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**Woolsthorpe Manor:  
An Archaeological Watching Brief**

NGR: SK 9222 2418  
Site Code: WM97  
LCNCC Museum Accn. No 197.97

on behalf of

**The National Trust**

**August 1997**

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SMR

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**Woolsthorpe Manor**  
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**Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the replacement of a fence at Woolsthorpe Manor, Lincolnshire. The watching brief revealed the core of a stone wall that had previously acted as a boundary also a gateway was located that appeared on the 1797 map.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services were commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an Archaeological watching brief during the replacement of a fence along the southern boundary of Woolsthorpe Manor, Lincolnshire.

**Site Location**

Woolsthorpe Manor lies to the north-west of the village of Colsterworth which is situated 7 miles south of Grantham, Lincolnshire. The fence line lies on the southern boundary of Woolsthorpe manor.

**Archaeological Background**

The placename Colsterworth is an Anglo-Saxon word meaning settlement of the charcoal burners. The Roman road of Ermine street lies immediately to the east of Colsterworth, and a Roman smelter located during 20th century opencast mining suggests a Roman presence in the area but its extent is unknown.

By the 13th century Woolsthorpe was treated as a separate manor and by 1563 it was in the hands of the Newton family. In 1623 Robert Newton bought a second farm in Woolsthorpe which included the Manor an early 17th century stone house with a later 17th century rear wing. In 1642 Isaac Newton was born here.

The landscape surrounding the Manor has been changed greatly by the working of iron ore.

The southern boundary is present on the 1797 map but the eastern boundary is not shown and seems to be a later addition.

**The Watching Brief**

The watching brief took place on March 7th 1997 and was conducted during the replacement of a Oak and Ash fence with a post and rail fence 16.4m long, with the individual posts set 2.7m apart. The individual post slots were rectangular approximately 0.12m long, 0.05m wide and 0.40m deep.

The eastern fence line had been erected prior to the commencement of the watching brief.

The new fence filled a gap in a blackthorn hedge which formed the rest of the boundary. The posts were driven through a linear deposit of irregular rubble probably the core of a previous wall, a small portion of which was still extant at the eastern end of the fence line. This was 0.80m wide and made of local limestone.

The westernmost post was driven through soil and not the usual rubble core, this coincides with a gate shown on the 1797 plan which is shown to be approximately 3.70m from the modern access.

### **Conclusion**

The fence line followed the line of a previous stone wall of which only the core remained visible. A previous gate was also located 3.7m from the present access, this was shown as a gap in the rubble core.

### **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank Marion Cullen for her help and co-operation throughout this project, also Sarah Woodcock of the National Trust for her advice.

Naomi Field and Mark Williams  
Lindsey Archaeological Service  
15th August 1997

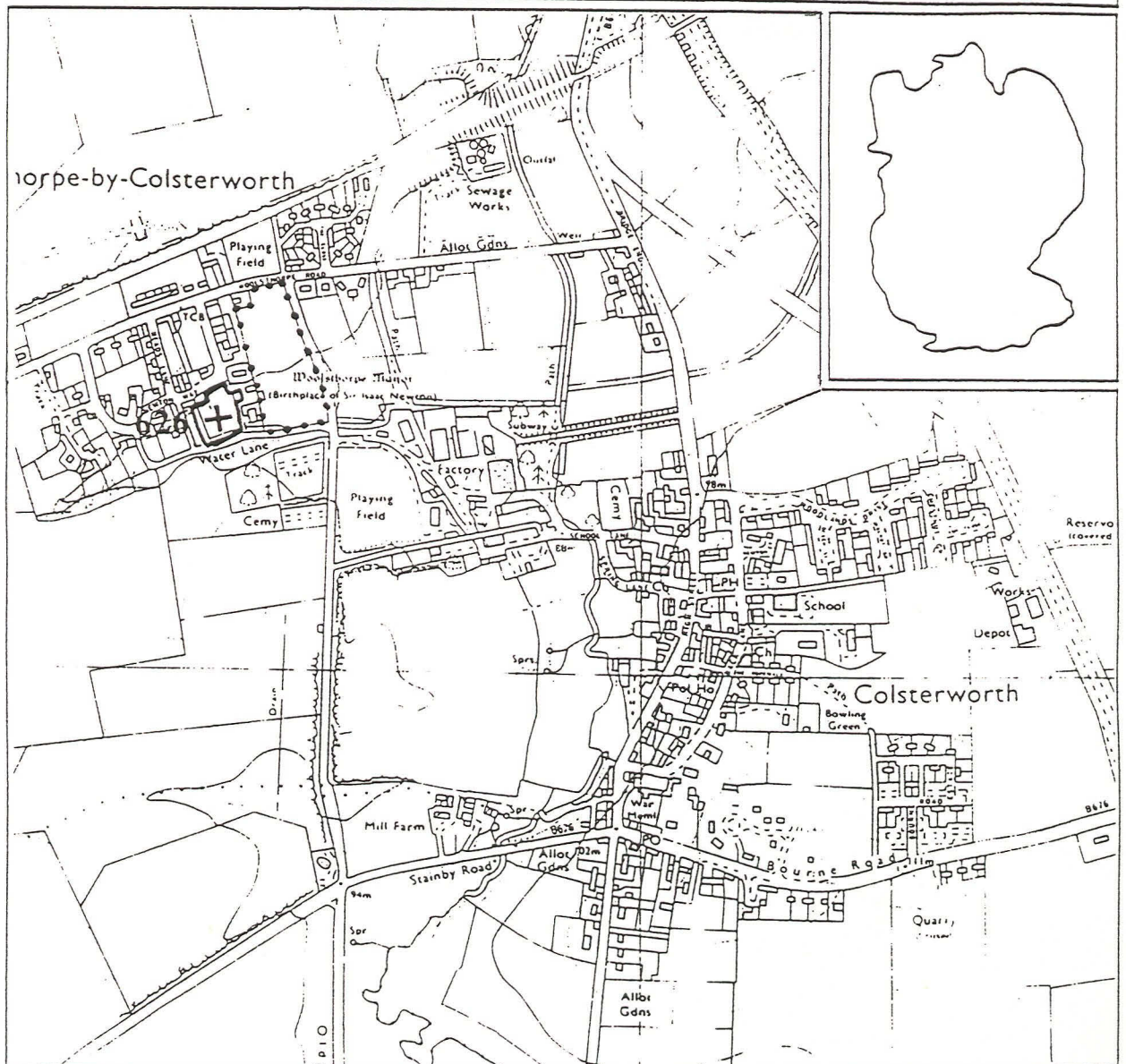
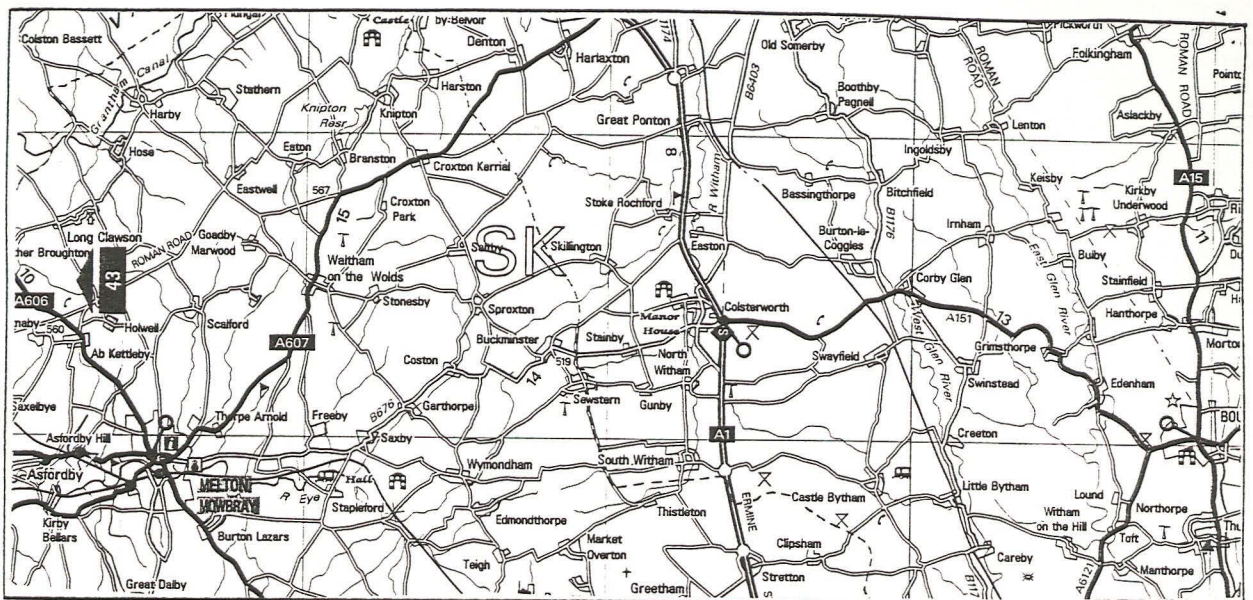


Fig 1: Woolsthorpe Manor, Location of Site

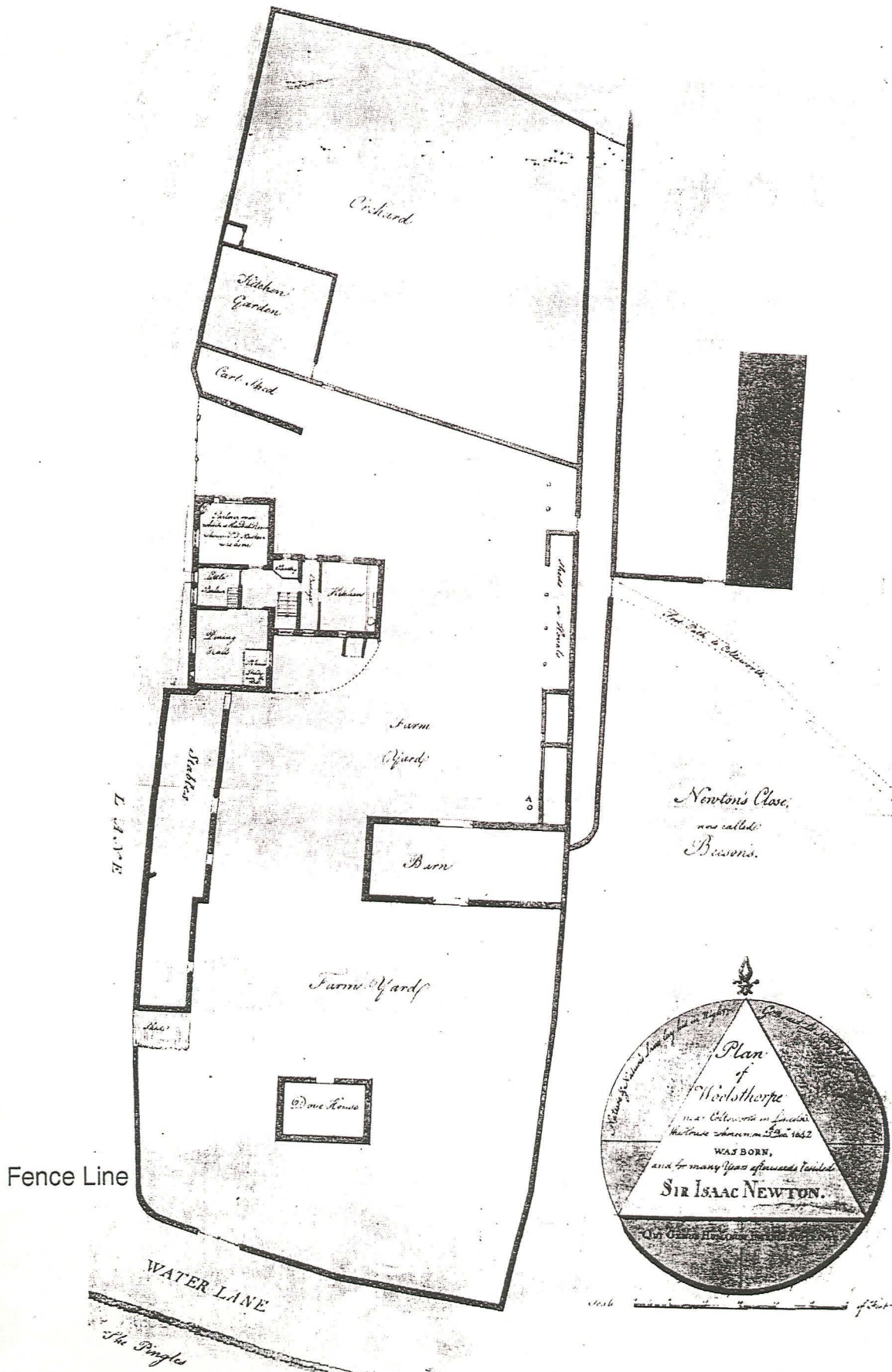


Fig 2: Plan of Woolsthorpe taken from J.C Barrows 1797 plan



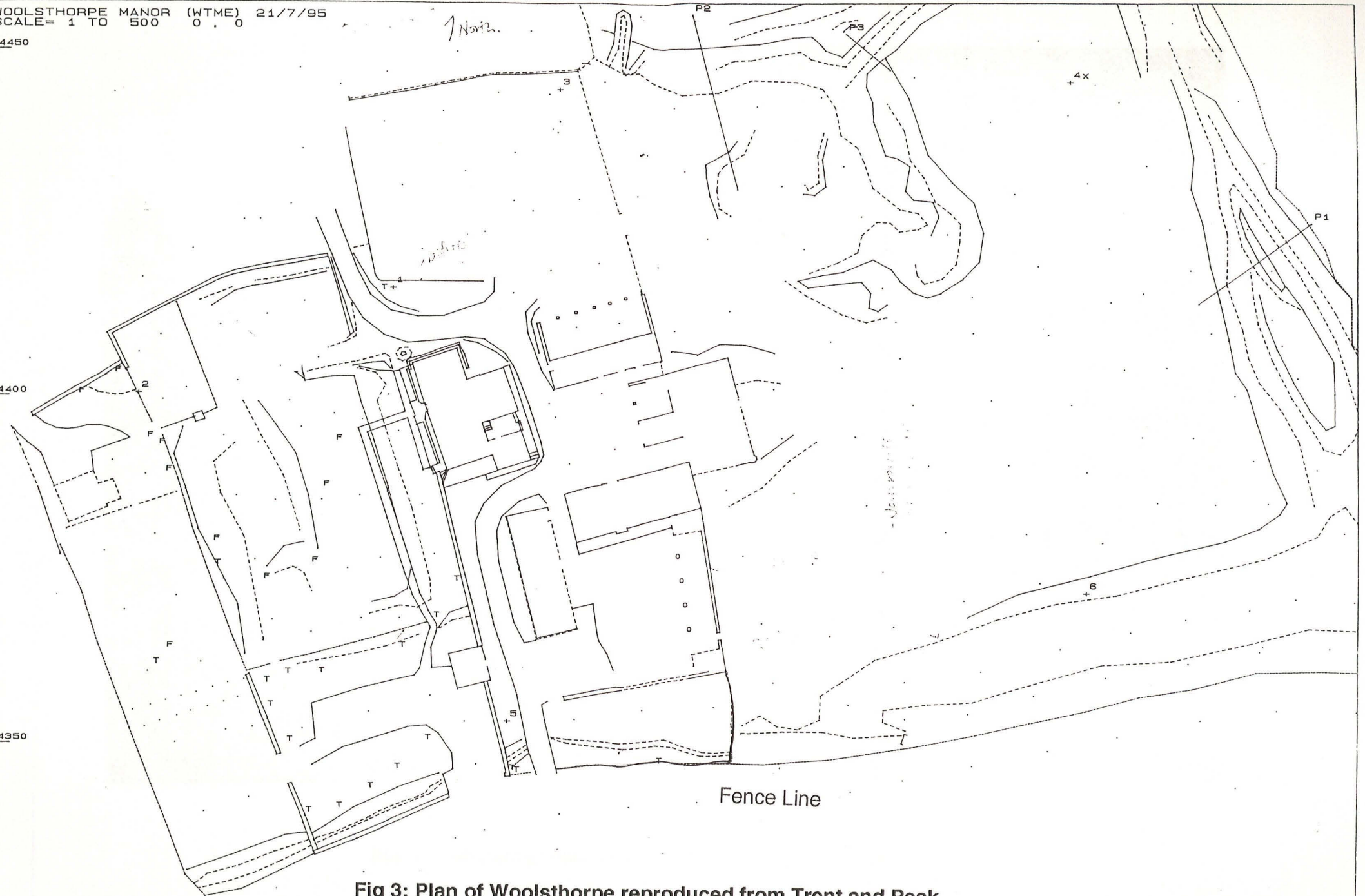


Fig 3: Plan of Woolsthorpe reproduced from Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust's 1995 survey.



**Plate 1: Line of fence looking east.**



**Plate 2: Showing rubble core and post holes looking east**



**Plate 3: Example of the new post holes**

**Plate 4: Eastern boundary fence completed, looking south-east.**

