the appropriateness for geophysical survey. Results of the archival and field examinations were committed to scale plans of the area.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Historical data

In the Domesday Book of 1086, much of Evedon belonged to the manor of Kirkby la Thorpe and was held by six major landowners. Domesday recorded a church, two mills and the site of a third in the parish. Kirkby, which at the time of Domesday did not include Laythorpe, also had half a church, presumably shared with another parish (Foster and Longley 1976).

The western boundary of the site is also the eastern border of Sleaford parish. Sleaford is referred to as early as AD 852 when an estate based on the town was in the possession of Medehamstede Abbey at Peterborough (Pawley 1996, 17). Domesday records eight mills and a church in Sleaford (Foster and Longley 1976, 52). It is generally considered that the site of this Domesday church is represented by St. Denys', in the centre of Sleaford. However, a church, dedicated to St. Giles, was located in Old Sleaford, on the western boundary of the investigation site. It is now recognised that this church was attached to Quarrington parish and is one of the two churches mentioned in the Domesday entry for Quarrington (Pawley 1996, 16).

At the time of Domesday much of Sleaford belonged to the Bishop of Lincoln and the growth and development of the town, which was promoted as a market centre, was largely due to the actions of the bishop. Charters for market days and annual fairs at Sleaford were acquired by the bishops between the 12th and early 15th centuries (Platts 1985, app. 2). Sleaford Castle, on the west side of the town, was built by Bishop Alexander of Lincoln between 1123-39 (*ibid.* 193) and served as a centre for the management of the episcopal properties in the area.

Documentary evidence dating to *c.* 1150 refers to a mill 'next to the old ford at Sleaford'. Later documents dating to 1258 mention both this mill and Sheriff's Mill, the earlier name for Cogglesford Mill which is located approximately 200m east of the present investigation area (correspondence in files of North Kesteven Heritage Officer).

By the 16th century much of the local political control had devolved on the Bishop of Lincoln's steward at Sleaford, Sir John Hussey. The Husseys were in residence at Old Sleaford from about the 1430s and a century later Sir John was completing his new manor house at Old Sleaford. This establishment, Manor Place, was the predecessor of Old Place which lies immediately to the west of the investigation site (Pawley 1996, 34).

During the Civil War, Sleaford was intermittently held by the royalist Newarkers and the parliamentarians. In 1644, the parliamentarians drove the royalists from Sleaford, which they were attempting to fortify. Later in the same year a parliamentarian regiment building fortifications at Sleaford were forced to withdraw to Lincoln by the advance of a large royalist force (Holmes 1980, 173; 174).

Evedon parish, within which the northern half of the site is located, was amalgamated with Ewerby parish between 1906 and 1947.

The place-name Evedon means *Eafa's* hill and derives from the Old English personal name *Eafa* and *dun* (Ekwall 1974, 170; 153). Kirkby derives from Old Scandinavian *kirkiubyr* meaning village with a church (*ibid.* 279). Sleaford is self-evidently 'ford over the River Sleas'. The river name itself probably derives from Old English *Sliow* meaning slimy, muddy

stream (*ibid.* 426).

Minor place-names are recorded for a number of the parcels on and adjacent to the site. In 1766, the plan of the property of the Earl of Bristol records that a field in the northern part of the site, in Evedon parish, was called *Part of Hoplands*. This name was also recorded in the mid-19th century on both the Evedon and Kirkby la Thorpe tithe maps. The Evedon tithe schedule also gave the name *Lansdowne Close* to the fields at the north and northwestern part of the area. The place-name 'hoplands' is of uncertain derivation but could be from Old English *hop*, meaning dry land in a fen. Alternatively, the element could derive from the dialect *hope*, meaning a small enclosed valley (Ekwall 1974, 249).

5.2 Cartographic Data

Hoplands is situated on the east side of Sleaford town and at the junction of the parishes of Ewerby and Evedon, Kirkby La Thorpe and Old Sleaford. Appropriate maps for the vicinity were examined.

A map of 1766 of the property of the Right Honourable the Earl of Bristol in the Lordships of New Sleaford and Holdingham depicts the area of Hoplands (Fig. 3). At that time the area comprised a number of fields, one of which was called 'Part of Hoplands Close' and constituted part of the Evedon lordship. The boundaries were very similar to those depicted on modern maps.

A map of Evedon dating from 1802, perhaps copied from an earlier version, depicts the Hoplands as a single large field (Fig. 4). None of the internal boundaries shown on the 1766 map were recorded on this map.

Dating from 1828, Bryant's *Map of the*

County of Lincoln is of too large a scale to reveal any detail. However, the map indicates that the vicinity of the investigation site was mostly open ground with 'Coggleford Mill', just to the west, the nearest building to the Hoplands (Fig. 5).

Plans were made in 1846 for the proposed routes of the Eastern Counties Railway from Spalding to Newark. These charts show the course of the railway on the south side of Sleaford town. However, there was no proposal at that time for the railtrack on the east side of Sleaford which forms the investigation site boundary. However, the railtrack was in existence by 1887 when the 1st edition one-inch Ordnance Survey map was published.

The Evedon tithe map of 1845 depicts a near-identical pattern of field boundaries to that shown on the 1766 plan of the Earl of Bristol's properties (Fig. 6a). Slightly later, the 1851 Kirkby la Thorpe tithe map depicts the southern half of the Hoplands as a single, large subrectangular field with footpaths down the east side and through the northern half, in Evedon parish (Fig. 6b).

Maps of the Bristol Estate dating from 1860 show the investigation area at the northeast corner and just beyond the perimeter of the Quarrington and Old Sleaford part of the estate. The parcelling pattern is as shown on the slightly earlier tithe maps.

The 1887 Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1-inch map records the railway track that constitutes the eastern boundary of the site, which is shown as open land (Fig. 7).

Dating from 1905, the second edition 1:1250 Ordnance Survey map continues to depict the site as open fields. This map also records the course of a Roman road

alongside and within the western boundary of the investigation area. The map also notes the discovery of a 'brass celt' (axe) in the northwestern corner of the investigation area and the site of St. Giles Church on the western boundary (Fig. 8).

The 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map of 1959 largely duplicates the 1905 plan, depicting ditches along the course of the Roman road and the parish boundary between Evedon and Kirkby la Thorpe. However, by 1976 a number of buildings had been erected in the southwestern part of the site. By 1988, the 1:25,000 Ordnance Survey map recorded that much of the southern half of the area, up to the Evedon - Kirkby la Thorpe parish boundary, was occupied by offices and other buildings.

5.3 Aerial Photograph Data

Aerial photographs held by the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record and in the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer were examined for evidence of archaeological remains. Others published in secondary sources were also examined.

An undated aerial photograph in the Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record (reference code: Sleaford TF 076461) depicts the northern part of the investigation area. No archaeological remains are evident on the proposed development area though there are several rectilinear earthworks and cropmarks on land immediately to the west (Fig. 10).

A second aerial photograph in the County Sites and Monuments Record (reference code: Kirkby la Thorpe TF 07904545) depicts cropmarks of removed field boundaries and ploughed-out ridge and furrow on land about half a kilometre

south of the investigation area (Fig. 9).

Within the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer are two aerial photographs of the site. One of them, uncoded, depicts the whole of the site and shows cropmarks of ridge and furrow in fields just to the east of the investigation area (Fig. 9). Additionally, a dark, sinuous line can be seen in the northern part of the site. This line, which is broadly comparable in location with the soil boundary noted above (see 2.2 Topography and Geology) may represent an ancient stream course. The second photograph (reference code: 3096) records only the northernmost corner of the investigation site. Although there are no cropmarks or earthworks of archaeological remains evident in the proposed development area, there are cropmarks of ridge and furrow immediately to the east, beyond the railtrack.

A published aerial photograph (Pickering 1995, 24) records a complex of cropmarks on land about 300m southeast of the Hoplands site. These cropmarks appear to represent numerous rectangular enclosures separated by trackways or roads. Cropmarks of more recently removed field boundaries are also evident (Fig. 9).

5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer were consulted. Other, secondary, sources were also examined. Details of archaeological and historical remains falling within half a kilometre of the proposed development area are collated here and committed to Figs. 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Map code	County Sites and Monuments Record	Description	Grid Ref.	North Kesteven Heritage Officer's Files
1	60583	Iron Age/Roman site; burials of 3rd century date	TF07754595	NK34.34
2	60590	Cropmarks showing trackways and rectangular and subrectangular enclosures, visible on aerial photograph	TF08254600	NK34.31
3	TF04NE D	Romano-British settlement; fragments of medieval ecclesiastical building built into Old Place and garden wall. Site of Lord Hussey's manor house. Bronze Roman coin, trumpet brooch. Inhumation burials (?Roman) in coffins. Traces of Roman, Saxon and medieval material.	TF076458 centre	NK57.54
4	TF04NE E	Iron Age material including coins and coin moulds. Romano-British, medieval structures. Foundations of barn-like building and circular corn drying kiln. 3rd/4th century pot. Medieval cemetery cut through Roman building. Romano-British material, bronze tweezers, bone pin. Saxon pot. Inhumation with plain pot, sherds of stamped ware, Stamford ware.	TF07704595	NK57.67
5 6 7 8 9 10	TF04NE G	2 inhumations (no grave goods) Roman pot Roman coins	TF078461: TF077461; TF078459; TF079459: TF073461; TF078461	NK28.2 NK28.32 NK34.1 NK34.23 NK57.53
11	TF04NE H	Roman road. Grass marks may represent site of church. Late Iron Age pot, much Romano-British pot of 3rd/4th century	TF07724598	NK57.17

Map code	County Sites and Monuments Record	Description	Grid Ref.	North Kesteven Heritage Officer's Files
12	TF04NE Y	Greyware scatter	TF07194593	NK57.8
13	TF04NE AM	Roman dolphin brooch	TF07544613	NK57.12
14	TF04NE AR	Roman coins (4), 3rd/4th century	TF07684604	
15	TF04NE AT	Late Iron Age pot	TF07914593	NK34.2
16	TF04NE AU	N-S skeleton, no associations. Romano-British pot on same site but not associated with burial	TF07484576	
17	TF04NE AV	Roman coin of Magnentius (350-3)	TF077457	
18	TF04NE AW	Roman coin (364-75)	TF07484592	
19	TF04NE AX	Roman bronze coin	TF074459	
20	TF04NE BA	Coin mould fragments, for forgeries of coins of Maximian, c. 300 AD. Romano-British pot	TF078462	NK28.41
21	TF04NE BM	Bronze Age looped palstave	TF078462	NK28.43
22	TF04NE BO	3 Roman coins	TF073458 approx	
23	TF04NE BP	Romano-British fantail brooch	TF07844587	NK34.1
24	TF04NE BQ	Site of St. Giles Church, overlying Roman road	TF07724598	NK57.17
25	TF04NE BR	Centre of Iron Age open settlement; much Iron Age pot, over 2000 coin moulds. Gold stater (coin)	TF07684598	NK57.67
26	TF04NE BS	Iron Age open settlement	TF07744605	NK28.33

Map code	County Sites and Monuments Record	Description	Grid Ref.	North Kesteven Heritage Officer's Files
27	TF04NE BW	Late Iron Age carinated cup	TF078458	NK34.30
28	TF04NE BZ	Fragment of 6th century Anglo-Saxon cruciform brooch	TF072461	NK57.7
	TF04NE CA	Roman bronze coin (364-75)	unlocated	
29	TF04NE CC	Post-medieval bronze buckle	TF074458	
30	TF04NE CD	1st/2nd century coin, perforated as pendant	TF074455	
31	TF04NE CI	Roman coin of Mark Antony, 1st century BC	TF079459	
32	TF04NE CJ	Hoard of 2nd century coins	TF07204582	
33		Coin of Edward I (1302-19) found at Old Place	unlocated	
34		Flint thumbnail scraper	TF079465	
35		Roman coin, ?3rd century; stone building material ploughed up	TF081457	NK34.3
36		Roman patera handle	TF078458	NK34.20
37		Stone footings	TF07784565	NK34.21
38		Roman coin, 306-337	TF079459	NK34.23
		Palaeolithic flint side scraper	bed of Slea	NK57.25
		Flint axe	TF04NE	NK57.39
		2 bronze axes	near Slea, east of Sleaford	NK57.43
39		Medieval pottery	TF077462	NK57.45
40		Roman coin, 286-93	rear garden, 87 Boston Road (TF073458)	NK57.50
		Bronze Age flints	TF04NE	NK57.51

Map code	County Sites and Monuments Record	Description	Grid Ref.	North Kesteven Heritage Officer's Files
		Bronze palstave	TF04NE	NK57.52
41		Roman-modern pottery, animal bone, clay pipe	TF07824593	NK57.57
42		Bronze coin, 1694-1702	TF07434580	NK57.59
43		Middle Iron Age palisaded enclosure, cut by Roman road	TF078453	NK57.62

During the later Iron Age, the East Midlands was occupied by the tribe, the *Corieltavi*. The Iron Age tribal area was to an extent maintained during the Roman period as an administrative region or *civitas*. Leicester, the site of the Roman city of *Ratae Corieltavorum*, was the capital of the *civitas* and is generally thought also to have been the Iron Age cantonal capital. Sleaford, along with Ancaster and Dragonby, are the largest Iron Age settlements thus far recorded in the area and are thought to have been the principal settlements of the *Corieltavi*. Inscribed coins of the *Corieltavi* frequently show two or more names. On the basis of this evidence it has been considered that the tribal territory had dual rulers or a hierarchy of kings. It has also been thought that the principal centres, including Sleaford, could each have had their own resident kings or chieftains (Todd 1973, 3; 8-10).

In the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer there is a plan of a rectangular ditched earthwork. Topographical features on the plan indicate that this earthwork was located at the northwest corner of the investigation area, just southeast of where the Roman road crosses the Old River Slea. The plan also indicates that ridge and

furrow, aligned northeast-southwest, was located to the east of the rectangular earthwork. A further reference to this earthwork locates it at grid reference TF 078458 (Harris 1979b, 28; 33). This grid reference places the earthwork approximately 300m south of where the plan suggests it to be.

It is thought that the Roman road, Mareham Lane, which forms the western boundary of the site, was originally a prehistoric track. Located on the eastern edge of a scarp, the route ran north from Bourne through Sleaford toward Washingborough (May 1976, 8).

Archaeological observations were made during the construction of perimeter fencing at The Hoplands Depot belonging to North Kesteven District Council. The site (SMR60583; NK34.34) forms the southern part of the present investigation area. Stone structures, possible foundation slots of timber buildings and other occupation remains were revealed at approximately 1m below the ground surface (Johnson and Palmer-Brown 1995, 1). Additionally, two east-west oriented burials were encountered, both near the northeast corner of that site. Both graves contained pottery of approximately 3rd century date, though one of the graves was

dug into a ditch that contained Middle Saxon pottery (*ibid.* 7, 10). A moderate quantity of Late Saxon and medieval pottery was also recovered from the southwest corner of the present investigation area (*ibid.* 6; Young 1995, 2).

In summer 1996, a trench was excavated on the line of the Roman road that forms the western boundary of the present investigation site. The trench, for the installation of water pipes, was located just north of Boston Road, close to the southwest corner of the investigation area at TF 0777 4582. In mid August 1996 the trench was informally observed and the probable metalling of the Roman road was noted. Additionally, two pieces of masonry were noted in the spoil heaps from the trench. One of these was a moulded architectural fragment of probable medieval date. The second was rectangular with a conical depression in one face and may be a pivot stone, though of unknown date. A few fragments of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the spoil heaps.

On the north side of the Old River Slea at approximately TF075460, a long depression in the ground surface has been noted. Areas of marshy ground were also noted at either end of this feature, which was thought to be a possible old mill race (correspondence in files of North Kesteven Heritage Officer).

Approximately 200m east of the investigation site is Cogglesford Mill, an 18th and 19th century building on an earlier site. The mill acquired this name in the 16th century, prior to which it was called the Sheriff's Mill, a structure referred to as early as 1216 (Pawley 1996, 18). Recently restored, the mill is listed Grade II, as is the adjacent 18th century Cogglesford Mill Farmhouse (DoE 1974, 14).

Garden walls at Old Place, just to the west of the investigation area, consist of fragments of medieval masonry. Old Place itself appears to be of early-mid 19th century and is in 'Gothick' style. The adjacent, and associated, Old Place Cottages are former stables. Old Place and the former stables form a group and these and the wall are all listed Grade II (*ibid.*, 3).

During summer 1996, cropmarks of curvilinear features were evident at ground level in fields south of Boston Road, approximately 700m southeast of the investigation area. Due to different crop and usage patterns in adjacent fields the extent of the buried remains responsible for the cropmarks is uncertain. However, further cropmarks have been seen and photographed just to the north, on the opposite side of Boston Road (Pickering 1995, 24).

Metal detector users are frequently to be seen in the fields to the east of the railtrack that borders the site. In particular, the fields south of Boston Road receive the greatest attention of metal detectorists. However, the finds recovered by the detector users are largely unreported to the archaeological curators for the district and county.

5.5 Site Reconnaissance

On 8th August 1996, a visit was made to the proposed development site. Visibility was moderate to poor, much of the area being meadow under long grass.

The southern part of the investigation site, belonging to North Kesteven District Council, is largely occupied by brick-built workshops and areas of hardstanding. To the north of the workshops and offices is a large meadow field covered by long grass.

A slight embankment, probably a flood defence measure, follows the course of the Old River Slea. Immediately south of and alongside the embankment is a slight hollow that probably represents a borrow pit or quarry for the material used to raise the embankment.

Near the northern end of the field there is a slight mounded area alongside the railway embankment, probably constituting part of same. In the northern third of the field are three drops in level. These all run approximately east-west across the area between the river and the railway embankment. It was unclear during the reconnaissance whether these represent natural features, such as river terraces, or man-made earthworks. There are indications of further earthworks in the field but these are vague and obscure due to the vegetation cover.

Rodent activity (rabbit burrowing and mole hills) is extensive in the field, particularly toward the west and east sides, less so in the centre. A cursory examination of the earth disturbed by this animal activity revealed a number of artefacts. Fragments of Romano-British pottery and a possible flint core were recovered from a restricted area toward the northwestern corner of the site. Further sherds of Romano-British pottery were retrieved from the trackway that forms the western boundary of the site. (Fig. 11).

Random augering of the site revealed that the soils in the area were generally sandy, with varying amounts of gravel. However, about 50m south of the river and midway between the western and eastern boundaries, the auger encountered a band of blue-grey clay approximately 30mm thick in the midst of the sand layers. This clay layer may represent a flood event or possibly the location of a relict stream.

Modern disturbance was represented by a manhole near the northwestern corner of the field and a possible drain outlet in the river bank at the northern corner of the site.

It was considered that conditions across the entire area were probably inappropriate for magnetometry and resistivity survey. This was due to the presence of buildings and hardstanding at the southern part of the site and dense and long vegetation cover to the north. However, if the field at the northern part of the site was mown and cleared then conditions would be suitable for geophysical survey in this area.

6. DISCUSSION

Earlier prehistoric activity in the area around Sleaford is represented by artefacts of palaeolithic to Bronze Age date. Whilst the palaeolithic material was brought into the area during the last ice age approximately 12,000 years ago, the neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts represent use of the Sleaford area during these periods. However, although Bronze Age artefacts have been found on or close to the investigation area, locational detail for much of the material dating to the period is absent. Consequently, the nature and location of such exploitation is not clearly understood and the evidence provided by finds made in the Hoplands vicinity is too tenuous to be taken as representing the site of a settlement.

A major occupation site was established in the proximity of the proposed development area during the later part of the Iron Age. This settlement, located where a track crossed the River Slea, was one of the principal centres of the *Corieltawi*, the Iron Age tribe that inhabited part of the East Midlands. The settlement had a major involvement in coin production, apparently

as a major mint. This is based on the discovery at the site of the largest assemblage in Europe of coin moulds of the period. Moreover, it has been suggested that the *Corieltavi* tribal area was a bi- or poly-focal kingdom with Sleaford sharing the administration of the canton with Leicester and the other principal centres.

Settlement at Sleaford probably continued unbroken into and through the Roman period and the prehistoric track at the western edge of the investigation area became a Roman road. The Romano-British settlement had an economy at least partially based on agriculture, as indicated by the presence of a barn and corndrier. Painted plaster and window glass also suggests that the settlement was of moderately high status.

Much of this Iron Age and Roman evidence has been found immediately west of the investigation area. To the east of the proposed development site, beyond the railtrack, cropmarks betray the presence of further buried archaeological remains. These have not been formally investigated and are undated, though on morphological grounds at least some of the cropmarks probably represent Iron Age or Romano-British remains. Artefacts of both Iron Age and Roman date have been found on the proposed development site. Furthermore, numerous ditches and pits containing artefacts dating from the late Iron Age to 4th century AD have been examined in the southern part of the investigation area.

It therefore appears most probable that the investigation area lies within the confines of the late prehistoric and Romano-British settlement. Moreover, a significant prehistoric track/Roman road provides the western boundary of the investigation site. Roadside settlements virtually invariably occur on both sides of through-routes. Therefore, it is highly probable that Iron

Age and Romano-British settlement evidence as found west of the road would also occur on the east side of the route in the area of proposed development.

Immediately west of the proposed development area is the site of St. Giles church, a probable Late Saxon foundation. It would appear unlikely that any part of the church itself would fall within the proposed development site. However, associated features, such as the graveyard, may occur in the investigation area. In possible relation to this, burials have been found on the proposed development site. These graves have been thought to be of Roman date, though one of them was dug into a ditch that contained Middle Saxon pottery. Unless this Saxon ceramic was intrusive, then the burial must be later. Moreover, the *Twelve Tables*, the earliest of Roman laws, forbade burial or cremation within nucleated settlement areas. Accordingly, Romano-British cemeteries are generally located outside the occupation areas (Anderson 1984, 11). Therefore, that the burials found on the site appear to be in the midst of the Romano-British settlement further militates against them being of Roman date.

Documentary evidence suggests that a watermill may have been located in the vicinity of the site during the medieval period. Moreover, earthworks and cropmarks that may represent mill leats have been recorded just west of the northwest corner of the investigation area. The possibility therefore exists that timbers from such a mill may survive, due to waterlogging, in or close to the Old River Slea in the vicinity of the proposed development site.

West of the investigation area is the medieval manorial complex based on Old Place. It would appear unlikely that the precinct of this manorhouse extended

beyond the Roman road that forms the western boundary of the investigation area. However, medieval masonry has been unearthed from the boundary track and it is possible that evidence of dismantlement of Old Place may spread into the proposed development site. Additionally, a moderate quantity of Late Saxon and medieval pottery has been recovered from the southern part of the investigation area. This may imply occupation in the area prior to the establishment of the Hussey's manorial seat represented by Old Place.

Earthworks of ridge and furrow ploughing of possible medieval date has been recorded on the proposed development site and immediately to the east.

Cartographic evidence indicates that the investigation area was undeveloped fields from at least as early as the mid 18th century, with formation of the present parcel caused by the construction of the railtrack in the second half of the 19th century. The area remained as fields until the 1960s, since which time the southern half of the site has been subject to increasingly extensive development.

Due to the low-lying nature of the terrain, and the proximity of the river and relict channels, buried environmental remains may survive by virtue of waterlogging. In the southern, developed, part of site ground conditions are unsuitable for geophysical survey. Additionally, the present overgrown state of the northern part of the area is not conducive to geophysical investigation, though such survey techniques would be appropriate if the area was mown.

7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the *Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling*

ancient monuments has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; see Appendix 2).

Period:

Evidence of nucleated Iron Age occupation, Romano-British roadside settlement, and medieval manorial, ecclesiastical and industrial activity has been recovered on and in the vicinity of the investigation area. All are characteristic of the periods represented. Additionally, evidence of a probable Iron Age mint has been found in the area. This is unusual, though coin usage commenced in Britain in this period.

Rarity:

Remains of Romano-British roadside settlements with Iron Age precursors, as located at the investigation site, are scarce. Moreover, such settlements may possess rare or unusual characteristics, as represented by the the probable Iron Age mint. Evidence of mints of any date is rare and the scale and date of the example at or adjacent to the site is of national significance and rarity.

Medieval funerary areas, as identified in the general vicinity of the investigation, unencumbered by later burials, are scarce. Moreover, such defunct cemeteries may incorporate unusual features.

Documentation:

Numerous archaeological investigations and chance finds have previously been made on and in close proximity to the site. Records of these archaeological sites and finds are kept in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the North Kesteven Heritage Officer. Previous archaeological investigations on and in proximity to the site are the subjects of several reports.

Additionally, a moderate amount of historical documentation and cartographic

evidence exists for the site and its vicinity. The present report provides a synopsis and synthesis of the historical and archaeological evidence for the area of investigation.

Group value:

Sites and findspots of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date cluster in this general area. By virtue of this evidence of multi-period exploitation of the landscape the group value is moderately high.

Survival/Condition:

Post-medieval development has occurred on the southern part of the site, consequently buried deposits in this area may have been damaged. However, it is probable that archaeological remains in the northern part of the site are largely intact. Previous archaeological interventions at the site have shown that archaeological deposits survive in good condition at approximately 1m depth.

Fragility/Vulnerability:

Any development is likely to impact the investigation area into natural strata. Consequently, any and all archaeological deposits present on the site are extremely vulnerable.

Diversity:

Moderately high period diversity is provided by remains of late Iron Age, Roman and medieval date on and in close proximity to the site.

Functional diversity, represented by the general settlement activity of late Iron Age and Roman date, the Iron Age mint, the medieval ecclesiastical, higher status settlement and possible industrial activity, is also moderately high.

Potential:

Potential is extremely high that Iron Age and Romano-British settlement and minting

activities, as identified immediately to the west and on the southern part of the site, is more extensive and occurs throughout the investigation area. Very high potential exists for funereal activity of possible medieval date occurring in the area, as evidenced by previous discoveries of burials on and in vicinity of the site.

Due to the low-lying nature of the area and the proximity of the river, there is moderately high potential that palaeoenvironmental material survives due to waterlogging.

7.1 Site Importance

In summary, the criteria for assessment have established that the Iron Age settlement and mint evidence is regionally and probably nationally important. As such, archaeological deposits present on site can be expected to augment the understanding not only of the origins and development of Sleaford, but also make a wider contribution to Iron Age studies in the East Midlands and nationally.

Use of the assessment criteria also demonstrates that the Romano-British roadside settlement evidence is regionally significant. In consequence, the archaeological remains of the Roman period would contribute to the comprehension of comparable sites in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands.

The assessment criteria also indicate that the medieval high status, ecclesiastical and industrial remains in the vicinity are locally important and would amplify the understanding of the development of Sleaford at this period.

8. OPTIONS FOR FURTHER WORK

In consideration of the results of the

assessment, several options for further work suggest themselves as most worthy of attention.

8.1 Rescue Priorities

Preservation of the archaeological deposits intact is, perhaps, the foremost rescue priority. To these ends, consideration should be given to designing foundation arrangements that protect the archaeological deposits from damage. If this is not possible it may be appropriate to devise a mitigation strategy that reduces the impact on the archaeological deposits caused by ground disturbances associated with the proposed development.

Consideration may be given to preservation by record of any and all archaeological deposits that may be destroyed by the proposed development.

8.2 Research Priorities

Definition of the location and density of archaeological remains on the site is necessary for establishing research possibilities. Under appropriate site conditions, geophysical survey may be used as a tool towards defining the density of archaeological remains present on site.

Regionally significant remains of Iron Age and Roman settlement and a mint almost certainly occur in the area. Additionally, medieval ecclesiastical and industrial remains may be located in the proposed development area. Any further archaeological investigation of the site should have regard for establishing the full nature and extent of this occupation and activity.

Due to the proximity of the river and relict channels, palaeoenvironmental remains may survive on the site by virtue of waterlogging. Consideration should be

given to the investigation of such organic evidence for all archaeological periods represented.

9. CONCLUSIONS

The desk-top assessment has indicated that this area of Sleaford was a focus of settlement during the later Iron Age and Roman periods. The occupation areas of both periods were located astride a track/road where it forded the Old River Sleas. This routeway is marked by the western boundary of the development site. Although the vast majority of previous archaeological discoveries have been made just west of this road it is virtually certain that the proposed development area encompasses remains of the late prehistoric and Roman settlement.

The Iron Age and Romano-British settlements are both assessed as regionally significant. Moreover, due to the Iron Age settlement apparently possessing a mint, the largest of its kind known in Europe, the occupation of this period is perhaps nationally important.

Remains of a medieval manorhouse and church are both located in immediate proximity to the proposed development site. It appears unlikely that any features associated with the manorial complex will occur in the investigation area. However, there is potential for the cemetery attached to the church falling within the limits of the examination site, and burials have previously been encountered in the area.

Documentary evidence indicates that a mill was located in the general vicinity of the investigation site. Although earthworks and cropmarks suggest that this mill may be situated near the northwest corner of the proposed development area, the exact position and extents of this mill site is

unknown. These various medieval remains are assessed as locally significant.

Cartographic evidence would suggest that the investigation site was largely open land during the post-medieval period and until the 1960s, since which time the southern half of the area has been increasingly developed. As a consequence, archaeological deposits present on site are expected to survive in good condition over most of the area. Additionally, palaeoenvironmental material may be preserved by waterlogging due to the proximity of the river.

Ground conditions are presently inappropriate for geophysical examination across the whole of the proposed development area. However, if the northern part of the site was mown conditions would be suitable for geophysical investigation.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to thank Mr M Samson of North Kesteven District Council who commissioned the assessment. Thanks are also due to Mr D Brown of William H Brown, agents for Mr P Moore, owner of the northern part of the site. This report was edited by Tom Lane. Denise Buckley and Paul Cope-Faulkner produced the illustrations. Thanks also to Kate Orr, the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council, who permitted examination of the relevant files. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was kindly provided by Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

11. REFERENCES

All of the following sources were

consulted in the data-gathering exercise. However, as some references duplicated information available in others, not all of them have been specifically referred to in the text.

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12. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed by 'NK' are the reference codes used by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council.

'DoE' refers to publications by the Department of the Environment.

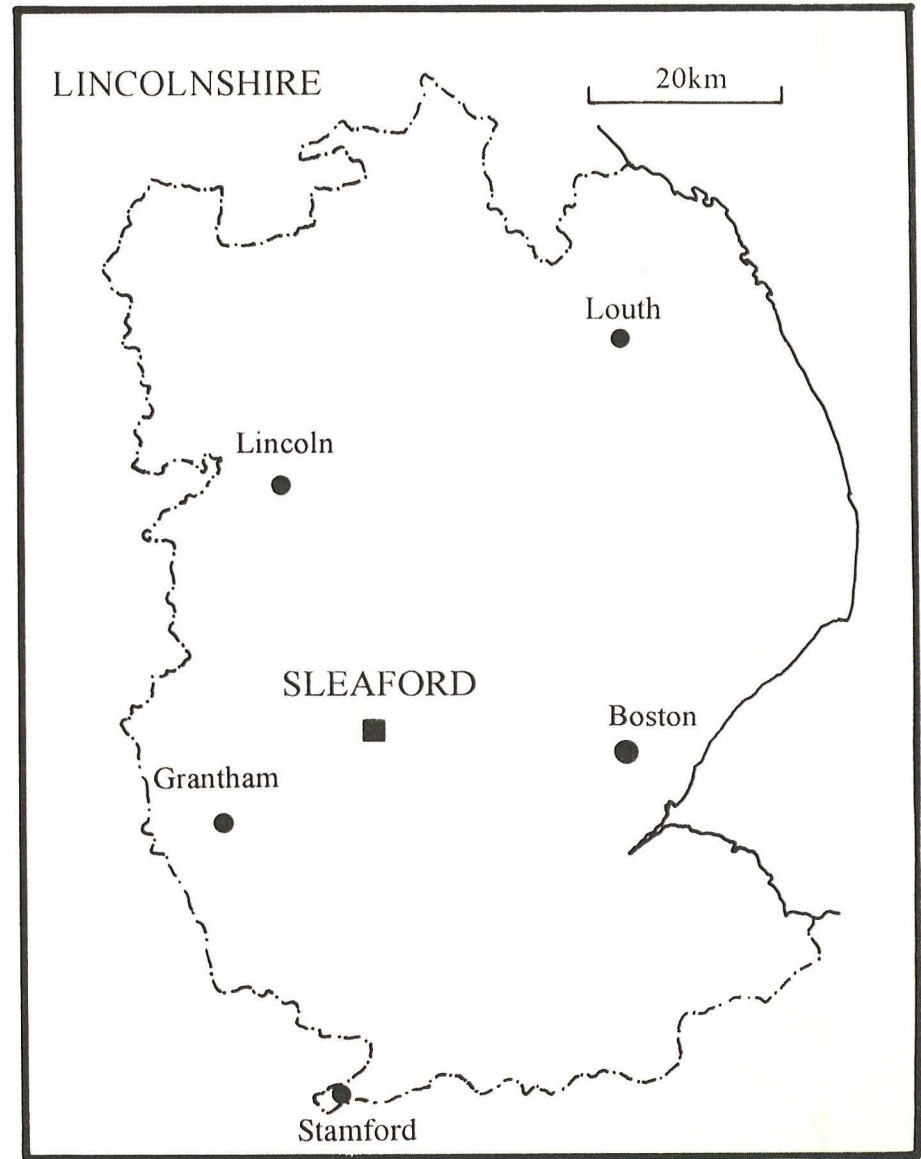
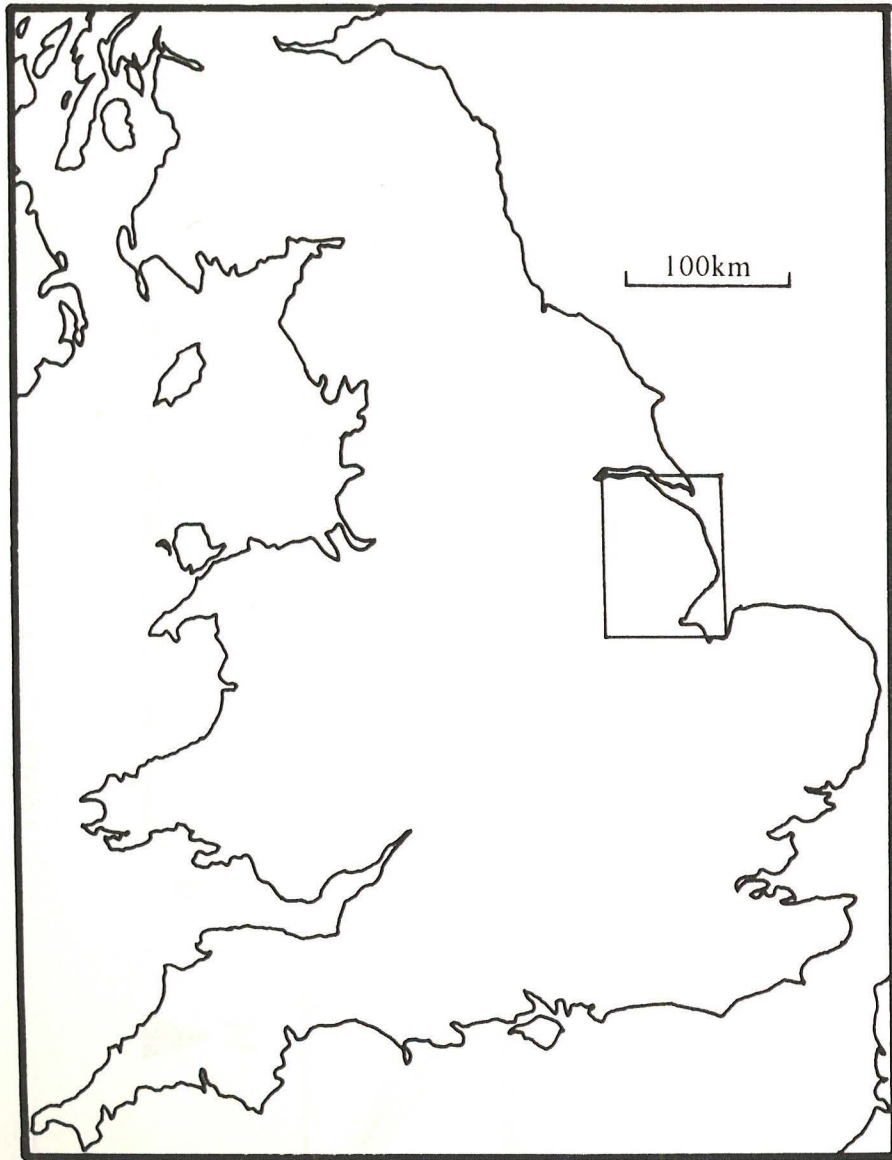
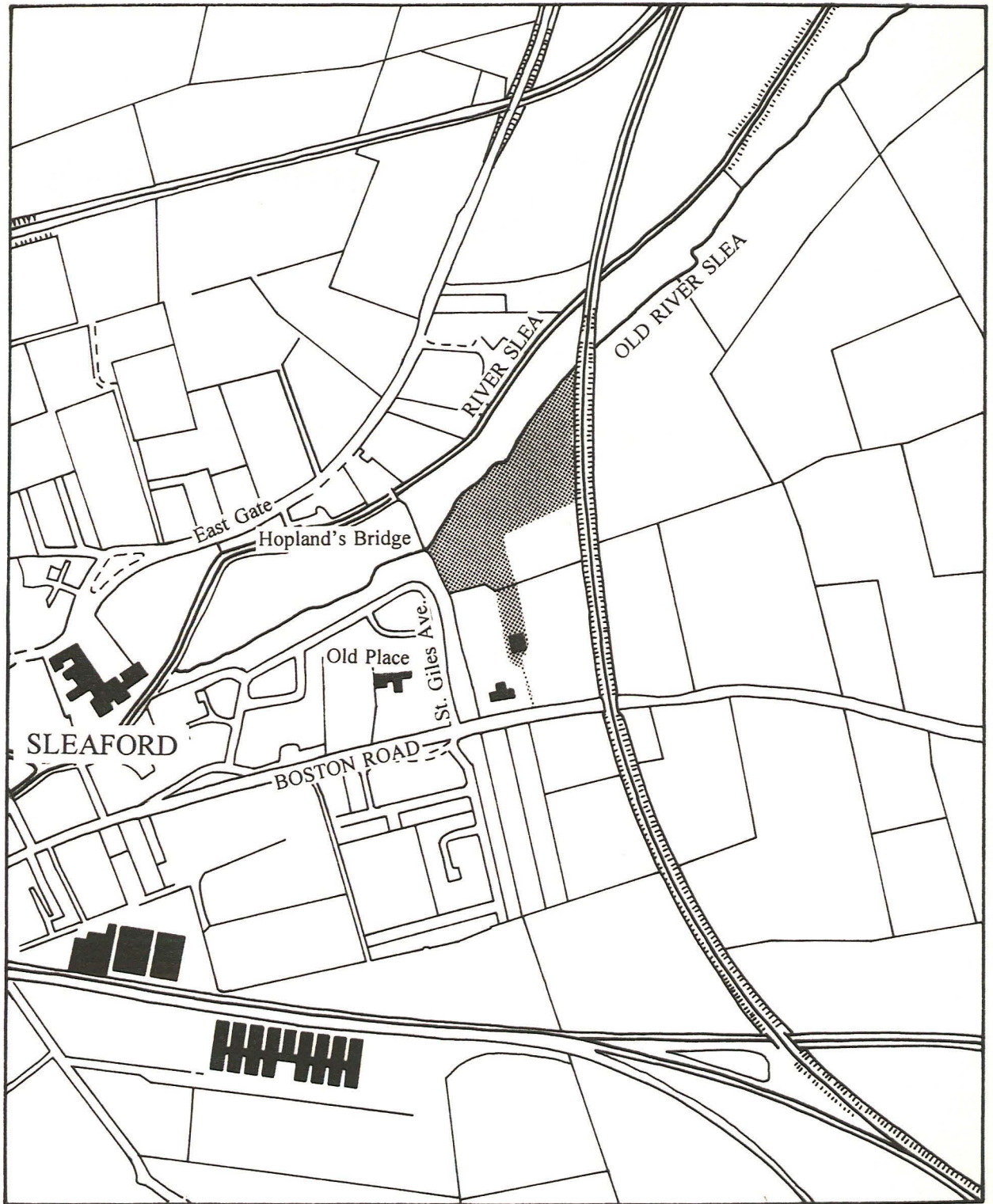


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



AREA OF INVESTIGATION

Fig. 3 Copy of Part of 1766 Map of the Bristol Estates

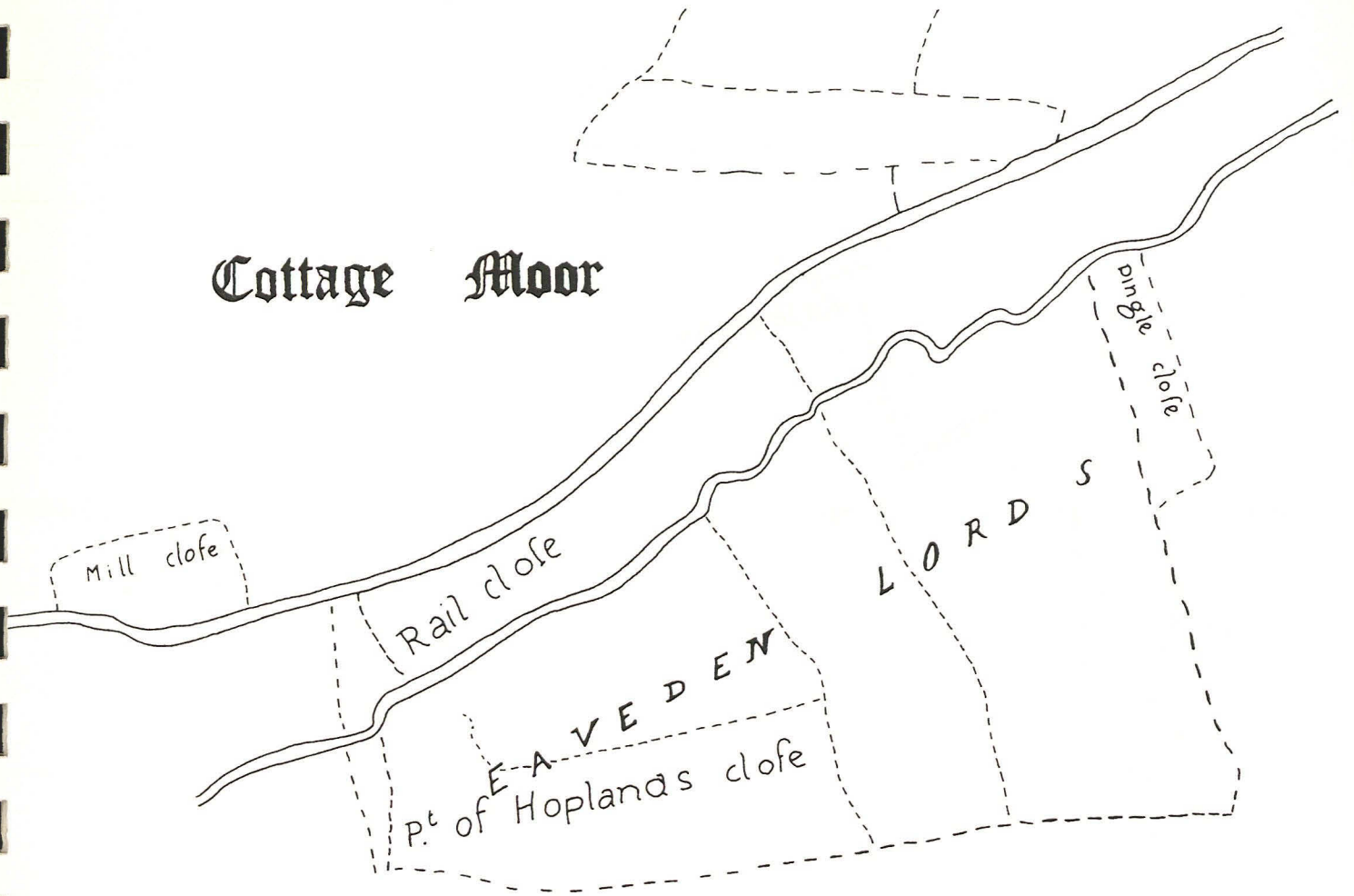


Fig. 4 Copy Part of 1802 Map of Evedon

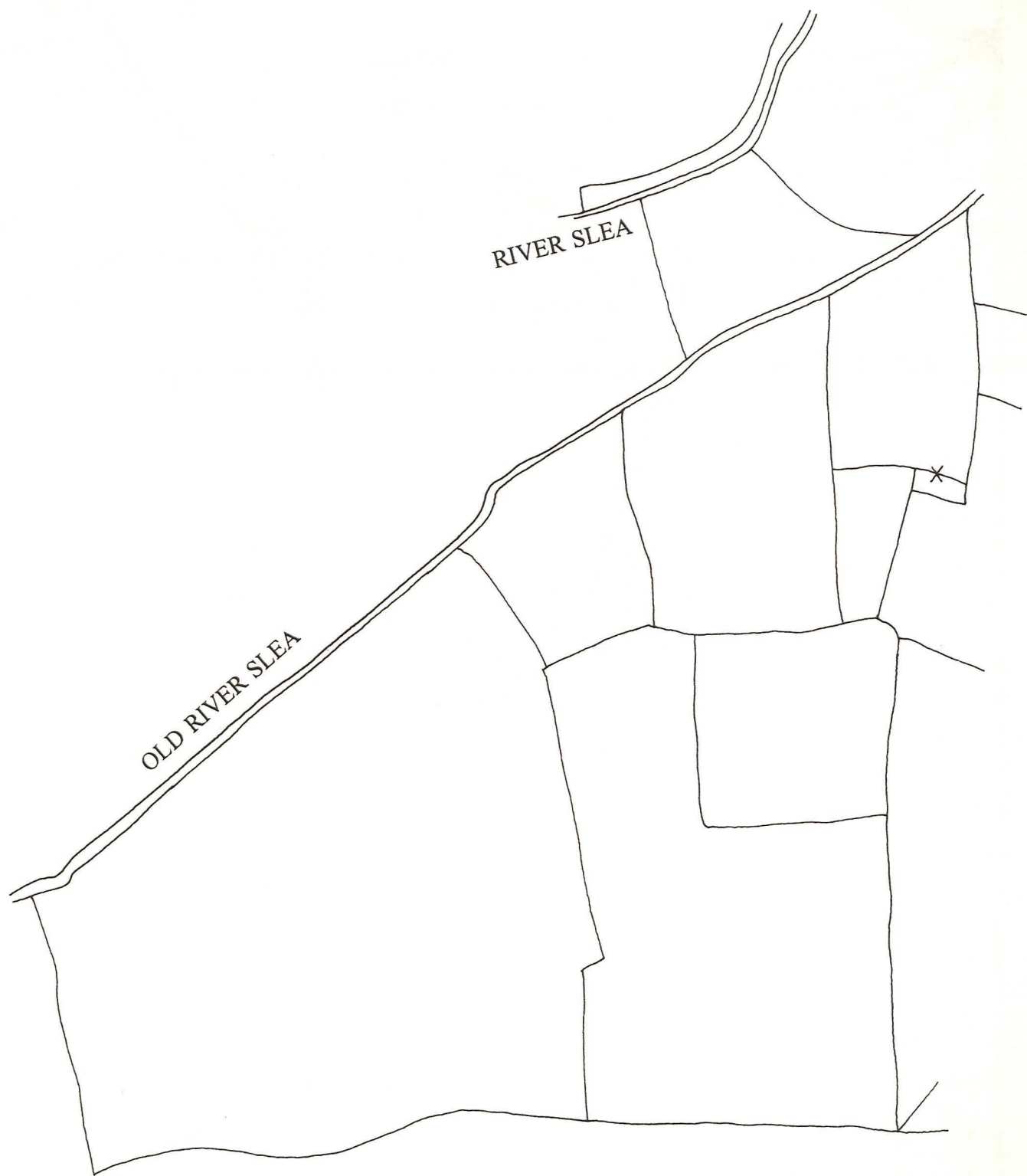


Fig. 5 Extract from Bryant's 1828 Map, showing the site

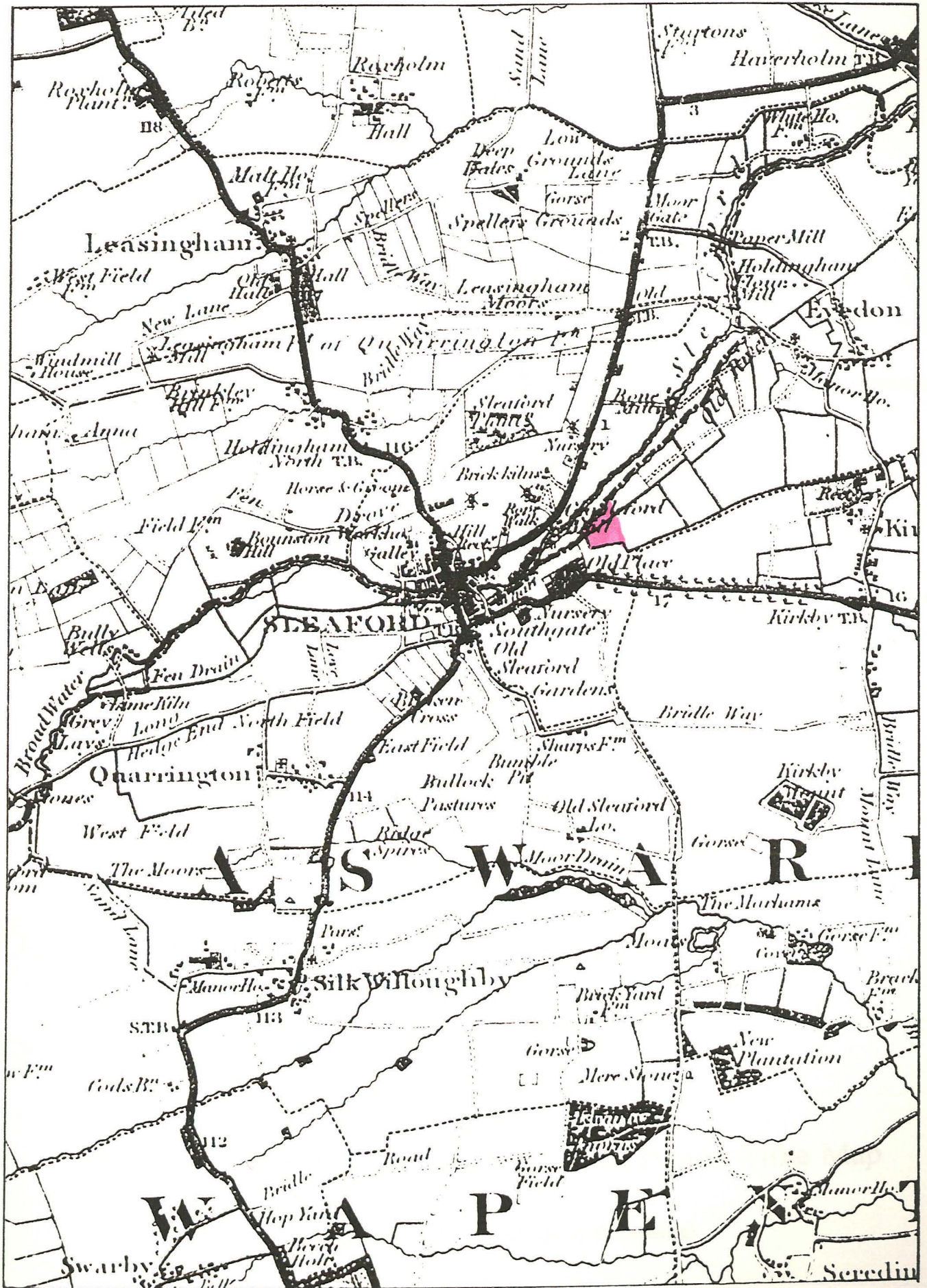


Fig. 6a Copy of Part of 1845 Evedon Tithe Map

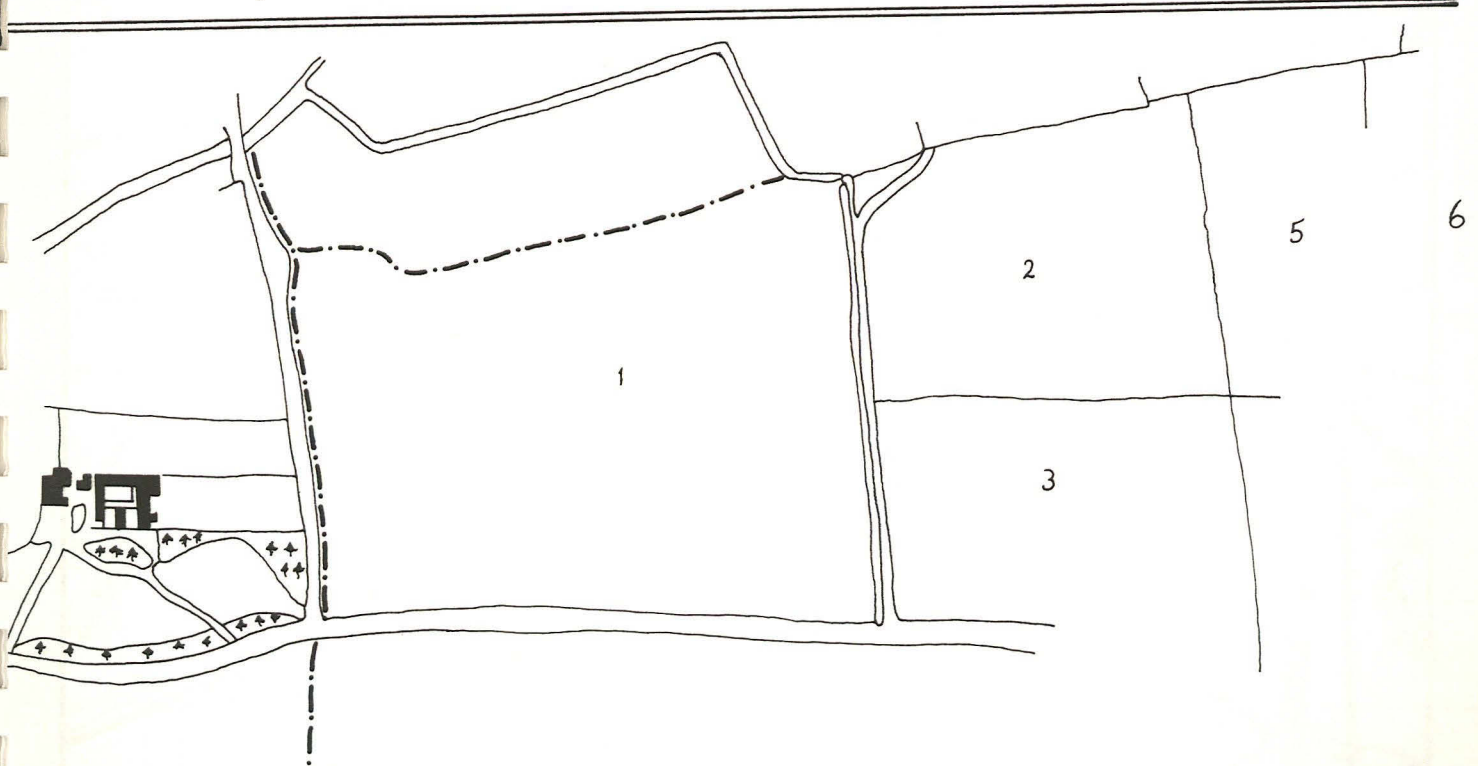


Fig. 6b Copy of Part of 1851 Kirkby la Thorpe Tithe Map

(see Appendix 3 for schedule of fieldnames)

Fig. 7 Extract from 1887 Ordnance Survey Map, showing railways

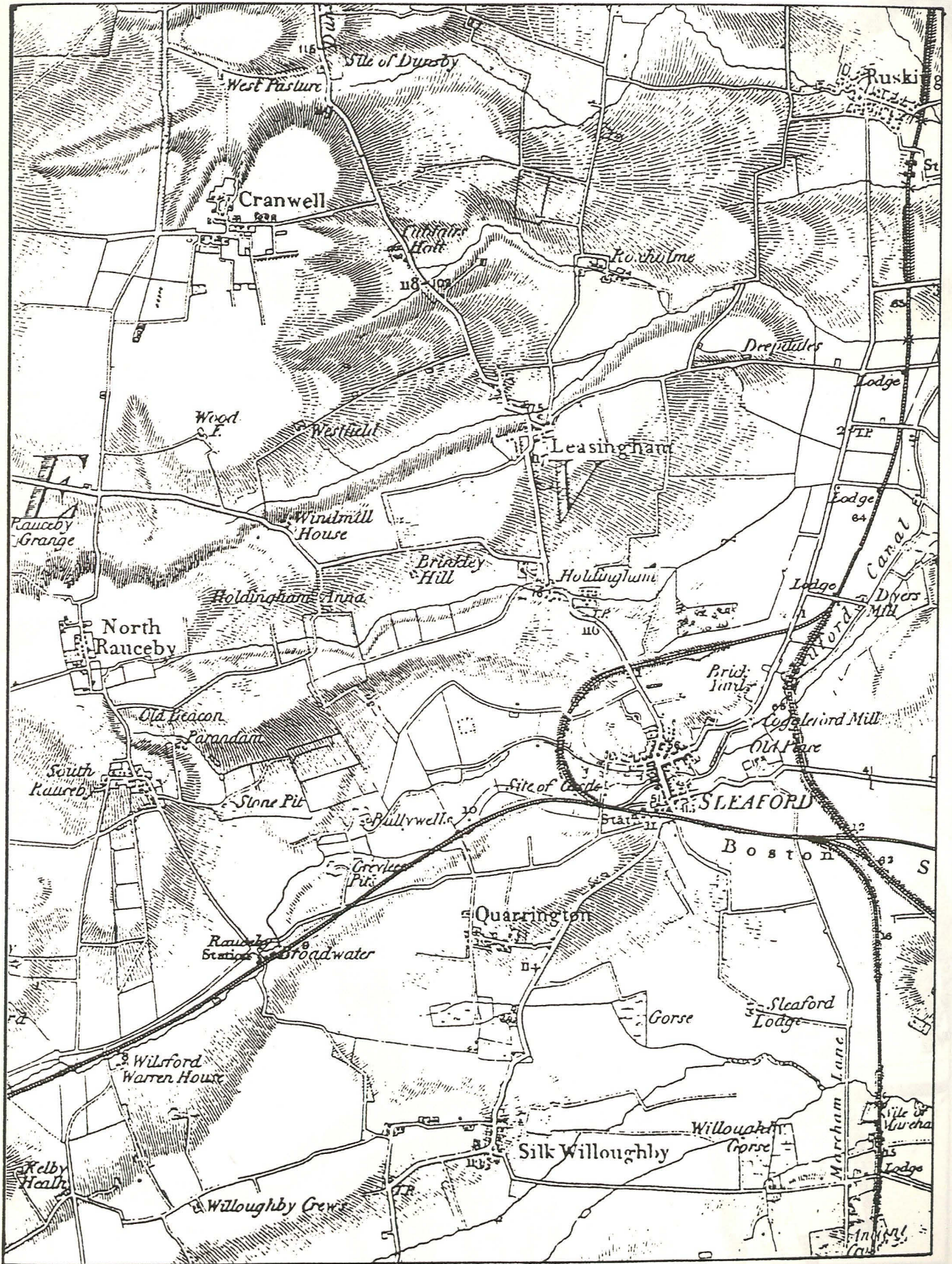


Fig. 8 Extract from 1905 Ordnance Survey Map

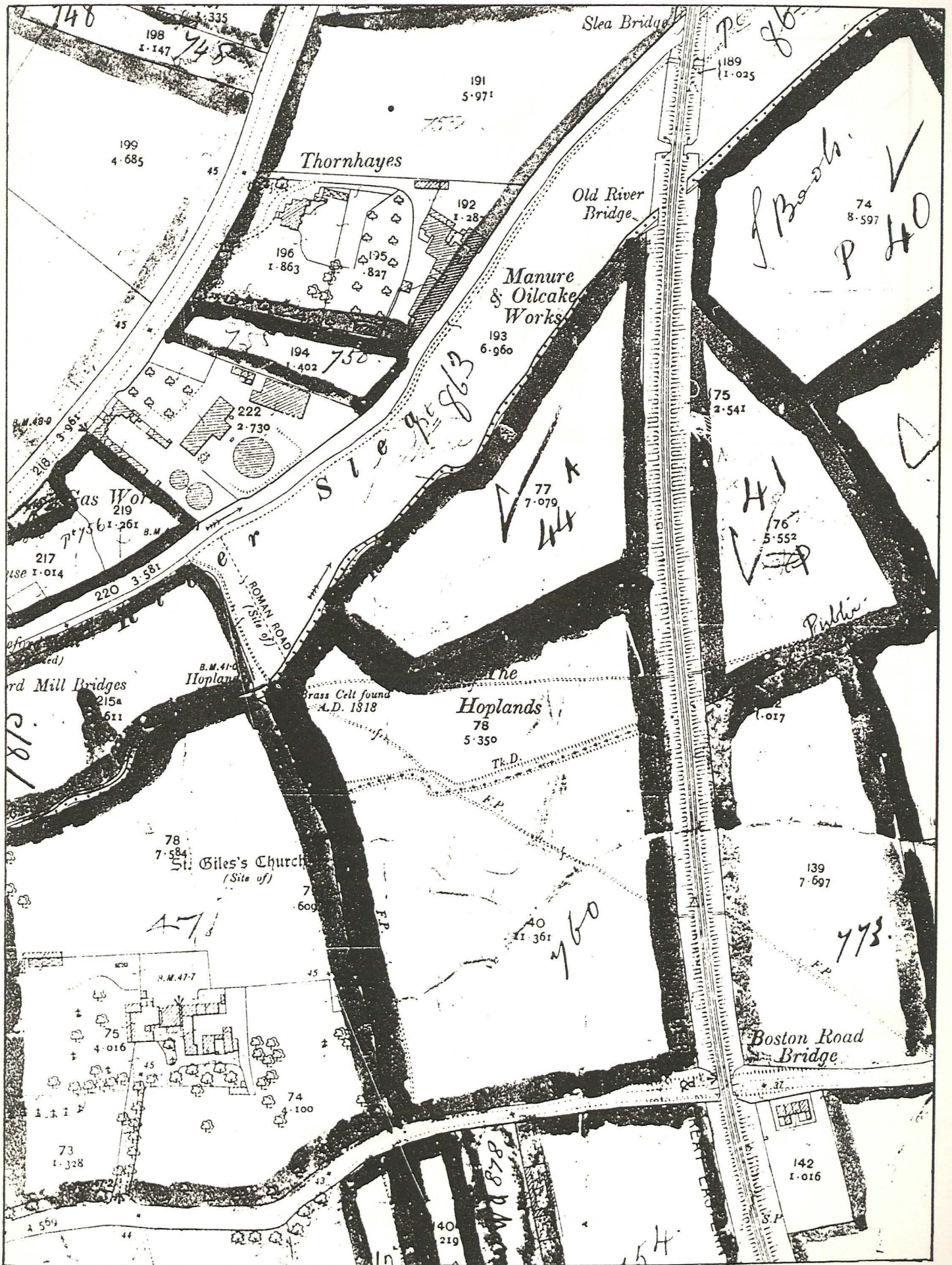
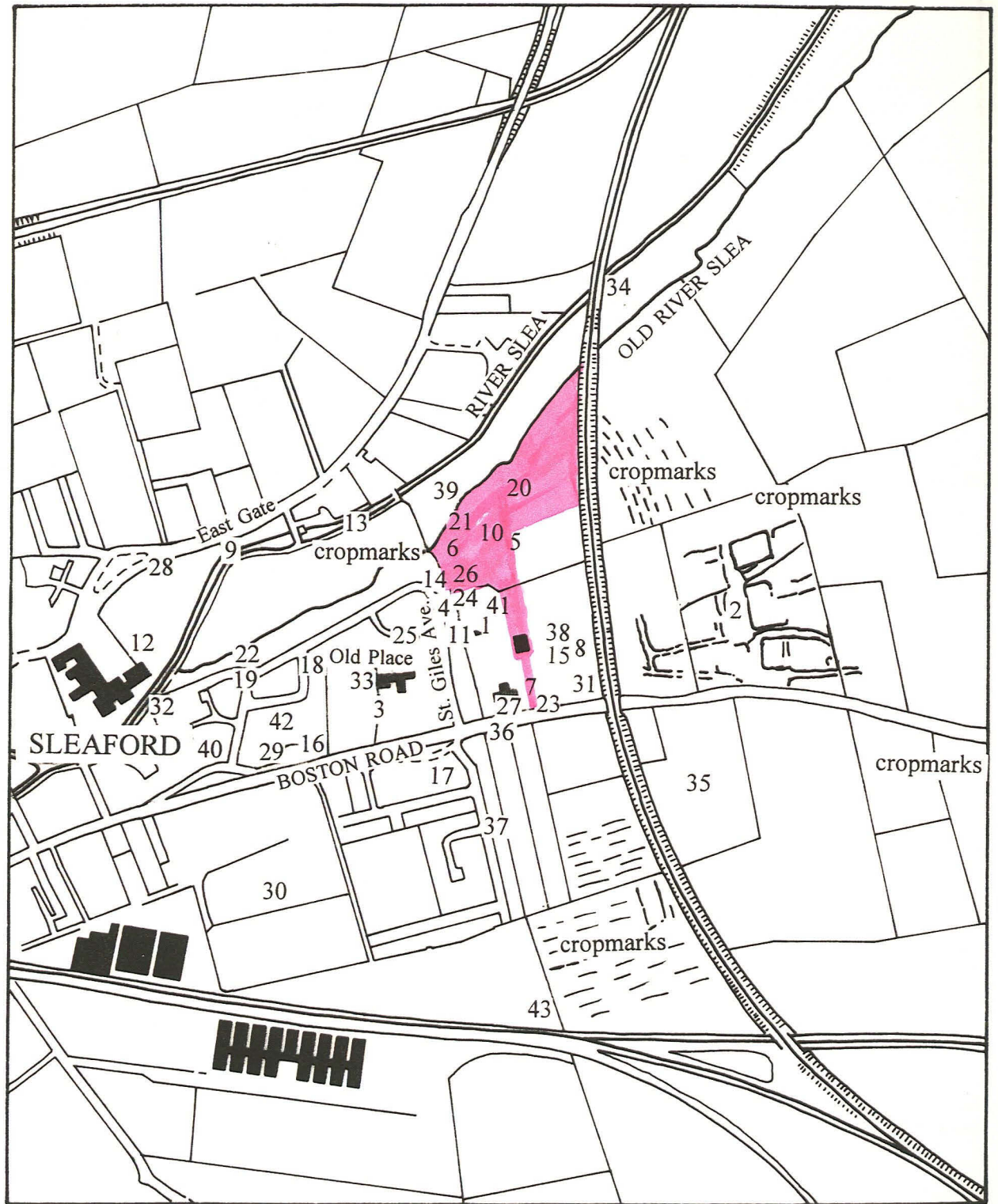


Fig. 9 Site Location Plan,
with Recorded Archaeological Sites and Finds



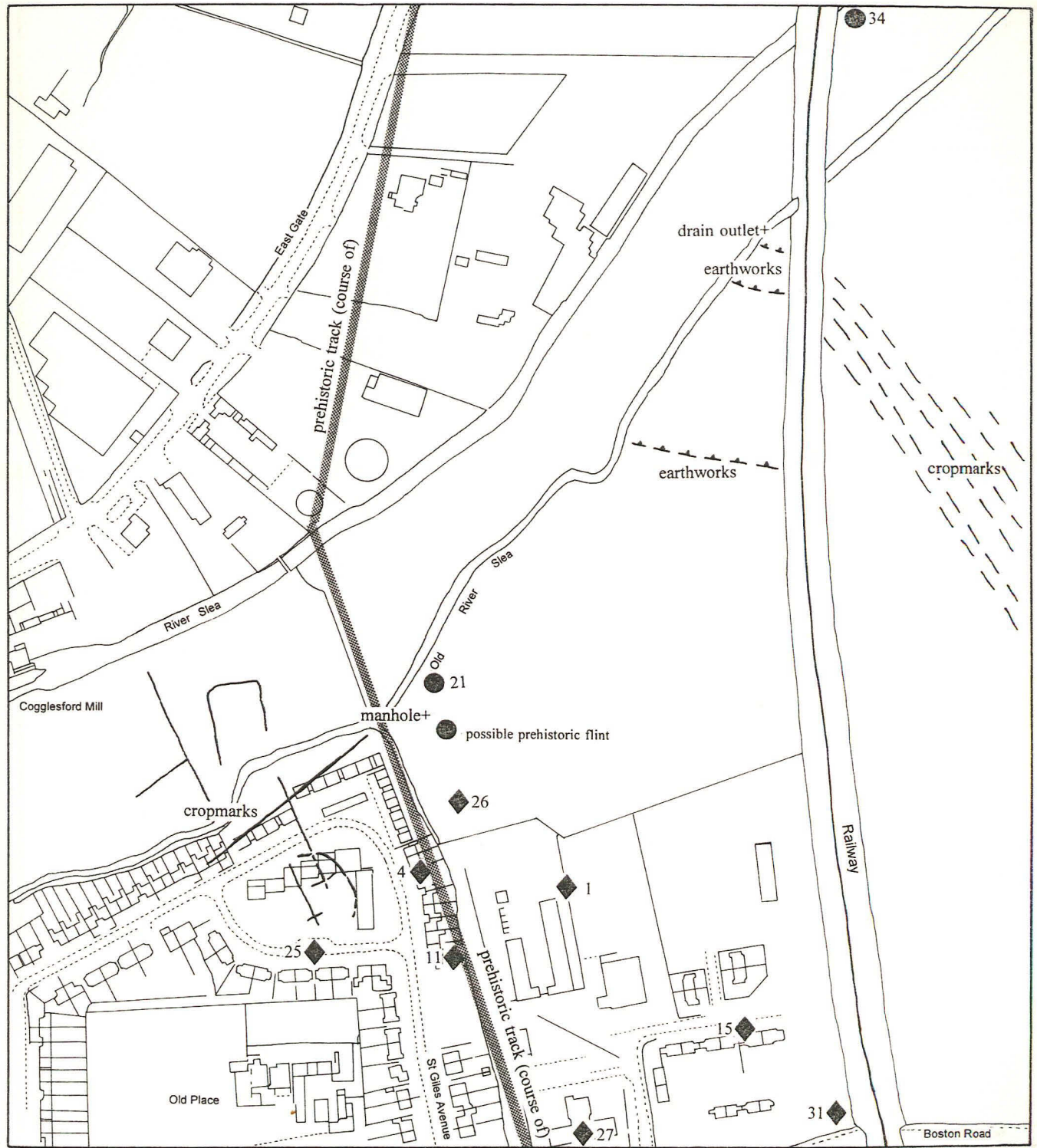
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AREA OF INVESTIGATION

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Fig. 10 Immediate Vicinity of Site,
with Details of Prehistoric Archaeology

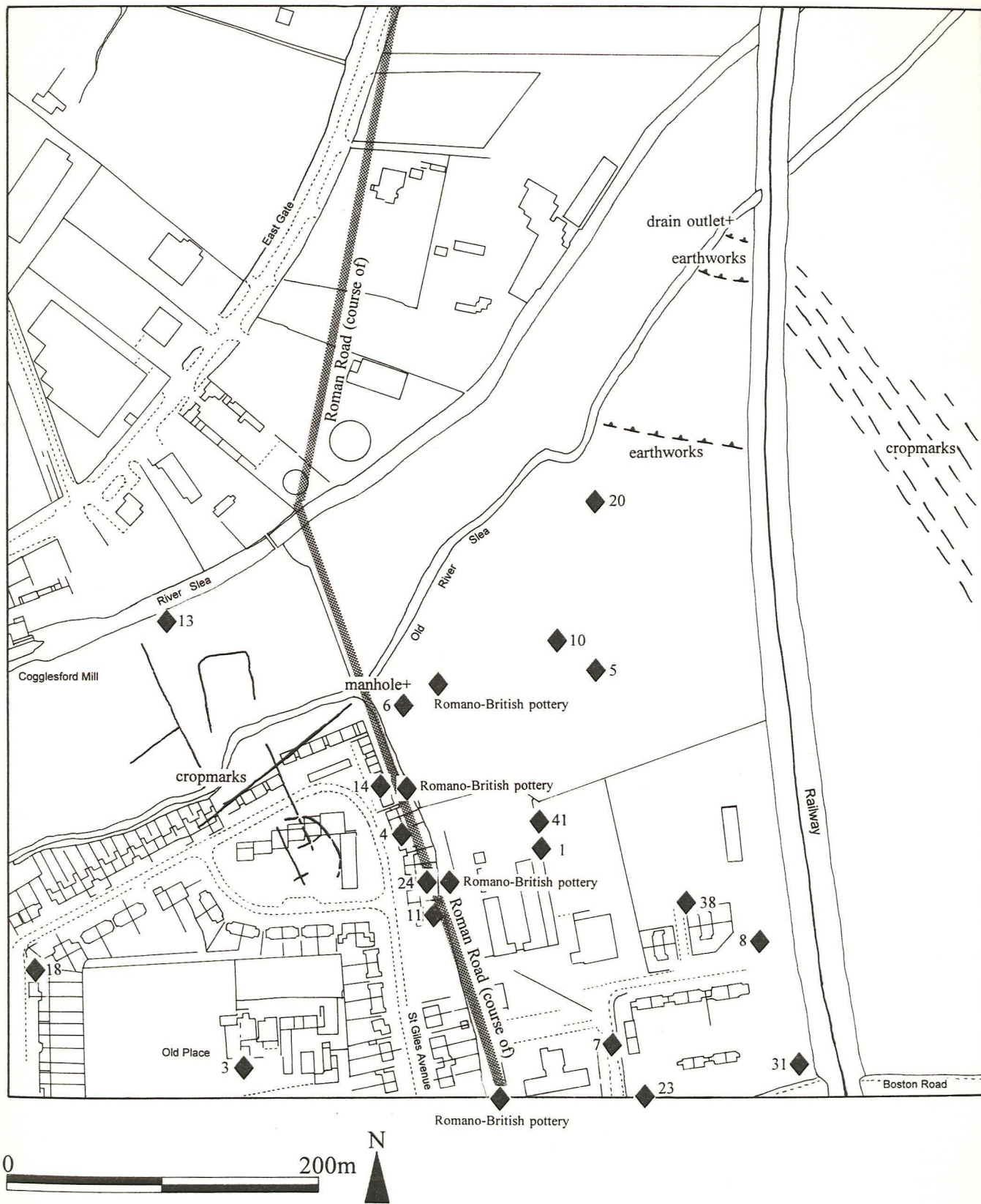


● Bronze Age

◆ Iron Age

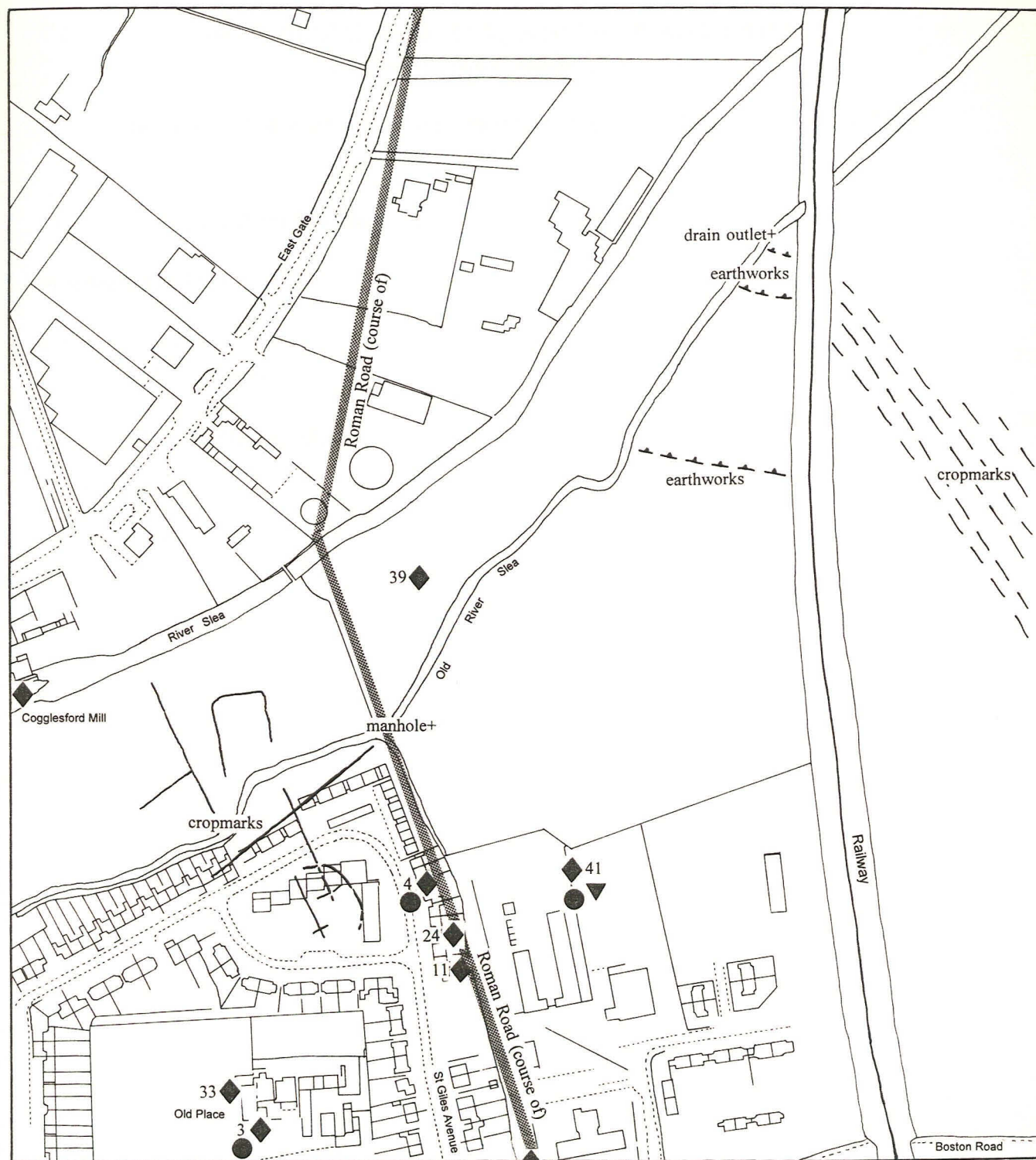
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Fig. 11 Immediate Vicinity of Site,
with Details of Romano-British Archaeology



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Fig. 12 Immediate Vicinity of Site,
with Details of Post-Roman Archaeology



- Saxon
- ◆ Medieval
- ▼ Post-medieval

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APPENDIX 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION PROJECT BRIEF (DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT)

LAND AT THE REAR OF HOPLANDS, OFF BOSTON ROAD, SLEAFORD

Planning Application Number: N/28/0838/91

GR: 07870 46240

Applicants: Mr P. Moore

Agent: D.S. Brown

William H. Brown
Northgate House
Sleaford NG34 7BZ
01529 303040

1. Summary

1.1 This brief should be used by archaeological contractors as the basis for the preparation of a detailed archaeological project specification. In response to this brief contractors will be expected to provide details of the proposed scheme of work, to include the anticipated timescales, staffing levels and sources of information.

1.2 The detailed specifications will be submitted for approval by the Heritage Officer for North Kesteven District Council. The client will be free to choose between those specifications which are considered to adequately satisfy this brief.

2. Site Location and Description

2.1 Sleaford is located 27km south of Lincoln. The development site is situated to the east of the town centre. The 4 ha area covers the area north and north east of the NKDC Hoplands Depots, bordering the **Old River Sle**a (see enclosed map).

2.2 The site is open, fairly flat and under long grasses.

3. Planning Background

3.1 A planning application (N/28/0838/91) has been submitted to develop this land for housing.

4. Archaeological Background

4.1 This area of Sleaford has been recognised as an area of high archaeological potential since 1964. In that year, development at Old Place, to the south west of the site, revealed nationally important archaeological remains dating from the late Iron Age which indicate that Sleaford was a prominent trading centre at this time. (c.

100BC- AD 43). The remains of one of the earliest coin mints in the country was located here.

Later work (1984, 1989 and 1990) confirmed that the whole area contained remains dating from Iron Age and Roman through to medieval times. More recently, aerial photography and metal detection has shown that the focus of the prehistoric and Roman town probably lies to the east of Old Place, extending beyond the railway line into the agricultural fields.

Recent archaeological work commissioned by North Kesteven District Council, during the erection of security fencing around the Hoplands depot to the south of the site, discovered stone structures, occupation deposits and human burials, all thought to date from the late Roman period (300- 400AD). This confirms the belief that the proposed development site is of high archaeological potential.

Records held at Heritage Lincolnshire show a survey of a rectangular ditched enclosure, recorded at the south west corner of the site. This is only barely discernible today but may be the remnant of a Roman or medieval earthwork. In addition, the location of the site next to the course of the Old River Sleas makes it highly likely that the remains of medieval water mills will be encountered if development takes place near the watercourse.

5. Requirement for work

5.1 Prior to this scheme of development being undertaken a detailed desk-based assessment must be carried out. Any adjustments to the brief for the assessment should only be made after discussion with the Heritage Officer

5.2 The purpose of the archaeological desk-based assessment should be to examine existing information in order to establish the type and extent of archaeological activity of the site and particularly the expected survival and quality of any archaeological remains. The results of this assessment should seek to enable a decision on whether further information can reasonably be required through implementing a designed field evaluation.

5.3 To enable an effective assessment of the archaeological setting of the site the desk-based assessment will examine the site and the surrounding 500m.

6. Methods of work and techniques

6.1 The desk-based assessment should include an assessment of the site within both the local and regional context. It should highlight any particular relevant research priorities which may be addressed by this project.

6.2 Data relating to the potential of the site for geophysical investigation should be included as part of the assessment.

6.3 Any earthworks should be identified and their state of preservation established.

6.4 In order to ensure that all possible archaeological constraints are evaluated all secondary sources must be consulted as part of the desk-based assessment. Sources to be consulted should include:

6.3.1 Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record;

6.3.2 All Ordnance Survey maps;

6.3.3 Tithe, Enclosure Award and Parish Maps (where appropriate);

6.3.4 Historical documents, particularly those held in Lincolnshire Archives Office;

6.3.5 Archaeological books and journals;

6.3.6 Unpublished reports and archives (where appropriate), particularly those of the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist;

6.3.7 Aerial photographs;

6.3.8 Any other sources deemed appropriate.

6.3.9 A visit to verify site conditions

6.4 The specification will be expected to contain:

6.4.1 a projected timetable of work;

6.4.2 The staff structure and numbers.

7. **Reporting Requirements**

7.1 The report of the desk-based assessment must:

7.1.1 summarise all available information supported by illustrative material reproduced on appropriate scale site plans.

7.1.2 provide a comprehensive list of all sources consulted, along with an explanation if sources detailed in paragraph 6.3 above are not consulted;

7.1.3 outline all possible options for further work.

8. **Publication**

A copy of the desk-based assessment report must be deposited with Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record, the Heritage Officer and the client .

9. **Further contact addresses:**

Kate Orr
North Kesteven Heritage Officer
Heritage Lincolnshire
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Lincs. NG34 9RW

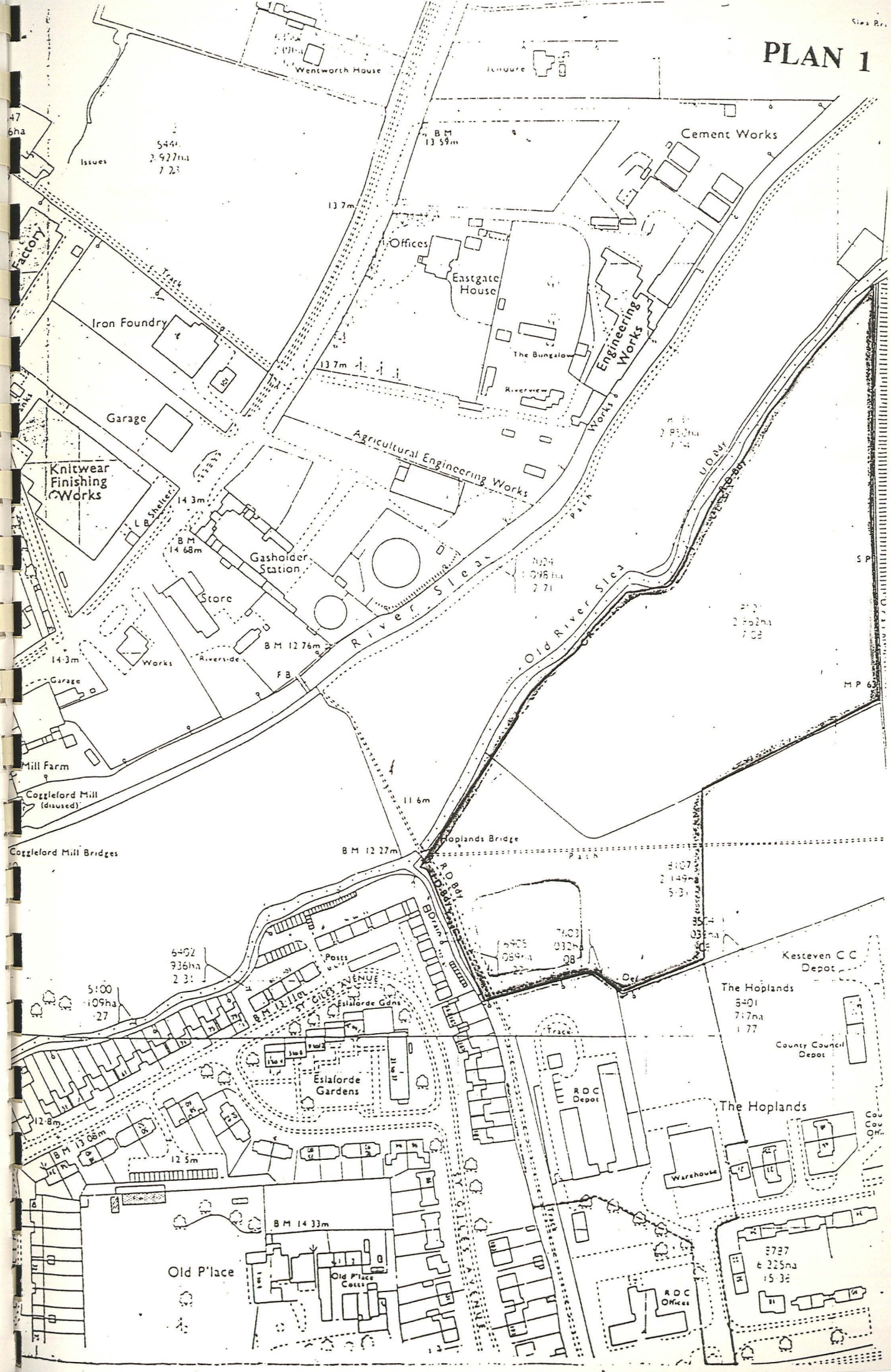
Mr S. Catney
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Mr T. Page
City and County Museum
12 Friars Lane
Lincoln
LN2 5AL

The Planning Division
North Kesteven District Council Offices
Kesteven St
Sleaford
NG34 7EF

Brief set by the North Kesteven Heritage Officer 5/7/1996

PLAN 1



47
6ha

544
2927ha
723

B.M.
1359m

Cement Works

Factory

Iron Foundry

Offices

Eastgate House

The Bungalow

Engineering Works

Garage

Agricultural Engineering Works

Knitwear Finishing Works

L.B. Shelter

Gasholder Station

Store

Works

Riverside

B.M. 1276m

Garage

Mill Farm

Cogglesford Mill (disused)

Cogglesford Mill Bridges

Hoplands Bridge

B.M. 1227m

6402
936ha
231

5100
109ha
27

Esplanade Gardens

Esplanade Gardens

Old P'lace

Old P'lace Cottages

B.M. 1433m

Kesteven C C Depot

The Hoplands
8401
717ha
177

County Council Depot

The Hoplands

Warehouse

8727
6225ha
1532

R.D.C. Offices

APPENDIX 2

Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling Ancient Monuments - Extract from *Archaeology and Planning DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990*

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.

iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.

vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.

APPENDIX 3

Schedule of fieldnames in Evedon and Kirkby la Thorpe Parishes

Evedon Tithe Map, 1845

Field No.	Fieldname
123	Far Walk
124	First Lansdowne Close
125	Part of Hoplands
126	Lansdowne Close
127	Lansdowne Close
128	Second Lansdowne Close

Kirkby la Thorpe Tithe Map, 1851

Field No.	Fieldname
1	Part of Hoplands
2	Lansdales Close
3	Lansdales Close
5	Smiths Close
6	Smiths Close

APPENDIX 4

Glossary

Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the early part of the Saxon period and dating from approximately AD 450-650.
Bronze Age	Part of the prehistoric era characterised by the introduction and use of bronze for tools and weapons. In Britain this period dates from approximately 2000-700 BC.
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry survey and resistivity survey (<i>q.v.</i>).
Iron Age	Part of the prehistoric era characterised by the introduction and use of iron for tools and weapons. In Britain this period dates from approximately 700 BC - AD 50.
Late Saxon	The latter part of the Saxon period, upto the time of the Norman conquest. The period dates from approximately AD 850-1066.
Magnetometer Survey	A technique of geophysical survey (<i>q.v.</i>) that measures and locates areas of enhanced or reduced magnetism in the ground. Such deviations, which are relative to the earth's magnetic field, often indicate the presence of buried archaeological remains.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Middle Saxon	The middle part of the Saxon period, dating from approximately AD 650-850.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4000-2000 BC.
Palaeolithic	The 'Old Stone Age' period of the prehistoric era. In Britain this period dates from approximately 500,000-12,000 BC.
Patera	A handled vessel, similar to a saucepan. Of Roman date and made of metal.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Resistivity Survey	A technique of geophysical survey (<i>q.v.</i>) that measures the electrical resistance of the ground. Deviations of high or low resistance from the normal pattern often indicate the presence of buried archaeological remains.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.