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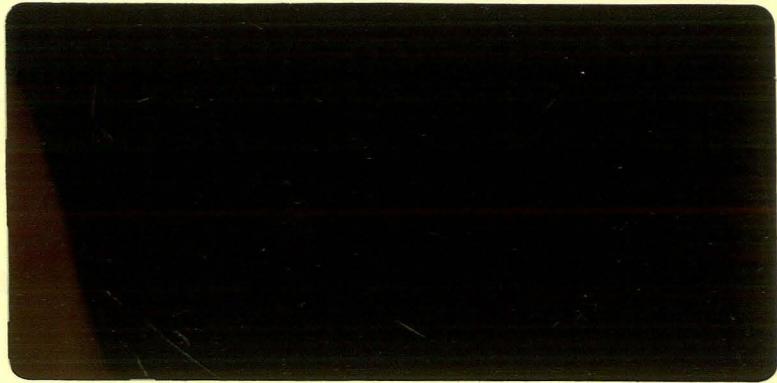
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS  
OF THE APPRAISAL OF  
CROWLAND CONSERVATION AREA  
CROWLAND,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(CCA98)



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

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OF THE APPRAISAL OF  
CROWLAND CONSERVATION AREA  
CROWLAND,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(CCA98)**

Work Undertaken For  
South Holland District Council

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Report compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

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## 1. SUMMARY

*An assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological setting of the Conservation Area in Crowland, Lincolnshire. Several archaeological sites and findspots are located in the vicinity of the Conservation Area.*

*Prehistoric use of Crowland is dominated by an Early Bronze Age (2250-1850 BC) barrow cemetery situated along a ridge of higher ground through the centre of the town. Earlier, Neolithic (4200-2250 BC), artefacts have also been recovered from the vicinity.*

*Artefacts of Romano-British date (AD 50 - 410) have been found within the town. Of some note is the discovery of tesserae (mosaic fragments) to the east of the town, which usually indicate a status building such as a villa, bath-house or temple.*

*Saxon (AD 410 - 1066) activity is highlighted by the wealth of documentary evidence surrounding the establishment of a monastery in Crowland by St. Guthlac in the early 8<sup>th</sup> century. The history of the monastery is somewhat misleading due to a number of spurious charters and a dubious history supposedly compiled in the 11<sup>th</sup> century.*

*By the medieval period (AD 1066 - 1500) the monastery, now an abbey, was subject to Peterborough Abbey, although soon gained its independence. At the time of the Domesday Survey, the holdings of the abbey included lands in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. During the subsequent centuries, the abbey obtained more land and control of several churches.*

*Later, in the post-medieval period (AD 1500 - 1900), Crowland was briefly involved in*

*the Civil War (1642-46) which saw the construction of a fort around the abbey. Following this period, Crowland declined before it saw a regrowth of interest in the town.*

*A lack of sub-surface investigation within the town has limited the scope of archaeological prediction for the survival and preservation of ancient remains. However, from the available information, Crowland be regarded as an archaeologically sensitive area and contains remains that are of national importance.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by South Holland District Council to undertake a desk-top assessment of the Conservation Area, Crowland, Lincolnshire. This was to form part of an appraisal of the current Conservation Area.

### 2.2 Aims

The aims of the archaeological assessment were to gather and appraise all known archaeological and historical information relating to the Conservation Area and its vicinity. Such location and assessment of significance would permit the formulation of an appropriate management policy for the archaeological resource within the Crowland Conservation Area.

## 3. TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Crowland is situated 12km south of Spalding and 22km east of Stamford, in the civil parish of Crowland, South Holland District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The Conservation Area straddles North Street, South Street, West Street and encompasses East Street, Abbey Walk and the area surrounding Crowland Abbey (Fig. 2). The junction of these streets provide the focal point of the Conservation Area, which is centred on the Triangular Bridge (National Grid Reference TF 2394 1024). The Conservation Area includes not only the historic town centre with its shops and other commercial and social buildings, but also some adjoining residential areas. This assessment examines the Conservation Area and surrounding 2km.

Crowland is located at the eastern end of an island or peninsula within the lower lying fen. The local topography describes a linear band of high ground aligned northeast to southwest at heights of 4m OD. The surrounding land drops away from this point to heights of 3m OD to the east and west, with heights of between 1m and 2m OD recorded to the north and south.

The village is located on soils of the Swanwick Series, coarse loamy argillic gley soils (Robson 1990, 29). North, south and east of the village are various alluvial gley soils of the Clayhithe, Downholland, Midelney and Wallasea Series (*ibid.* 14, 15, 20 and 34). Beneath these soils is a drift geology of marine or estuarine sand and gravel, commonly referred to as the Abbey Gravels (Horton 1989, 21). These in turn overlie a diffuse deposit of boulder clay (Booth 1983, 190). Beneath drift deposits is a solid geology of the Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1984).

#### 4. METHODS

Compilation of the archaeological and historical data relevant to the Conservation Area 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
- recent and old Ordnance Survey maps
- the County Sites and Monuments Record
- the parish files of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire
- aerial photographs
- archaeological books and journals

Information obtained in the literature and cartographic examination was supplemented by a site visit to investigate the present land use and condition. Results of the archival examinations were committed to scale plans of the area.

#### 5. RESULTS

##### 5.1 Historical data

Crowland is first mentioned in the mid 8<sup>th</sup> century by Felix, the biographer of St. Guthlac. Referred to as *Crugland*, *Cruulond* and *Crowland*, the name is derived from the word *crûw*, possibly from the Old Norse *krîwila* meaning 'bend' and perhaps referring to a meander in the River Welland at this point (Ekwall 1974, 133). Throughout the middle ages Crowland was often referred to as Croyland, the modern spelling becoming commonplace after 1700.

Felix was writing about St. Guthlac *c.* 745, several years after the saint's death. Guthlac was a member of the Mercian royal family and gave up the warrior life at the age of 24 to become a monk at Repton in Derbyshire. Two years later he left Repton and travelled to Crowland with two followers (Page 1988,

105). Felix describes Guthlac's first hermitage thus; '*There was on the island a great mound raised upon the earth, which some of yore men had dug and broken up in the hopes of treasure. On the other side of the mound a place was dug, as it were a great water cistern. Over this cistern the blessed man Guthlac built himself a house at the beginning, as soon as he settled in the hermit station*' (Hallam 1954, 5). A church was built on the island and Headda, the bishop of Lichfield, is said to have consecrated it before AD 706 (Stenton 1971, 49). Guthlac died in AD 714 and Æthelbald, King of Mercia, is said to have formally founded a monastery in 716, following discovery that the saint's body was incorrupt (Stocker 1993, 101). Guthlac's sister, St. Pega, is also said to have had a hermitage to which she retired for a year before founding her own monastery to the west, probably at Peakirk in Cambridgeshire (Page 1988, 118).

A substantial part of the history of Crowland is based on Ingulph's work, supposedly written by the Abbot of that name in the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The work has largely been dismissed as containing forgeries and what manuscripts survive date no earlier than the 14<sup>th</sup> century. However, it is probable that some references are accurate, for example spellings of some place-names are distinctly 11<sup>th</sup> century (Roffe 1993b, 7) and it was not unknown for forged charters to have been commissioned at the time of the Domesday Survey, when monastic lands were being confiscated and proof was needed as to the ownership of land (English 1868, 152). It is possible that Ingulph's history provides a much more accurate picture than has been accredited to the work.

According to Ingulph, King Æthelbald foundation charter gave to the monastery the land between the rivers Nene, Shepishee (Southeau) and the Asendyk to Crowland

(Riley 1854, 5). He also appointed Kenulph as the Abbot and the monastery prospered until the Danish incursions of 870, when it is said the monastery was burnt. In the reign of King Edred (946-955) the monastery was refounded by Turketyl (also spelt as Thurcytel) who was Abbot of Bedford (Page 1988, 105).

Slightly more reliable accounts of Crowland appear in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles (Swanton 1997). In these the first mention of Crowland is in 963 when King Edgar granted to Peterborough Abbey land up to Crowland (*ibid.* 117). In 1066 the chronicles record the death of Abbot Leofric of Peterborough and indicates that Crowland had been given to him (*ibid.* 198).

Following the Norman Conquest, the first recorded Abbot was Ulfcytel, who had been a monk at Peterborough and had begun to build a new church in Crowland (Page 1988, 106). He was assisted by Waltheof, then earl of Northampton and Huntingdon and later earl of Northumbria who was executed by William the Conqueror in 1076. Ulfcytel was later replaced by the Abbot Ingulph who translated the body of Waltheof to Crowland after which many miracles were noted at his tomb. In 1091 a serious fire destroyed the monastery and it was Ingulph's successor who began a new church in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century. This church was also destroyed by fire in or about 1147.

The whole of the Crowland peninsula and two marshes were not confirmed to the abbey until a charter dating to the reign of King Stephen (1135-1154) and confirmed again by Henry II in 1155 (Roffe 1994, 80).

Between 1148 and 1166 the churches of West Keal, Sutton (le-Marsh), Folksworth, Gedney, Whaplode, Ingoldsby and St. Michael's in Stamford were all given to Crowland Abbey (Smith 1980, 15, 67). By

1188, tithes from Gedney were being used to repair the monastery (Smith 1986, 36). The church at Langtoft was given to the abbey between 1203 and 1206 (*ibid.* 153).

The surrounding fens were gradually reclaimed to produce more arable land, often as the result of monastic intervention. Large parts of Spalding fen were reclaimed so that by the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century the men of Holland were pasturing their sheep on Crowland Marsh (Hallam 1965, 25). This resulted in a lengthy lawsuit which was only given in Crowland's favour by a charter of King John in 1202 (Hayes and Lane 1992, 202). The extent of these lands includes the entire modern parish and was marked by a series of stones and crosses, some of which survive (Healey 1993, 22).

Henry III (1216-1272) granted a market and fair to the town in 1226 (Larken 1925, 25). The market was held every Thursday and the fair on the 4<sup>th</sup> September every year (White 1856, 821).

From 1150 sheep were the dominant produce of the abbey's estates with Crowland and Peterborough having 16,000 sheep between them (Carus-Wilson 1963, 185). Between 1258 and 1313, records of the sheep flocks were maintained and show how they became more organised in order to obtain more revenue (Page 1929, 603). Wool was a profitable resource and was traded to the merchants of King's Lynn until the early 14<sup>th</sup> century when an apparent change in policy reduced the flocks (*ibid.* 608). In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Crowland was producing up to 30 sacks (about 4996 kilograms) of wool per year, the third highest figure in the county (Owen 1981, 66).

The Abbot of Crowland was charged in 1349 for failing to maintain the road between Crowland and Brotherhouse. In

defence, the Abbot claimed there was no road and the journey was conducted along the River Welland (Barley 1936, 21). The rivers played an essential part in the growth of Crowland. Wool was exported to King's Lynn via the Nene and Barnack stone for building the church came along the Welland. Furthermore, Abbot Litlington (*c.* 1472) had five bells cast in London and brought to Crowland by water (*ibid.* 17).

As was the custom with many religious houses, monks were sent to Cambridge or Oxford universities to study theology. Crowland devoted the profits from its manor at Oakington, near Cambridge, for this purpose (Owen 1981, 81). In 1428, due to complaints that the monks had to lodge with seculars, a lodging house was built for the Crowland monks and was known as Buckingham College until the dissolution when it was replaced by the present Magdalene College (Page 1988, 115).

Following the dissolution of the monastery in 1539, Crowland was held by the crown as Henry VIII's commissioners were demolishing the central tower and chancel of the church (Larken 1925, 12). The land passed to Edward, Lord Clinton, 1<sup>st</sup> earl of Lincoln in 1551 (Gough 1783, 77). By 1683 the land had passed to Sir Thomas Orby in whose family it remained until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century when it was bought by the Marquis of Exeter (White 1856, 822).

During the English Civil War (1642-1646) Crowland was a Royalist stronghold. The vicar, Thomas or William Styles, is reputed to have marched against the parliamentary sympathisers at Spalding (Holmes 1980, 163). Oliver Cromwell marched on Crowland in April 1643 and is reputed to have damaged the abbey, now enclosed within a fort. Crowland was again in Royalist hands by 1644. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil War of 1648, Thomas Styles again tried to take

Crowland and also marched on Stamford, but was unsuccessful in his attempt (*ibid.* 200).

Under the Poor Law Act, first introduced in 1601 and amended in 1722, Crowland had built a workhouse by 1776 (Noble 1993, 70). With the introduction of the New Poor Law in 1834, Crowland became part of the Peterborough Union (Fenton 1993, 100).

## 5.2 Cartographic Data

The earliest depiction of Crowland is shown on 'A map of Alderlands in the Parish of Croyland and in the Countye of Lincoln' dating to 1676 (LAO Brace 19/6). Although the map is primarily of the Alderlands to the south of the town, Crowland is shown as a system of four roads with buildings fronting each street (Fig. 4). The course of the rivers is shown and also the triangular bridge. The abbey is not depicted and no other details are shown.

A map of Crowland dating to 1749 shows the town as comprising three streets (LAO FL Maps 32). Generally of a poor quality and small scale, the usefulness of this plan is doubtful.

Armstrong's *Map of the County of Lincoln* dating from 1778 is one of the earliest accurate depictions of the town (Fig. 5). Only the north - south streets show houses and the abbey is depicted as a church. Ruins are indicated near to the abbey site although whether they relate to the abbey is unclear.

Bryant's map of the County of Lincoln of 1828 indicates properties extending along West Street and several new roads to the northeast of the town (Fig. 6). Several windmills are indicated, one to the northeast of the town, two along Broadway and another two located south of the town.

Church Lane and Hall Street are shown for the first time. Dwellings are still restricted to the principal streets.

Dating from 1831 the *Plan of the Town of Crowland* represents the first large scale depiction of the town (LAO ANC 10B/2a). Although individual buildings are not shown the long linear plots of the medieval messuages are clearly evident as is the layout of the streets (Fig. 7). Several properties mention the landowner.

No Tithe Award map was ever produced for Crowland as the land was tithe free since the dissolution of Crowland Abbey in 1539. The land was enclosed in 1823, but the relevant map does not show the town and relates only to the enclosure of the fen (LAO Holland Award 3).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25" Ordnance Survey maps of 1904 are the first to show individual buildings and also indicate the layout of the town (Figs. 8 and 9). The rivers running through the town are not shown and presumably these had been culverted beneath the roads. Where possible inns, hotels, and other buildings are shown. The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 6" map shows little change having occurred (Fig. 10).

Recent Ordnance Survey plans (1950, 1977) reveal that development is occurring south and east of the town centre and within the former message plots. A bypass has been constructed from the south to the east of the town. The core of the town remains relatively unchanged.

## 5.3 Aerial Photograph Data

Aerial photographs of Crowland, including those published or transcribed in secondary sources, were examined for evidence of archaeological remains.

A number of aerial photographs are held by the County Sites and Monuments Record. These photographs are black and white views of the town taken between 1952 (CUCAP JF9-12) and 1984 (TF2410/2/NMR2466/8-9). No archaeological sites are visible on any of these photographs although they do display the long linear plots of the medieval messuages.

Also depicting the town are a number of colour images of Crowland held by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire (SO46-49). Taken between 1992 and 1993 the views are mainly of the town and do not show any new archaeological sites. However, in comparison to the earlier photographs they do show the gradual development to the rear of properties facing the principal streets.

Photographs of Crowland have also been published (Start 1993, 121; Platt 1984, 203). Both these views concentrate on the abbey and are not sufficiently detailed to show any other archaeological feature. A published photograph of the Anchor Church site indicates the position of the medieval building with associated barrows and post-medieval gravel quarries (Lane 1988, 8; Hayes and Lane 1992, 197). As this was the only photograph examined that contained cropmarks, the visible features have been plotted out and shown in Figure 11.

#### **5.4 Archaeological Data**

Records of archaeological sites and finds held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire were consulted. Other, secondary, sources were also examined. Details of archaeological and historical remains falling within 2km of the Conservation Area are collated in Table 1 and committed to Figures 12, 13, 14 and 18.

Table. 1 Archaeological Sites in the Vicinity of Crowland Conservation Area.

Map Code	County SMR No.	Description	Grid. Ref.
<b>Prehistoric finds and sites</b>			
1	20260	Iron Age pottery associated with mound	TF 2400 1120
2	23230	Bronze Age barrow	TF 2505 1087
3	22004	Neolithic flint axe	TF 2410 1060
4	22006	Iron Age pottery	TF 2340 1010
5	22005	Neolithic flint axe	TF 2400 1040
6	22018	Iron Age bronze pin (3 <sup>rd</sup> century BC type)	TF 2410 1030
7	22014	Prehistoric flint scatter	TF 2450 1035
8	22980	Prehistoric flint implements	TF 2450 1035
9	20263	Early Bronze Age pottery	TF 2436 1032
10	23261	Bronze Age barrow	TF 2479 1074
11	20270	Bronze Age dagger fragment	TF 2345 0967
12	20265	Bronze Age barrow cemetery	
13	22003	Bronze Age barrow	TF 2555 1100
14		Early Bronze Age flint core	TF 2465 1064
15		Bronze Age barrow, with flints	TF 2340 0970
16		Bronze Age barrow with flints	TF 2350 0980
17		Iron Age pottery	TF 2330 1000
<b>Romano-British finds and sites</b>			
18	22002	Romano-British pottery	TF 2555 1100
19	20261	Romano-British pottery	TF 2400 1120
20	22007	Romano-British pottery	TF 2340 1010
21	20250	Roman red and white tesserae	TF 2505 1087
22	22011	Romano-British pottery	TF 2385 1015
23	22049	Romano-British Intaglio	TF 2415 1030
24	22017	Roman coin, Carinus (AD 283)	TF 2430 1050
25		Romano-British cinerary urn	TF 2300 1000
26		Roman coin, Vespasian (AD 69-79)	Unlocated
27		Romano-British querns from Crowland Common	Unlocated

28	22003	Romano-British pottery, associated with barrow	TF 2555 1100
<b>Saxon finds and sites</b>			
29	22029	7 <sup>th</sup> century pottery found on supposed site of St. Guthlac's hermitage	TF 2505 1087
30	23519	Late Saxon monastery ( <i>site of</i> )	TF 2430 1030
<b>Medieval finds and sites</b>			
31	22008	15 <sup>th</sup> century pottery and window tracery	TF 2340 1010
32	22010	Stamford ware pottery	TF 2385 1015
33	20552	Trinity Bridge	TF 2394 1023
34	20266	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century bone knife handle	TF 2415 1040
35	23183	Medieval settlement	TF 2610 0862
36	20543	Medieval pottery	TF 2412 1023
37	20551	Crowland Abbey	TF 2423 1030
38	22012	Possible medieval pottery kiln	TF 2440 1030
39		Medieval sword	Unlocated
40		Medieval gilded statue of the Madonna	TF 2358 0980
<b>Post-medieval and modern finds and sites</b>			
41	20262	Post-medieval pottery	TF 2400 1120
42	22986	Windmill mound	TF 2390 1070
43	20267	Windmill, late 18 <sup>th</sup> century	TF 2360 1010
44	22009	Post-medieval pottery	TF 2385 1015
45	22050	Mounting block	TF 2395 1028
46	22020	Windmill mound	TF 2410 1030
47	22015	17 <sup>th</sup> century tradesmen's tokens	TF 2416 1031
48	23184	16 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> century pottery	TF 2610 0862
49	22051	17 <sup>th</sup> century civil war siegeworks	TF 2423 1030
50	22022	Windmill mound	TF 2444 1064
51	22001	Windmill mound	TF 2382 0999
52	20530	Post-medieval gravel quarry	TF 2555 1100
<b>Undated finds and sites</b>			
53	20269	Undated cropmark of square enclosure and ditch	TF 2505 1105
54	22021	Undated mound	TF 2400 1120

### ***Prehistoric Archaeology***

The earliest finds from the Crowland area are of two Neolithic stone axes from the west and north of the abbey (Fig. 12, Nos. 3 and 5). Flint scatters and implements, also of Neolithic date, are also known from the town (Fig. 12, Nos. 7 and 8). No associated habitation has yet been found although settlement of this period is rare in Lincolnshire.

Six probable Early Bronze Age barrows are located on the peninsula (indicated by triangles on Fig. 12). These are located to the southwest, north and the east of the present urban area and would suggest that more barrows were present beneath the modern town, probably destroyed by medieval and subsequent development. Most of the recorded barrows have been destroyed, principally through gravel quarrying in the last century (Hayes and Lane 1992, 197). Finds recorded from the destruction of these barrows indicate cremation was the common funerary practice and flint and bronze tools were the usual grave goods.

If indeed the Crowland peninsula is a barrow cemetery, it is one of several in the vicinity. Located west of the town in Deeping St. Nicholas, is a scattered cemetery centred on Little Duke Farm (Palmer 1994, 4). A similar concentration can be found to the south in Borough Fen where twenty-five recorded barrows are known (Hall 1987, 26).

During the middle and late Bronze Age, Crowland appears to have been abandoned (Hayes and Lane 1992, 198). However, one important site of this period, Welland Bank, is located 6km to the west and was largely obscured by alluvium (Mark Dymond *pers. comm.*). It is possible that settlement of this period is also obscured by alluvium, although this would be restricted to the

lower lying areas around Crowland.

Iron Age pottery has been retrieved from three locations in Crowland (Fig. 12, Nos. 1, 4 and 17). All these sites are located on the edge of Crowland Wash and only one site (No. 1) was associated with a feature, a mound. It has been suggested that this mound was a saltern (salt producing site) although construction of the Wash banks may have formed the feature and provided it with redeposited finds (Hayes and Lane 1992, 198).

### ***Romano-British Archaeology***

Romano-British pottery has been found in quantity within the Investigation Area (Fig. 13, Nos. 18-20, 22 and 28) and coins of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries have also been retrieved (Nos. 24 and 26). Few pottery sherds were retrieved from these sites, so the finds might only represent manuring scatters and not settlement. However, red and white tesserae have been found at the east end of the peninsula (Fig. 13, No. 21). Tesserae, small tiles used for mosaic floors, are usually associated with a status building such as a villa, bath-house or temple.

About 20 querns were retrieved from Crowland Common in 1874 (No. 27) and are thought to represent a boat's cargo (Hallam 1970, 274). A Romano-British cinerary urn, interred into a Bronze Age barrow, suggests burial within the vicinity (Fig. 13, No. 25).

Possibly of Roman date is the reference to a trackway made of willow stakes, covered in brushwood and surfaced with gravel (Skertchly 1877, 247). Survival of such material indicates great potential for further waterlogged sites to be found in the vicinity.

### ***Saxon and Medieval Archaeology***

Despite the early historic references to the Saxon history of the town, only one site is recorded (Fig. 14, No. 29). Pottery dating to

the 7<sup>th</sup> century was located on the site of St. Guthlac's supposed hermitage east of the town. This site, from the historical evidence, was located on a mound with a great cistern and also produced the Romano-British tesserae mentioned previously. This hermitage site was later the site of a small chapel, possibly constructed by Turketyl and is believed to have stood until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 17). Stukeley describes it thus '*not far east of the abby upon a hillock is the remnant of a little stone cottage call'd Anchor-church-house. Here was a chappel over the place St. Guthlac lived a hermit and where he was buried*' (1724, 32). Excavations on the site in the 19<sup>th</sup> century revealed walls up to 1m thick with substantial stone bases 2.5m square (Moore n.d.).

The Saxon monastery (No. 30) is believed to lie beneath the present abbey and is therefore likely to have substantial parts of it destroyed by subsequent rebuildings and burial activity. However, William Stukeley's sketch of the Crowland precinct shows a dispersed arrangement of buildings, although it is unsure on what evidence it was based (Fig. 15). Later the abbey precinct would comprise a much larger area, corresponding to the present parish limits of Crowland.

It has been suggested that the courses of the rivers through Crowland also date to this period (Hayes and Lane 1992, 202). Such canalisation of rivers was often thought to be Roman in origin (Hallam 1970, 60), although it was not until the 11<sup>th</sup> century when there was an important settlement at Crowland to necessitate changing the course of the river.

The medieval period is marked by the extant remains of Crowland Abbey and the Triangular or Trinity Bridge (Fig. 14, Nos. 33 and 37). The abbey has elements dating

from the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century and contains additions from the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (DoE n.d., 4). All that remains of the abbey is the northern aisle with a ruined nave, any trace of the monastic buildings and former chancel have all disappeared. William Stukeley managed to trace the extant remains of the abbey and reconstruct the remainder from surviving traces during the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 16). There is no indication of an earlier building on the site and documentary sources indicate that previous buildings were destroyed by fire. Trinity Bridge dates from c.1375 and is meant to have replaced an earlier, wooden, triangular bridge referred to in 943 AD (Swift 1997, 22). This charter, therefore, provides a latest date for the canalisation of the River Welland.

Medieval pottery has been recovered from several localities within the town and coupled with finds of a sword, a statue and a bone knife handle indicate the extent of the medieval town. The bone knife handle may relate to the custom of handing out such items to pilgrims on St. Bartholomew's Day, a practice which ceased during the 15<sup>th</sup> century. A pottery kiln has been postulated as lying east of the abbey, though has not yet been adequately investigated (Fig. 14, No. 38).

Other medieval remains are likely to have existed. Marrat states '*the abbot's fishpond has been filled up many years;- and is now planted with willows: it was at a small distance from the east end of the church, on the right hand side of the road now leading to Spalding*' (1814b, 49).

Southeast of Crowland was a smaller medieval settlement (Fig. 14, No. 35) identified during the Fenland Survey (Hayes and Lane 1992, gazetteer). The nature of this settlement has yet to be identified, but may represent a small farmstead.

### *Post-medieval Archaeology*

Post-medieval archaeology is well represented by a number of sites in and around Crowland.

Remains of the English Civil War still survived as earthworks around the abbey church in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Fig. 18. No. 49). Stukeley's depiction shows a fort typical of this period with projecting horn-works at each corner (Fig. 19).

Houses from this period still survive and the best examples have been accorded listed status (Appendix 2).

Windmills were also common during this period, and many would have had medieval predecessors. One windmill survives in the Crowland area at present incorporated into a modern house (Dolman 1986, 14). Another three windmills are shown on early maps that fall within the investigation area. Stukeley's sketch of Anchor Hill also depicts windmills in locations north and west of the town. Windmill mounds are recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record at four separate locations (Fig. 19, Nos. 42, 46, 50 and 51). It is possible that these windmill mounds utilised earlier barrows.

Industrial sites are also known from Crowland. White's directory lists 6 blacksmiths, 3 brewers and maltsters and a brick and tile maker (1856, 823). Few, if any, of the buildings that housed these establishments survive today.

### **5.5 Site Visit**

A site visit was made to Crowland on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1998. This was to assess the possible level of surviving archaeological deposits and to identify hitherto unknown archaeological sites.

West Street, North Street and South Street are the three principal thoroughfares through the town. They are each fairly broad, due to the former river courses that ran along the centre of these streets. The Triangular Bridge provides the main focal point at the junction of the three roads.

West Street and South Street have minimal retail outlets and contain houses of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century date. North Street is the broadest route into the town and probably is a reflection the former market held here.

Crowland Abbey provides the second focal point of the town and is set back from the core of the village. Immediately east of the churchyard is an open area with several earthworks apparent. The form and function of these earthworks is not readily apparent, but it is possible that they relate to the abbey (eg. fishponds or garden) or are simply gravel pits.

One other important road is Broadway, south of the town centre. This has a number of buildings suitable for listed status along its route and also contains Crowland's only surviving windmill.

Modern development has occurred throughout the town. Infilling has taken place along the street frontages and larger developments have occurred to the rear of properties. Only limited archaeological recording has taken place during these developments.

East of the town a visit was made to Anchorage Church Field, the supposed site of Guthlac's hermitage. Soil marks and a spread of limestone indicate the position of the stone building visible on aerial photographs. The building is situated on a slight mound. A further mound is visible in the same field to the west. The field had recently been ploughed and harrowed.

The use of geophysical methods for archaeological prospecting is unlikely to be possible for much of the Crowland Conservation Area. The exceptions are the park and playing fields south and east of Crowland Abbey and to a lesser degree in the rear gardens of larger properties. Fieldwalking in areas currently under pasture and aerial photographic reconnaissance are both viable techniques suitable for parts of Crowland.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Prehistoric activity is restricted to the gravel peninsula upon which Crowland is located. This topographic feature became a focal point for burial practises during the Early Bronze Age, culminating in a barrow cemetery. Iron Age pottery suggests reoccupation and settlement within the Crowland area, possibly associated with salt production. Away from the gravel peninsula, fewer prehistoric sites are known although these may be present sealed by later flood silts many metres below the present ground level.

Romano-British activity has been identified in the vicinity, with several finds recovered from the town centre. The size and extent of any Romano-British settlement cannot, on present knowledge, be ascertained. However, finds reminiscent of a higher status building are evident on the supposed site of Guthlac's hermitage and may suggest a villa, bath-house or temple in the vicinity. It is interesting to compare Felix's description of Guthlac's hermitage as being built over a cistern, an essential feature in a bath-house. If this is so, it would represent a rare and unique find in the Lincolnshire fenland, and coupled with the apparent continuity of settlement at this site would make it nationally important.

Crowland was established sometime before the Norman Conquest, although much of the early history is based on dubious charters and histories. Limited Saxon archaeology has yet been found to support the documentary evidence.

Significantly greater evidence for use of the area in the medieval period is provided by documents, sites, findspots and structures. By the time of the Domesday Survey Crowland Abbey was a substantial landowner in other places and was also the only monastery known in Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire (Stenton 1971, 456).

During the medieval period, Crowland became a prosperous centre with its abbey, market and fair. The height of this prosperity was between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and possibly was a result of intensive sheep farming.

The layout of the medieval town seems to be reflected in cartographic depictions of Crowland up to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century where the message plots of land are still apparent running from the three main streets to smaller 'back' lanes.

There is little information on the post-medieval history of Crowland at present, although probably has not been researched in detail. However, with the dissolution of the abbey, it is possible that Crowland declined for a short time, although the archaeological and historic building evidence suggests a renewal in fortune during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

A visit to Crowland, undertaken as part of this investigation, confirmed that widespread housing development had taken place during the last three centuries, and has increased dramatically during the past three decades to accommodate the demand for

housing from Peterborough. The construction of the Crowland bypass southeast of the town is known to have destroyed at least one Bronze Age barrow. Consequently, these developments, most of which had no archaeological monitoring, are likely to have had an adverse effect on any surviving archaeological deposits.

## 7. MANAGEMENT

The management of the archaeological resource within Crowland should follow the guidelines set out by English Heritage (1992a, 1992b) and in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) notes 15 (buildings) and 16 (archaeology) (DoE 1990, 1994).

Some nationally important archaeological monuments are singled out for statutory protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (AMAA) 1979. Such monuments are known as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and are statutorily protected from any damage or alteration. The scheduling of monuments is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, advised by English Heritage. There are two sites within the Conservation Area that are presently Scheduled Ancient Monuments. They are Crowland Abbey and the Triangular Bridge

This study has identified the location of a number of known and potential archaeological sites within the conservation area, as represented by find-spots on Figures 11, 12, 13, 14 and 18, and documentary references. Only two of these sites are scheduled ancient monuments and the management of them is the responsibility of their respective landowners. There appear to be no major management problems at present on scheduled sites. Potentially

important sites around Crowland have no management strategies and can be considered under threat, either through continued development or current agricultural techniques (eg. deep ploughing).

The management strategy for archaeological sites is dependent on their importance. Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG16) states: *Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation.* (PPG16, para 8). One site within the investigation area is believed to be nationally important, that in Anchor Church Field.

The determination of the importance of an archaeological site is judged on the basis of a set of criteria given in PPG16 and shown here as Appendix 3. All nationally important archaeological monuments should be protected from the effects of development through the application of PPG16 which presumes in favour of their physical preservation (although they are not necessarily protected from other forms of damage). South Holland District Council has adopted suitable policies for the use of PPG16 in its Local Plan (SHDC 1995, 30 - Policy E6). Few archaeological interventions have taken place in Crowland (there are five recorded in the parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire), one other recorded watching brief (Field and George 1996, 52) as well as the results of the Fenland Survey.

Knowledge of many of the archaeological sites listed on the Sites and Monuments Record is minimal and it is difficult to make a judgement of their importance on a national scale without further information. PPG16 suggests: .... *it is reasonable for the planning authority to request the*

*prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before any decision on the planning application is taken.* (PPG16, para 21). Such evaluations may take several forms:

a) Desk-top Assessment

This is defined as an assessment of the known and/or potential archaeological resource within a specified area, consisting of a collation of existing written and graphic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional or national context as appropriate (IFA 1997a).

b) Archaeological Field Evaluation

This is defined as a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land. If such remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, and relative quality and enables an assessment of their worth in a local regional or national context as appropriate (IFA 1997c).

From the results of the evaluation, an appropriate management or mitigation strategy may be determined. The main options are:

***Preservation In Situ:***

- a) Exceptionally, evaluation may reveal a site of such importance that it is scheduled under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979.
- b) Planning applications may be refused on the basis of the importance of buried archaeological remains.
- c) Developers may be requested to alter estate layouts or change foundation

designs in order to preserve buried remains.

Physical preservation, or preservation *in situ* is not always the most appropriate strategy and it may be necessary to preserve 'by record'. PPG16 states: *Where planning authorities decide that the physical preservation in situ of archaeological remains is not justified in the circumstances of the case and that development resulting in the destruction of the archaeological remains should proceed, it would be entirely reasonable for the planning authority to satisfy itself before granting planning permission, that the developer has made appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains.* (PPG16, para 25). Once again, several strategies are available, depending on the importance of the remains:

***Preservation by Record:***

a) Archaeological Excavation

Defined as a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines and records archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the Project Design and in the light of findings (IFA 1997d).

b) Archaeological Watching Brief

This is defined as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site on land, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. Such a programme will result in the preparation of

a report and ordered archive (IFA 1997b).

c) Building Investigation and Recording

Defined as a formal programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, or structure, or complex and its setting, including its buried components, on land. The programme should result in the production of drawings, an ordered archive and a report (IFA 1995).

### Archaeological management strategies for Crowland

For the short to medium term, it would be judicious to define research strategies for the archaeological heritage of Crowland and to recommend a framework by which such strategies could be implemented. The management options discussed above should be applied to this end.

Eight key points and themes pertaining to the archaeology and development of the settlement of Crowland have been identified.

a) The Bronze Age cemetery - To identify the full extent of the cemetery and locate, if present, associated settlement.

b) The Romano-British settlement - To what extent do finds of this date indicate Romano-British settlement within Crowland and is it linked to a villa or other important centre.

c) The Saxon monastery - The extent of the monastery's precinct and the interaction between the religious life of the monastery and the native inhabitants of Crowland prior to the Norman Conquest.

d) The medieval town - defining the layout, extent and nature of the medieval town and

identify the role of the abbey within the landscape.

e) Continuity and Change - Some sites in Crowland have shown continued use through several periods *i.e.* Bronze Age barrows being reused for Roman burial or possibly for windmill mounds, the Saxon monastery continuing into the medieval period and the remarkable continuity of Bronze Age, Romano-British, Saxon and medieval use at Anchor Church Field. However, Iron Age remains are known and change must have been experienced during the Romano-British period.

f) Industry and craftsmanship - Industrial remains are apparent from the Iron Age (salterns) through to the post-medieval period. No full survey of the diversity of this theme has been undertaken.

g) Infrastructure - from historical references it would appear that the rivers were the primary means of communication, especially to the monastery as a means of exporting wool and remaining in contact to its various granges and manors. Is the canalisation of the rivers through Crowland an indication of the Abbey's importance or was it a Roman designed system as suggested by Hallam? (1970, 60).

h) The Environmental Background - to assess the ecological background of the landscape in which Crowland is set throughout time.

However, due consideration must be given at all times to the archaeological heritage of other periods.

As a first stage in enabling these points and themes to be answered two differing zones have been defined and mapped, based on informed decisions regarding the known history and archaeology of Crowland (Fig.

20 and 21).

Zone 1 - Areas in which development should not take place as the archaeology in that locale is considered important.

Zone 2 - Areas in which proposed development automatically triggers archaeological intervention, which encompasses most of the gravel peninsula, and therefore, includes the entire present town. These have been sub-divided into three designations. Zone 2a indicates the known extent of the Bronze Age barrow cemetery where human burials and cremations can be expected. Zone 2b indicates the possible Romano-British settlement as identified from finds clusters where a variety of features (pits, ditches, postholes *etc.*) can be expected. The final zone (2c), represents the limit of the Saxon and medieval settlement, and other known sites, and incorporate the abbey and triangular bridge.

Development outside these areas would still be subject to PPG 16 and intervention dependant on factors such as size of development and proximity to known archaeology.

The definition of these zones as an area of archaeological importance would not represent a immutable boundary and would be subject to change as new evidence came to light in future archaeological investigations.

The present Conservation Area is based around the medieval core of the town. To define the limit of Zone 2 as a proposed Conservation Area is considered unnecessary. However, the inclusion of Broadway into this area should be given due consideration.

Future development in the town, needs to be

monitored and recorded by experienced field archaeologists in order to begin to understand the extent and sequence of archaeological and natural deposits. A cellar and a quarry survey would pinpoint areas where archaeology is totally destroyed. Such a survey may usefully be undertaken by a local group.

Current interpretation of Crowland is limited to a town trail and a visitors guide to the Abbey. This could be greatly enhanced with the erection of interpretative boards at key points around the town which could, in turn, complement the Conservation Area.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

The types of archaeological remains potentially present in Crowland are those common to all urban areas. In addition to artefacts and ecofacts are the potential stratified remains of earlier structures (domestic, ritual and industrial), their associated features (refuse pits, wells, *etc.*) and infrastructure (roads, tracks and canalised rivers and associated wharves).

However, Crowland displays a remarkable continuity of remains from the Neolithic period to the present day. This diversity of periods and types of activity, along with a wealth of documentary evidence, highlight Crowland as an area of regional, if not national, archaeological sensitivity.

Structures may not be confined to the present day burgage plots or roads but can occur anywhere within the present area of study. In particular, the presence of shallowly buried Bronze Age, Romano-British and Saxon remains should be considered. Features of these periods may be destroyed by modern development schemes. Prospection techniques, such as geophysical survey or fieldwalking, would not be

sufficient to reveal the presence of such sites in advance. Therefore, pre-development archaeological evaluation, or archaeological monitoring during development, is essential in order to increase knowledge of the town's buried heritage.

## 9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LAO Lincolnshire Archive Office, followed by accession code.

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

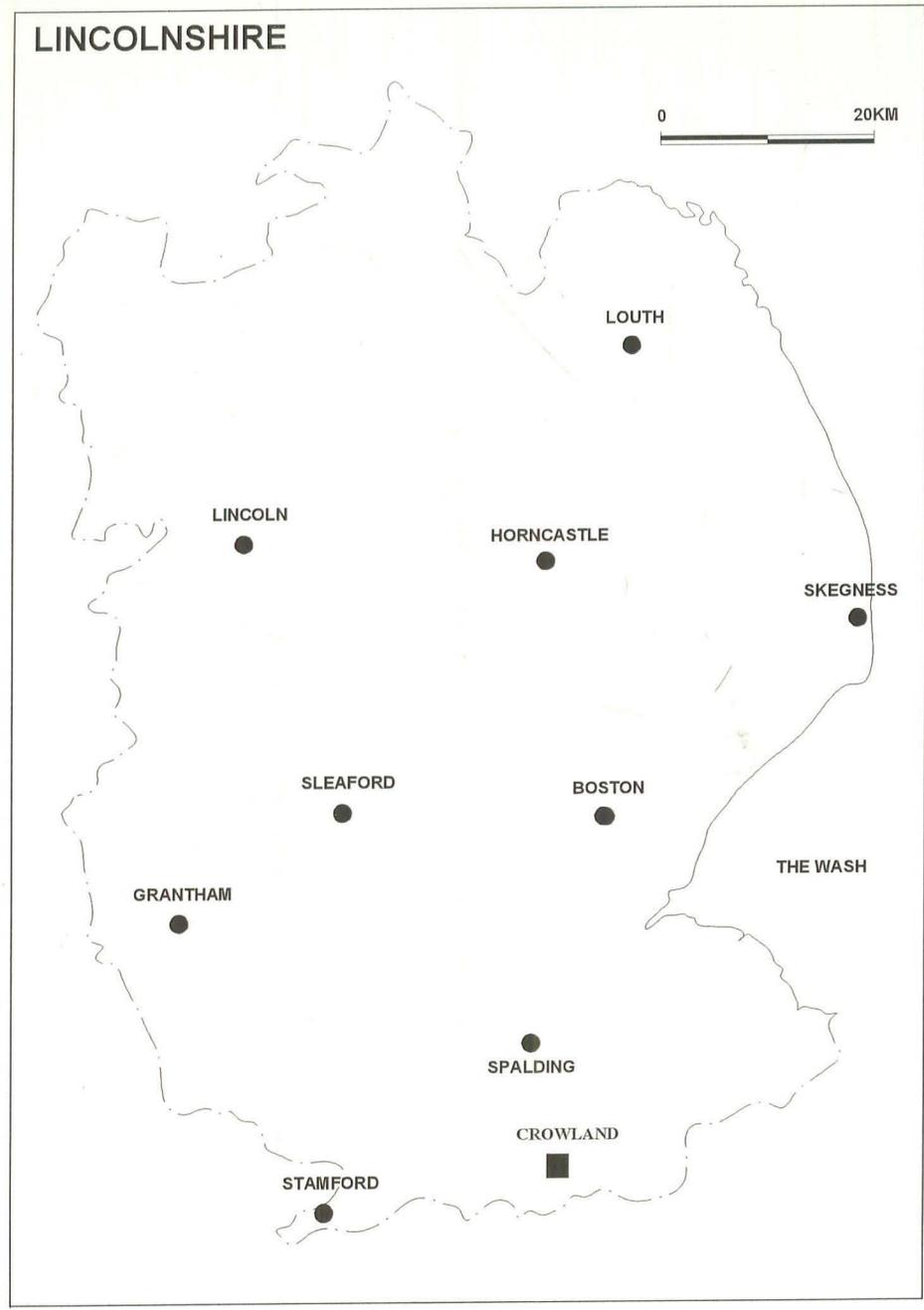
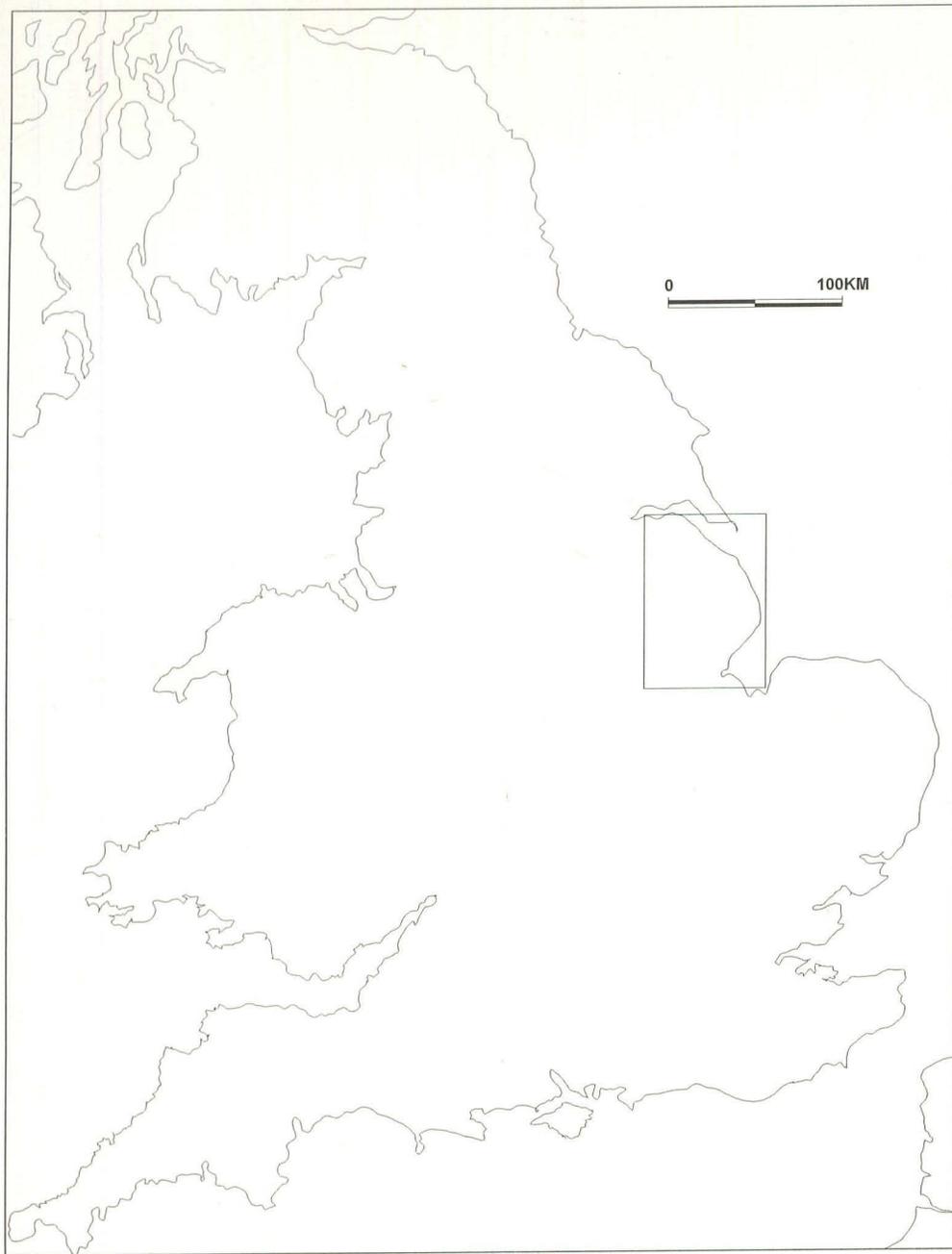
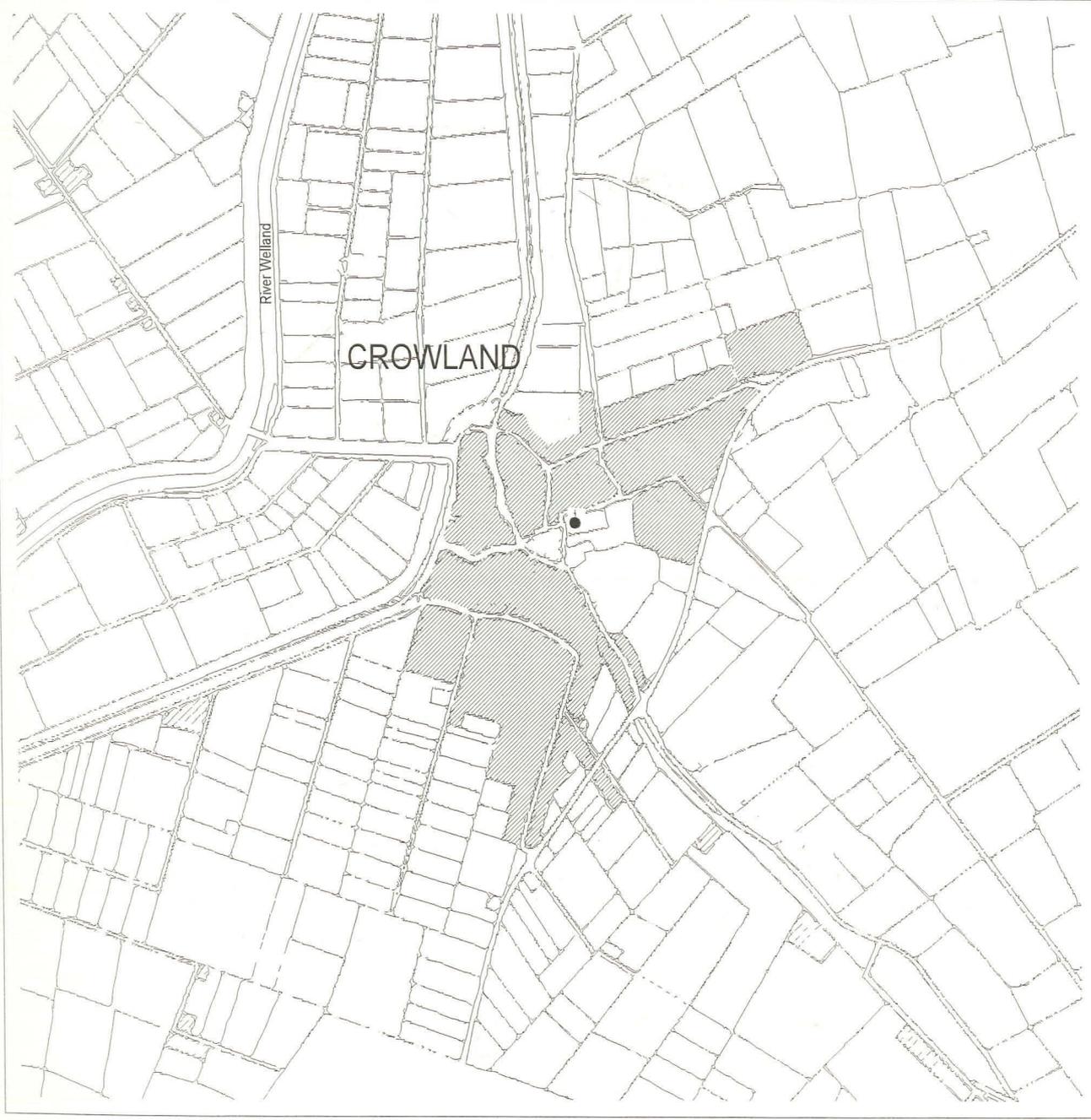


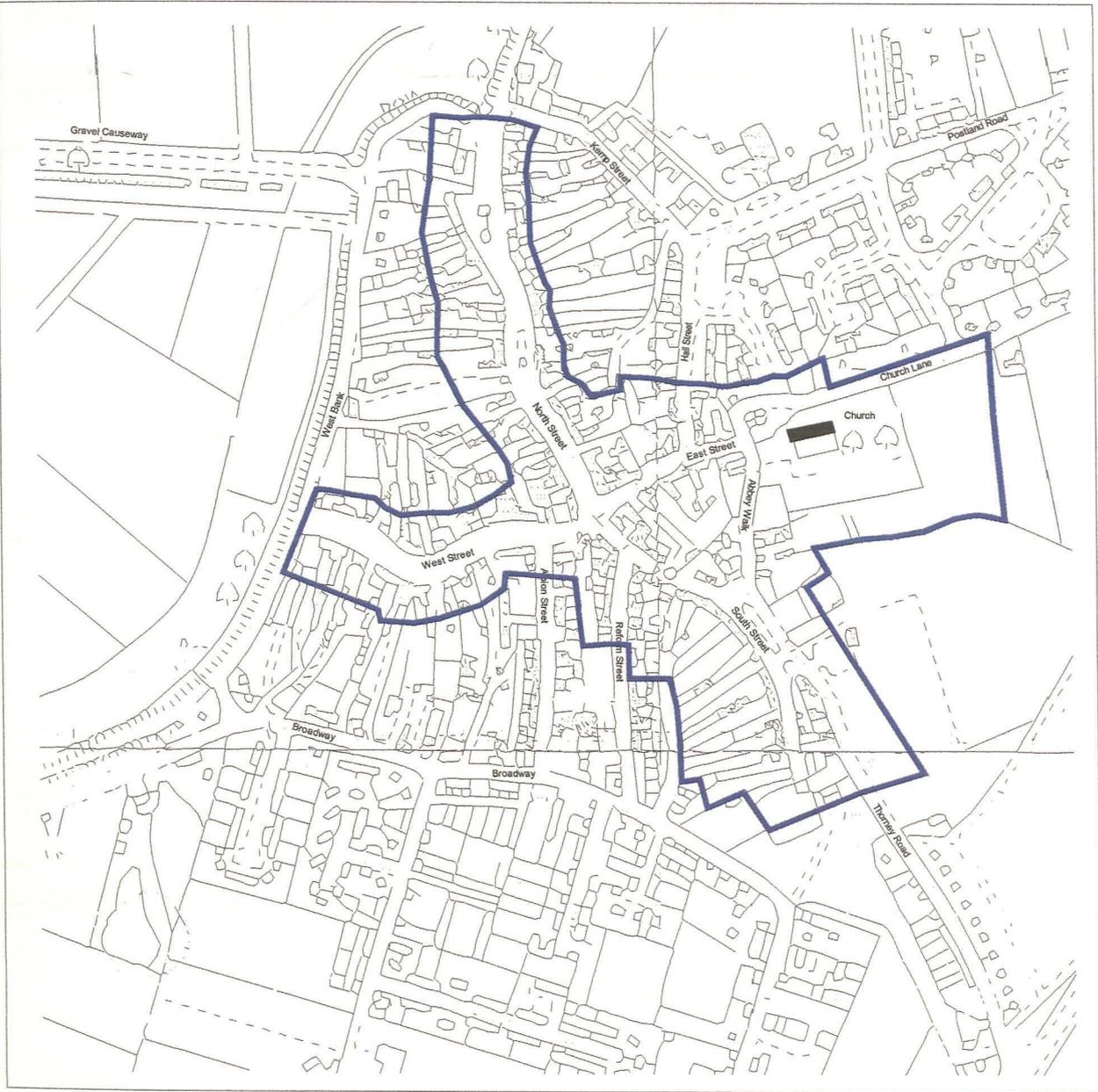
Figure 1 - General location map



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Figure 2 - Area of Investigation

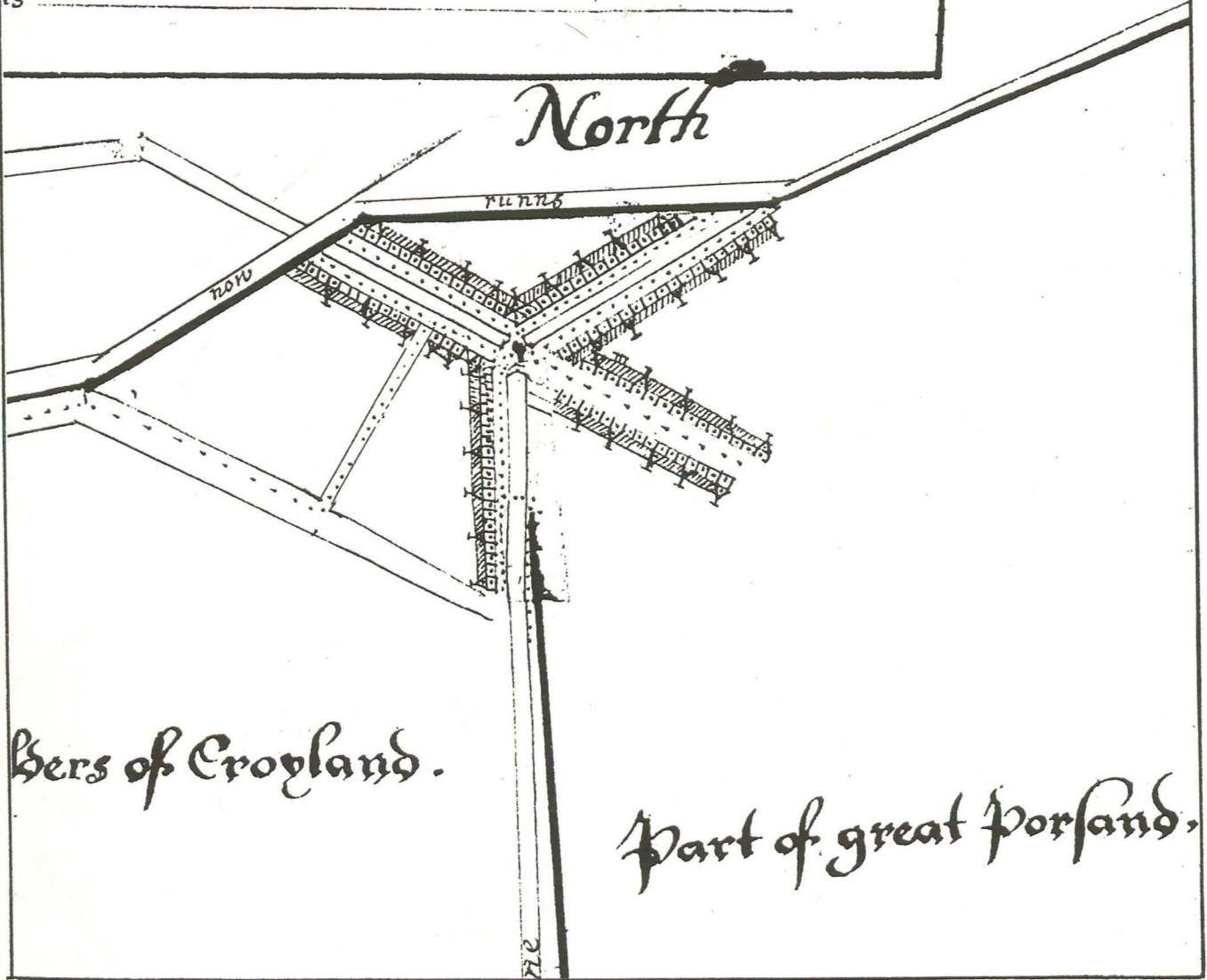


Conservation Area Boundary

Figure 3 - Crowland Conservation Area

the Countye of Lincoln 1676.

15

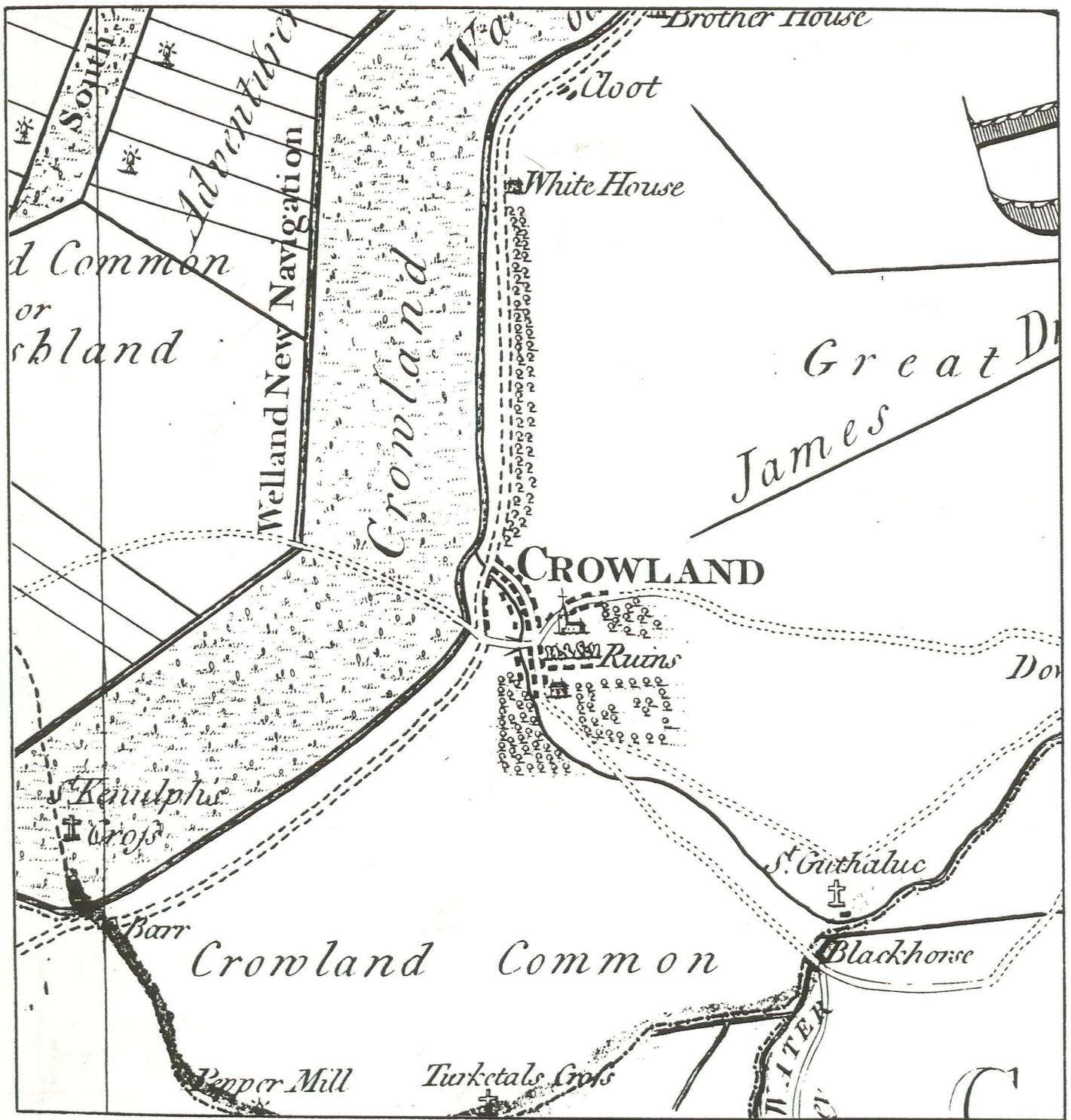


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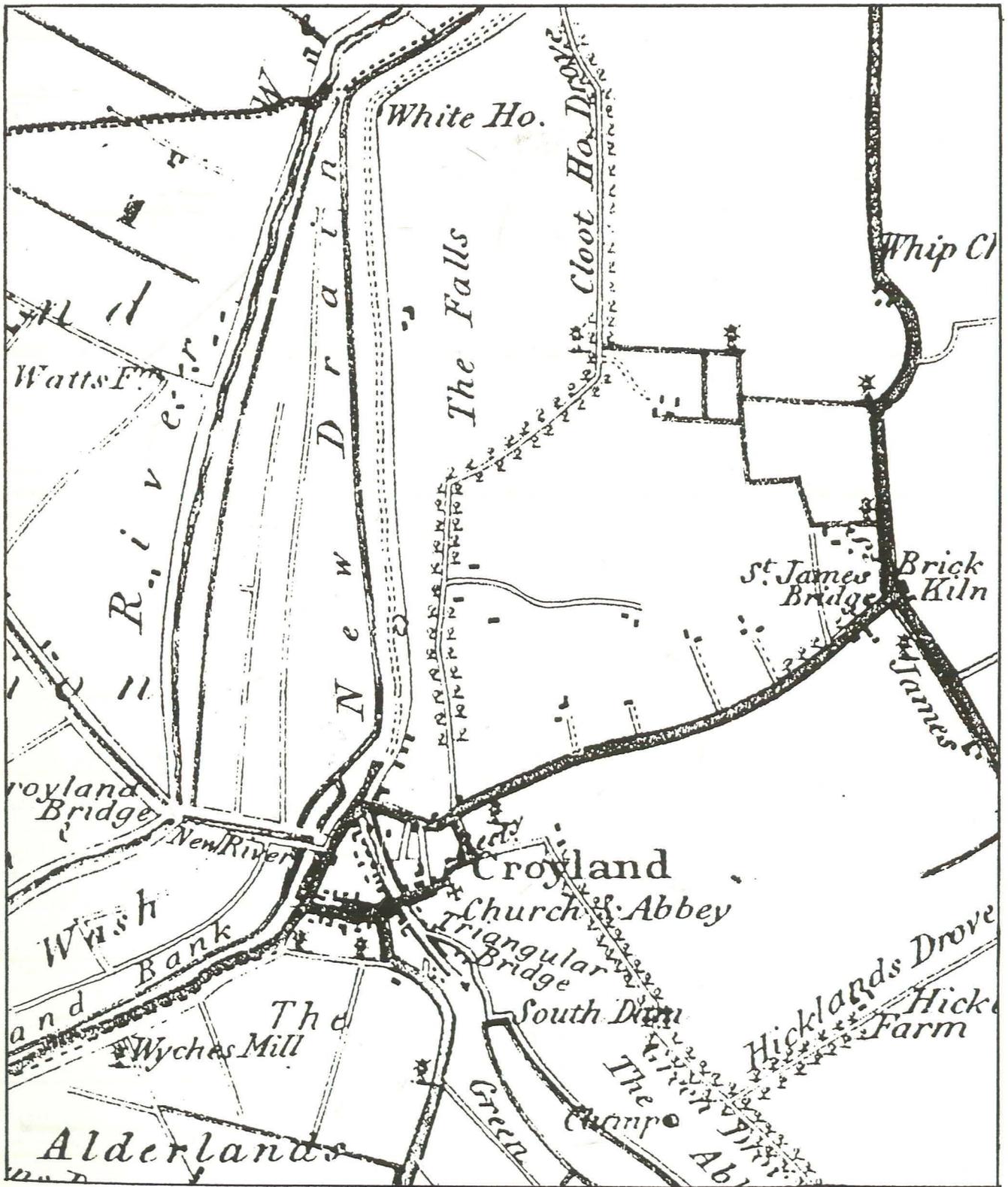


Figure 4 - Extract from 'A map of Alderlands in the Parish of Croyland and in the Countye of Lincoln 1676'



(no scale available)

Figure 5 - Extract from Armstrong's 'Map of Lincolnshire', 1778



(no scale available)

Figure 6 - Extract from Bryant's 'Map of the County of Lincoln', 1828

PLAN  
of the  
**TOWN of CROWLAND**  
which is Copyhold of the Manor  
and tributary to the  
**CROWLAND ESTATE**

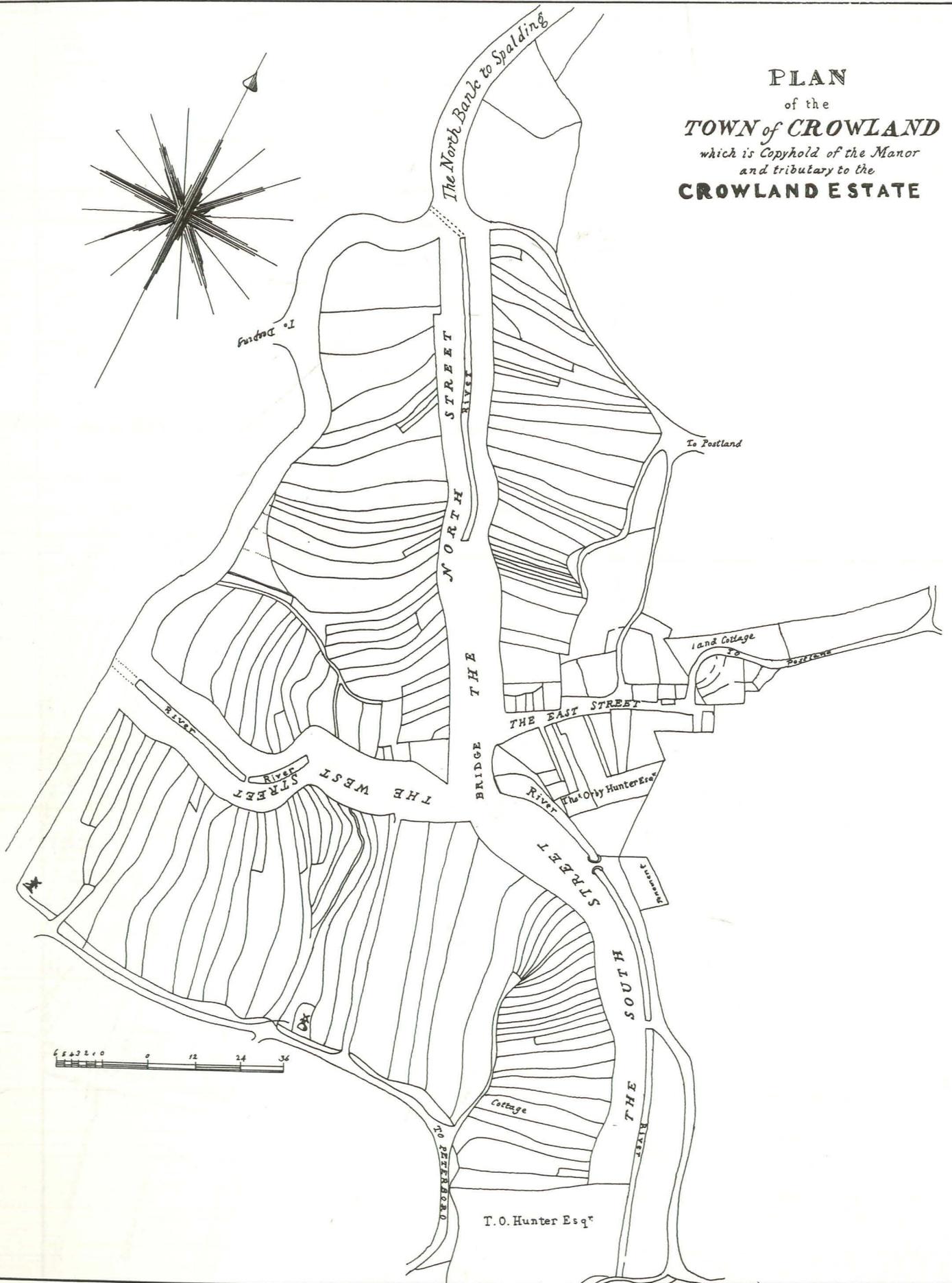


Figure 7 - Extract from 'A Plan of the Town of Crowland', 1831

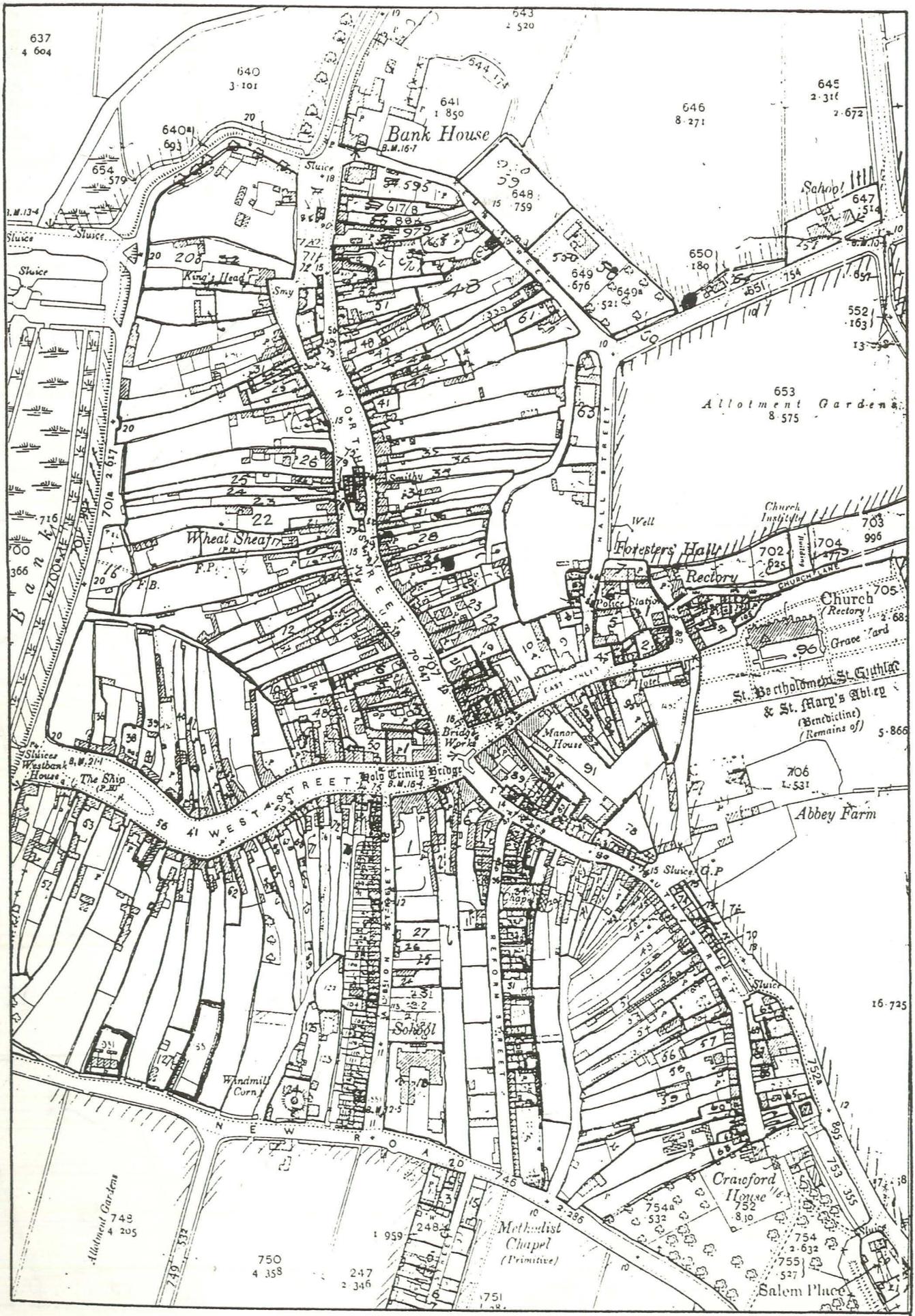


Figure 8 - Extract from the 2nd Edition 25" Ordnance Survey Map, 1904

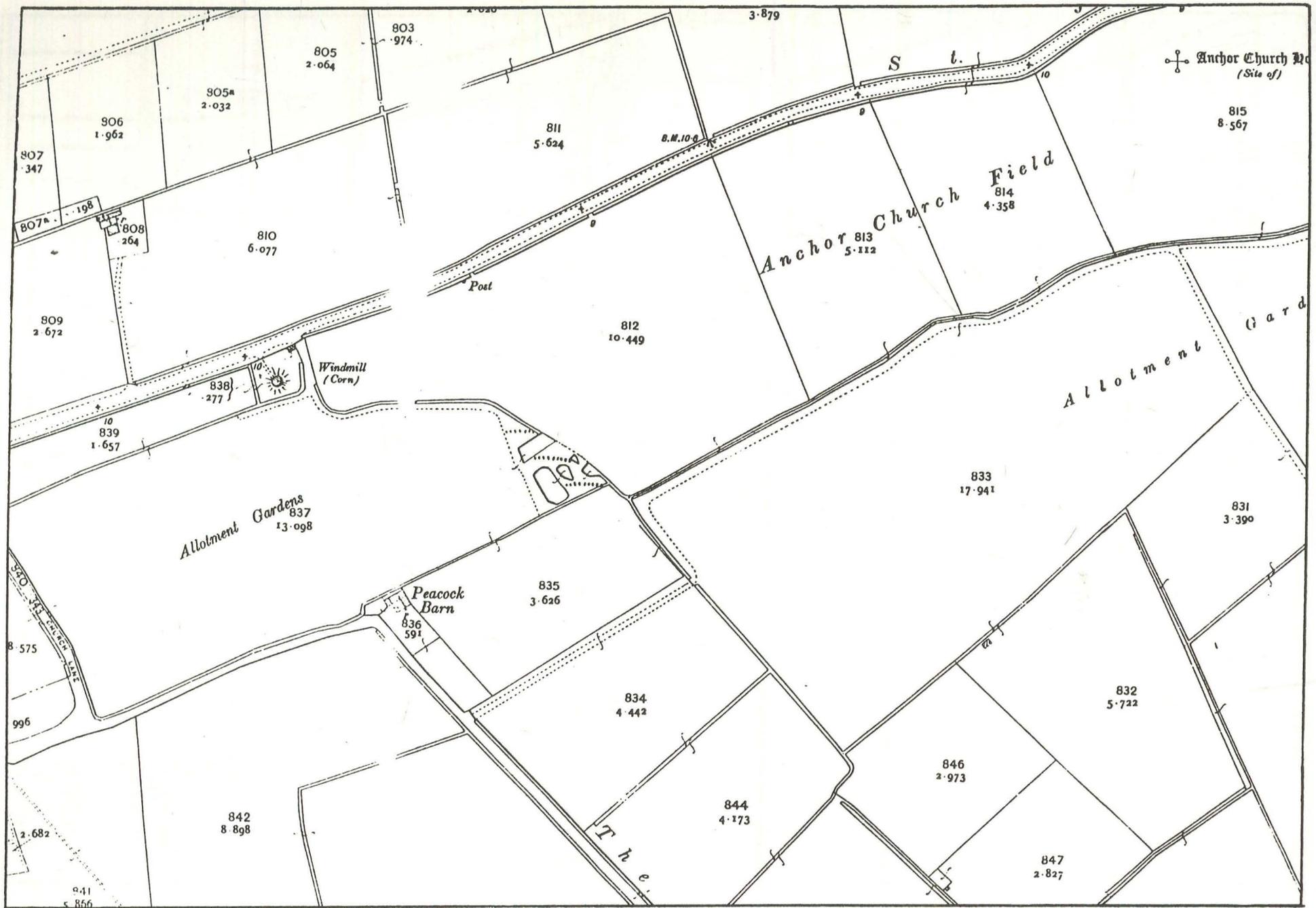


Figure 9 - Extract from the 2nd Edition 25" Ordnance Survey Map, 1904

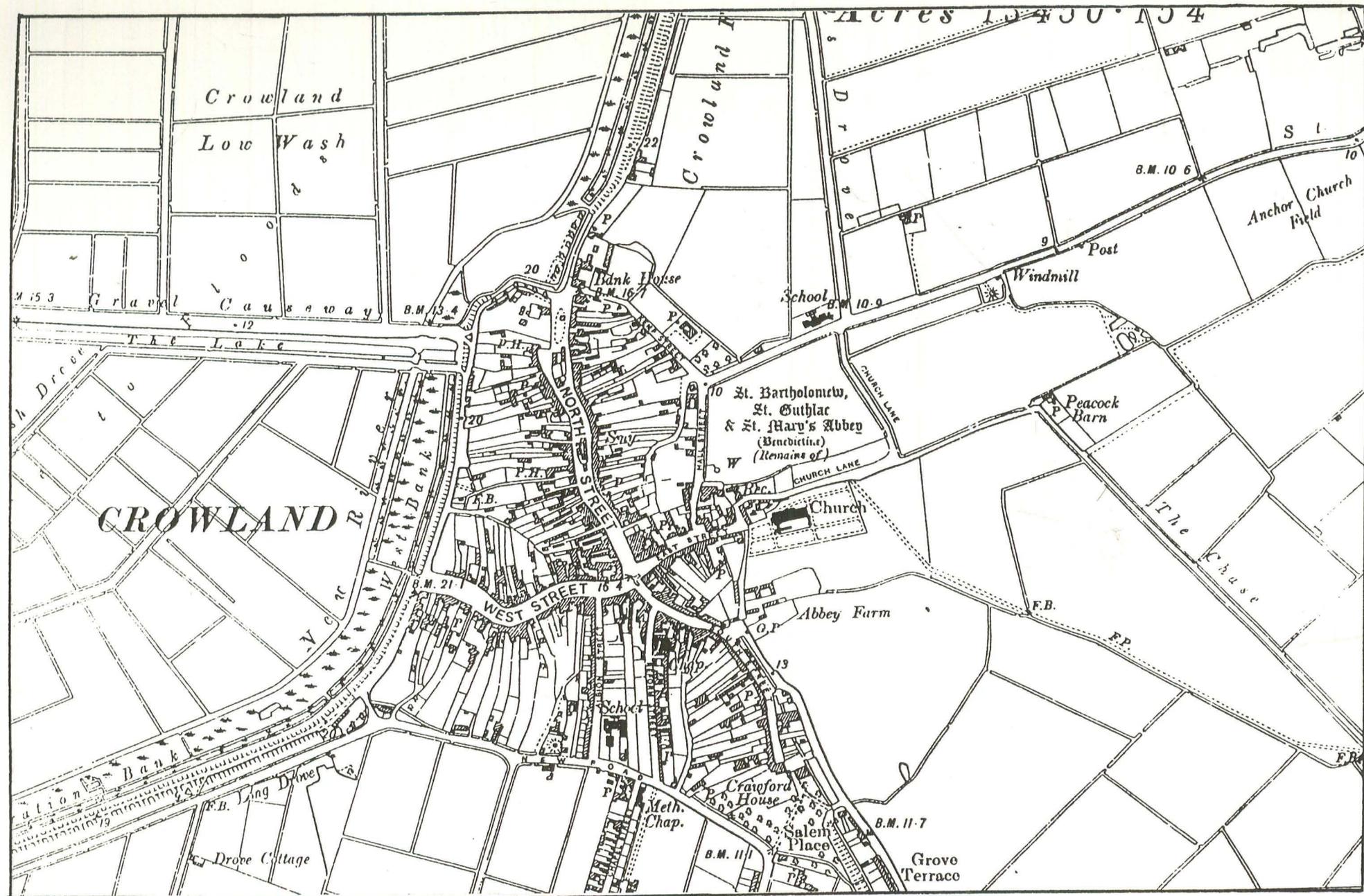


Figure 10 - Extract from the 2nd Edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map, 1906

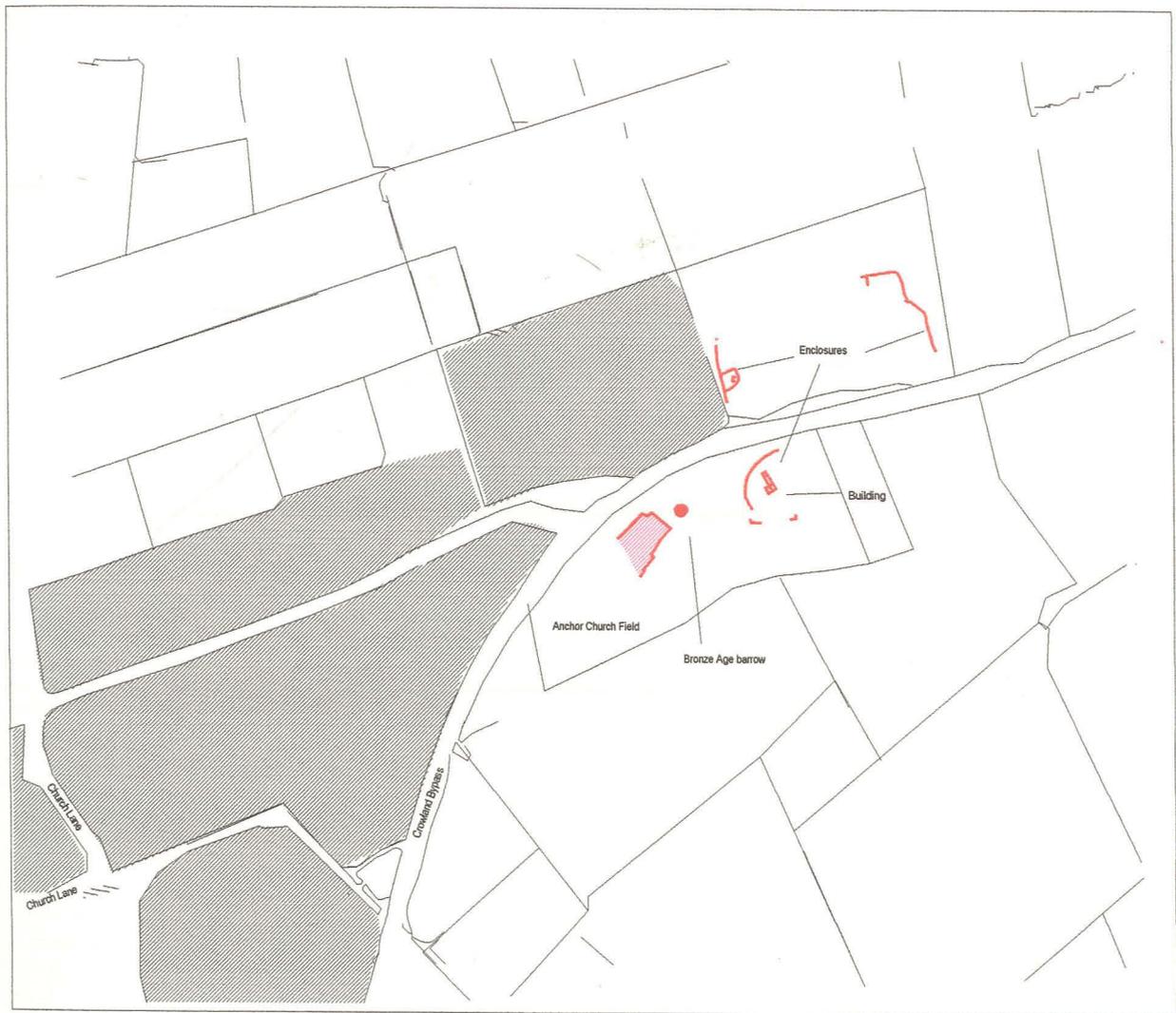
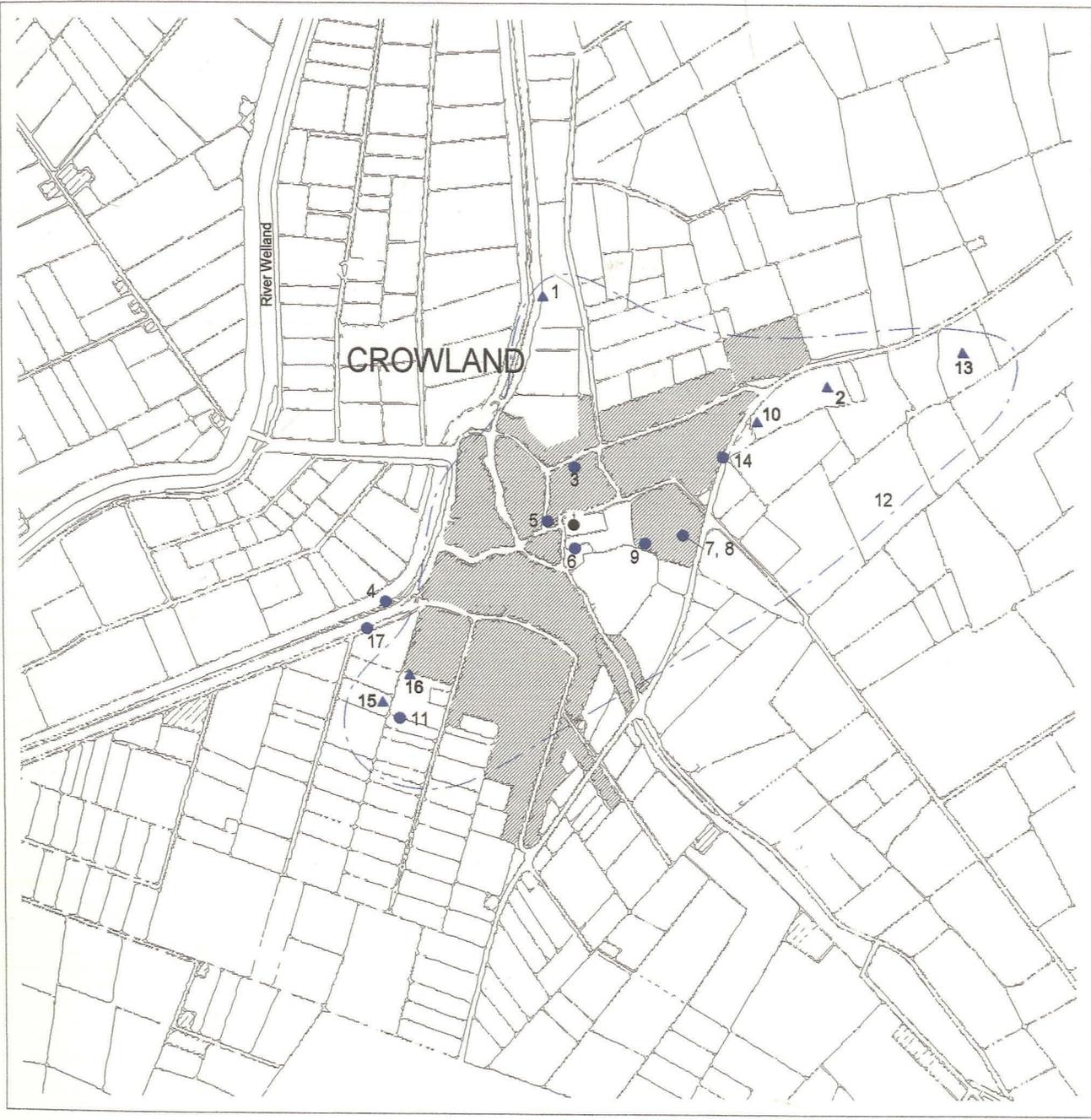


Figure 11 - Cropmarks in the vicinity of Crowland

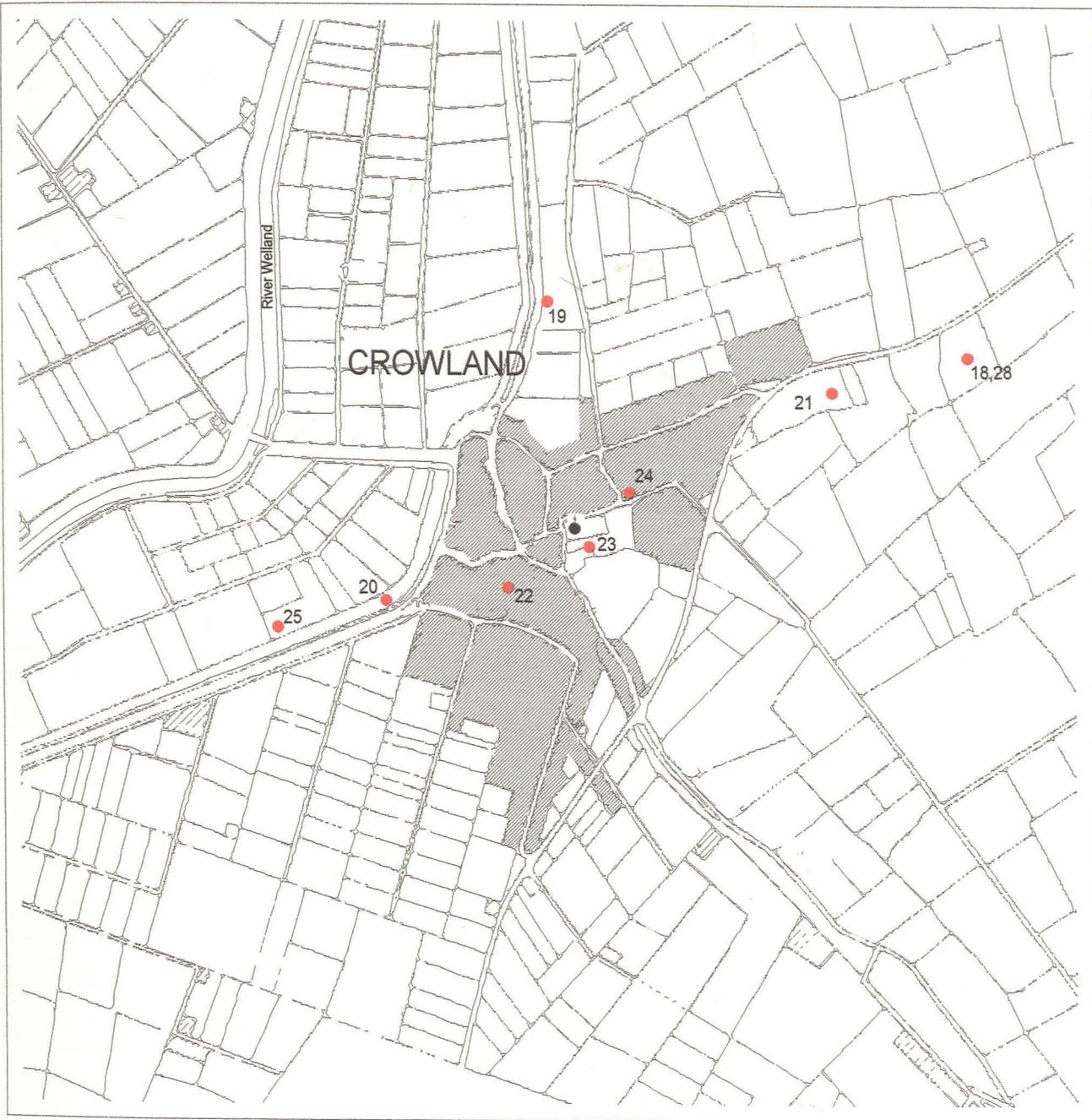


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- Prehistoric findspots
- ▲ Bronze Age Barrows

Figure 12 - Prehistoric sites in the vicinity of Crowland

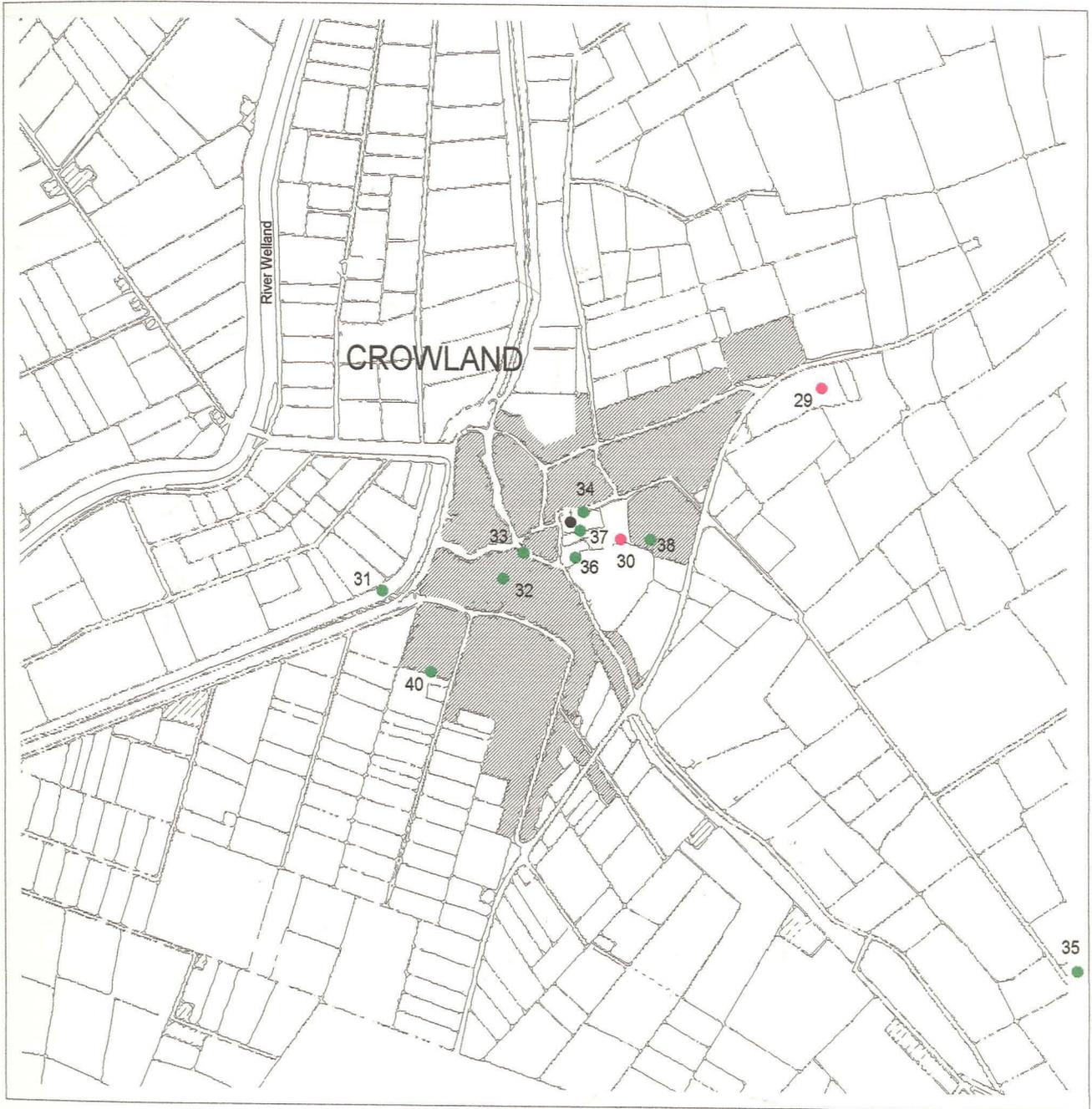


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● Romano-British findspots

Figure 13 - Romano-British sites in the vicinity of Crowland



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- Saxon findspots
- Medieval findspots

Figure 14 - Saxon and Medieval findspots in the vicinity of Crowland

A representation of S. Guthlac's hermitage at Crowland anno Dni 700. A. B. the chapel consecrated by Horda bp of Sidnacoſtor, now Newark. C. Giſſa's cell. D. Botolin's cell. E. Tatwines cell. F. Egberts cell. G. Poga's cell. a ſtack of turf at each, for fuel.

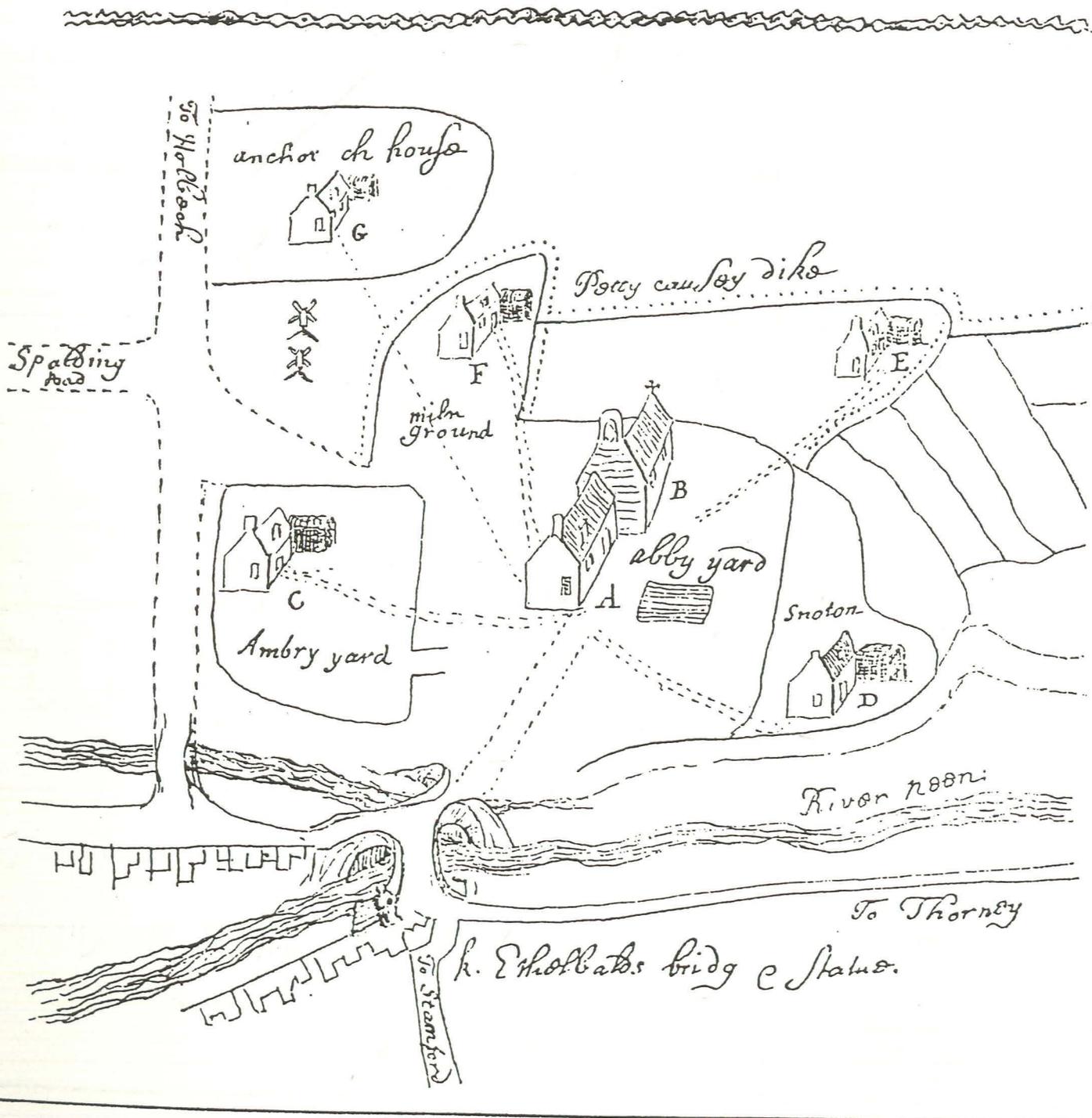
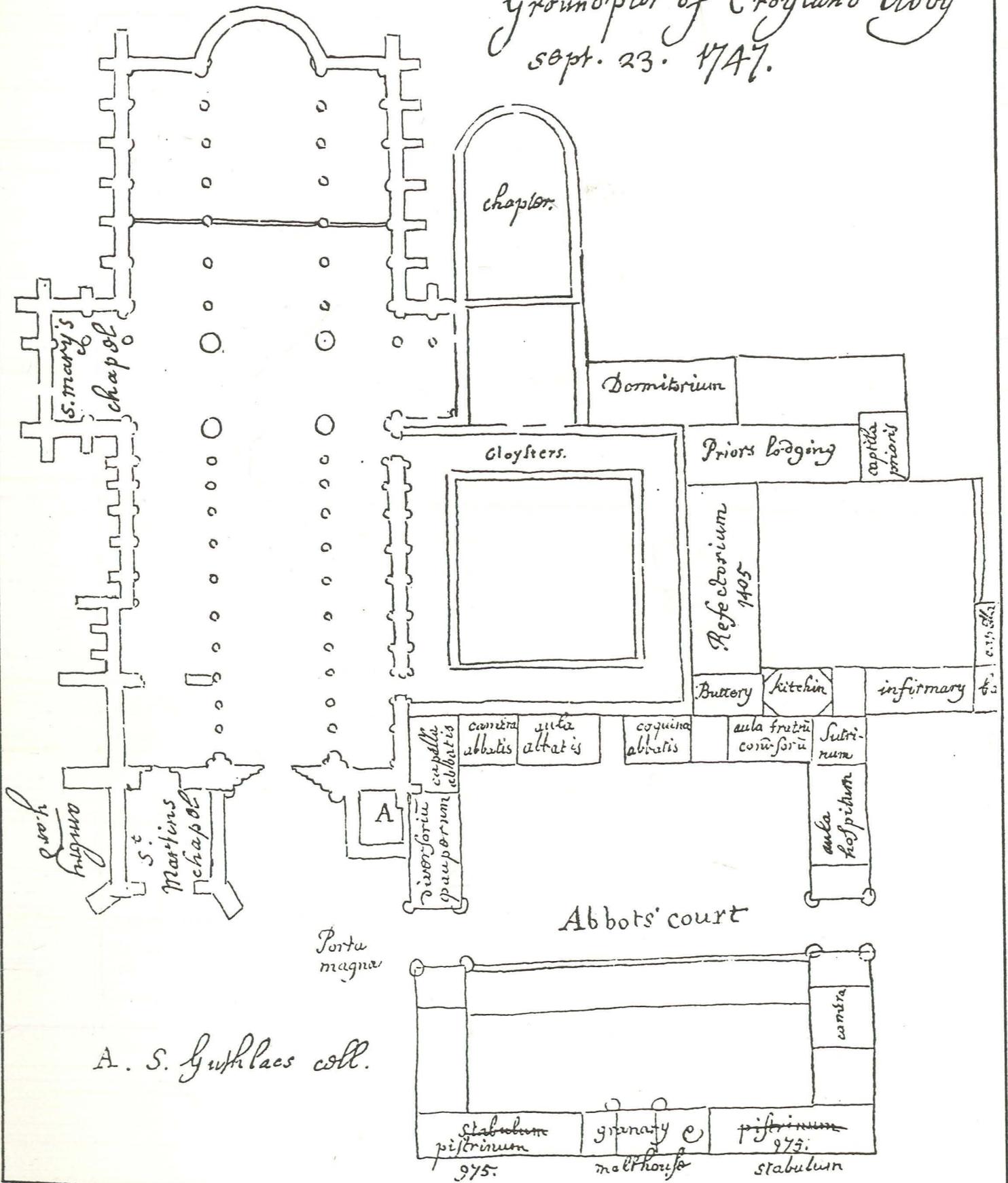


Figure 15 - Stukeley's depiction of the early monastery of Crowland

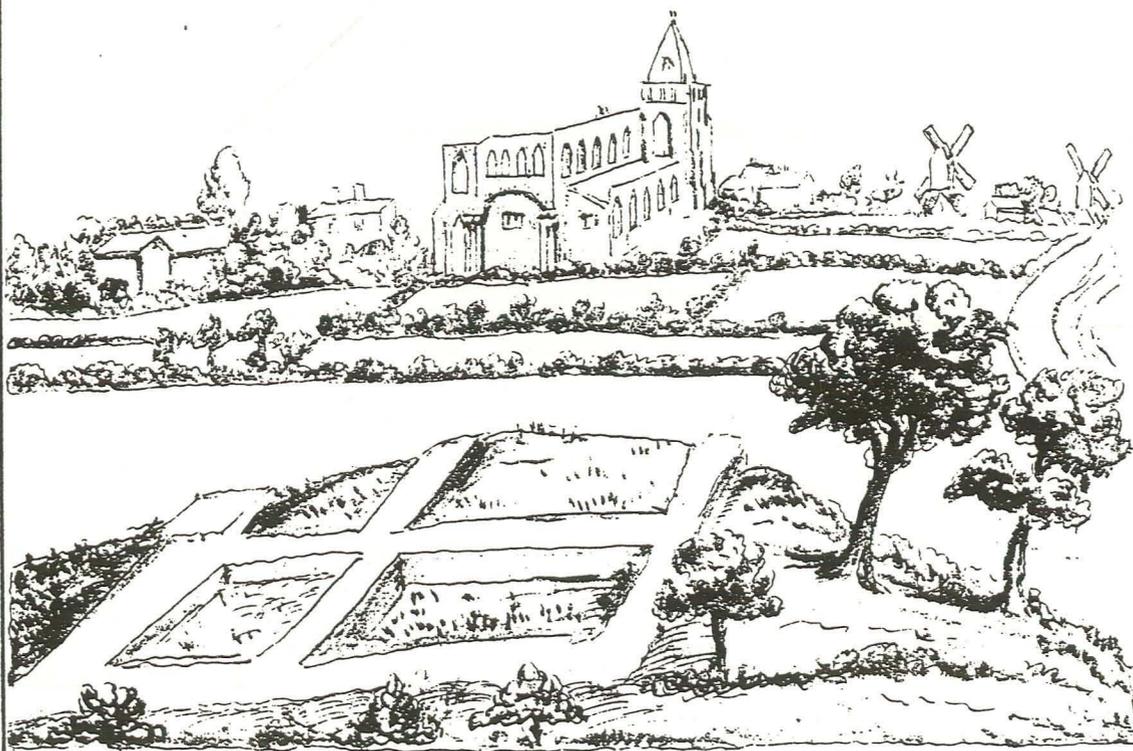
Groundplot of Crowland Abbey  
 sept. 23. 1747.



A. S. Guthlacs coll.

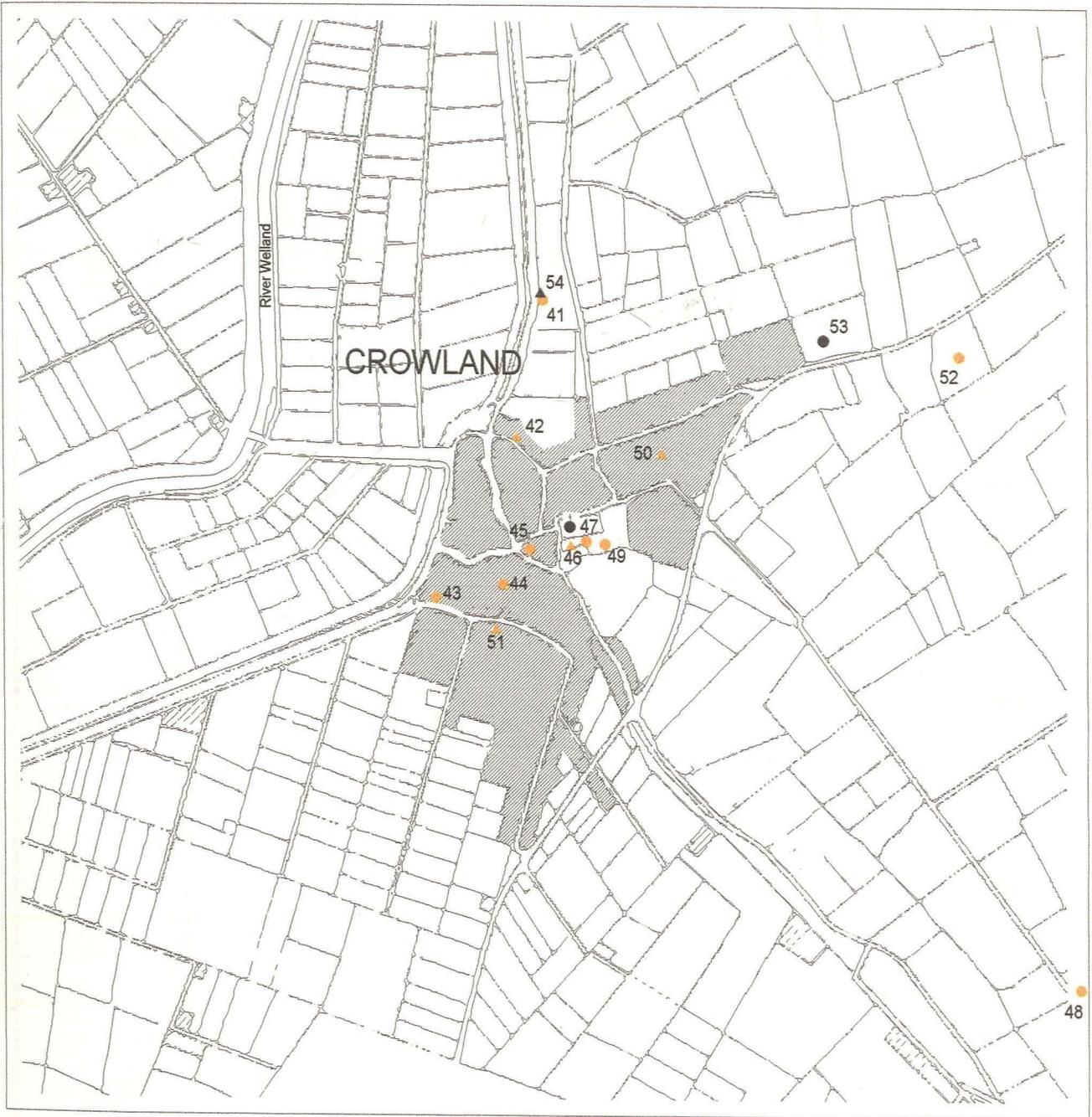
Figure 16 - Stukeley's plan of Crowland Abbey

View of Croyland from Anchorigo house 26. sep  
1735.



This was St. Peter's cell, (St. Guthlac's sister)  
whilst he lived: then she remov'd to Peakirk.  
Alfin too was afterward an anchorite here. Pet. Blos.

Figure 17 - Stukeley's sketch of Anchorage House

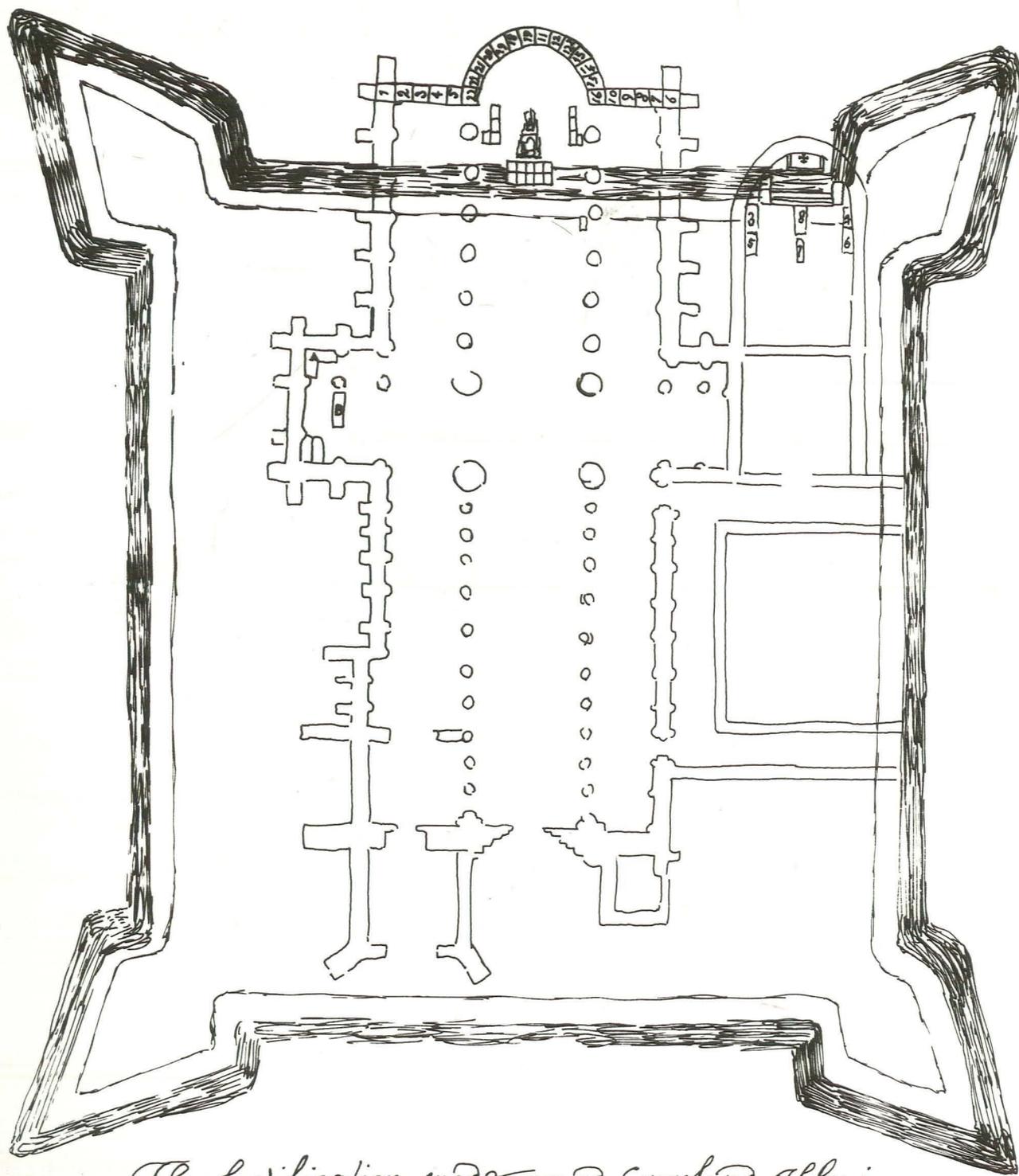


0 1km

N

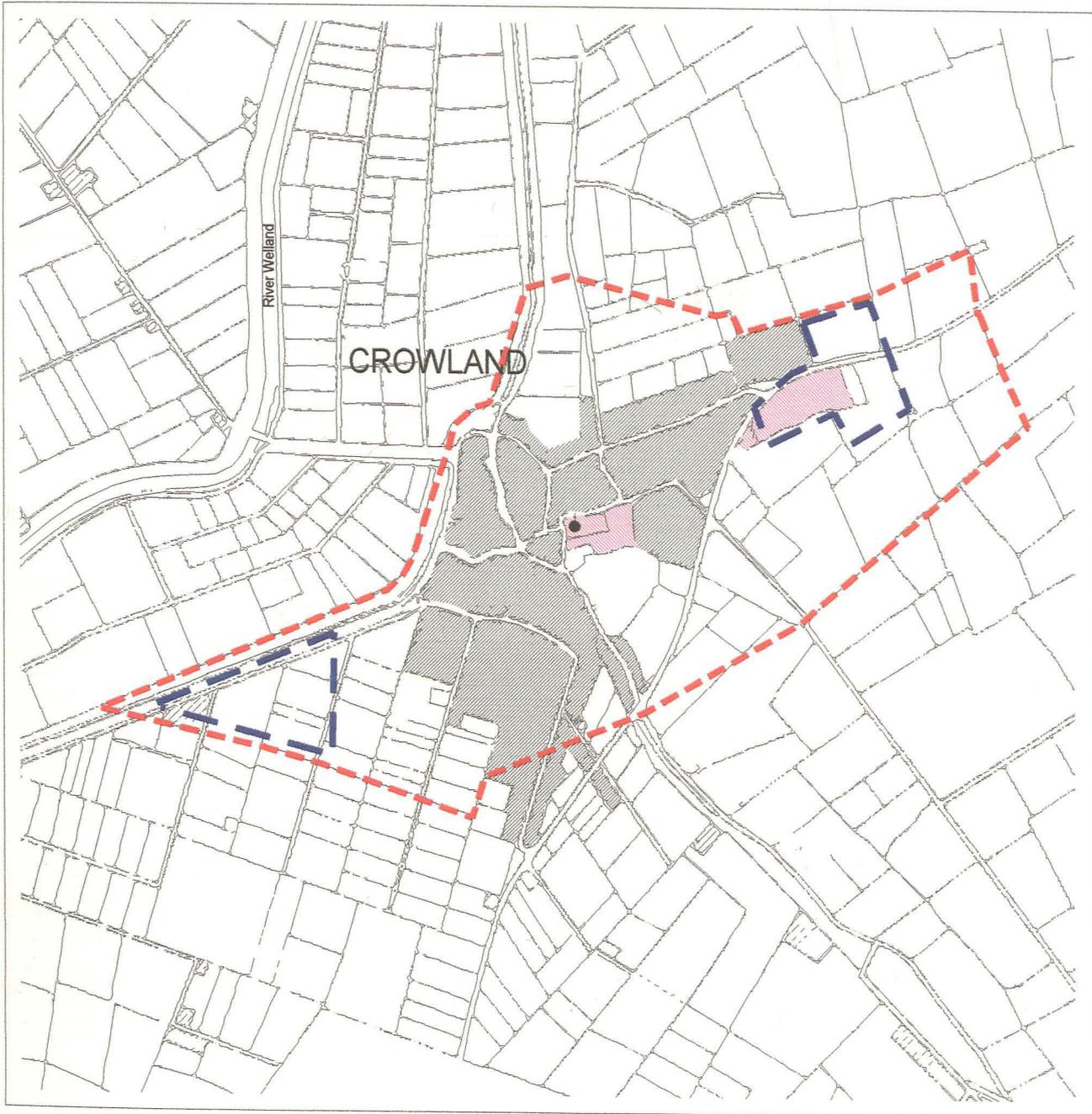
- Post-medieval and modern findspots
- ▲ Windmill mound (possibly indicating a former barrow)
- Undated findspot
- ▲ Undated mound

Figure 18 - Post-medieval and undated findspots in the vicinity of Crowland



The fortification made round Crowland Abby in  
the beginning of the civil wars, by Mr Wolby  
of Godney & the Kings tenants.

Figure 19 - Stukeley's depiction of the Civil War siegeworks at Crowland Abbey



0 1km

N



Limit of Zone 1

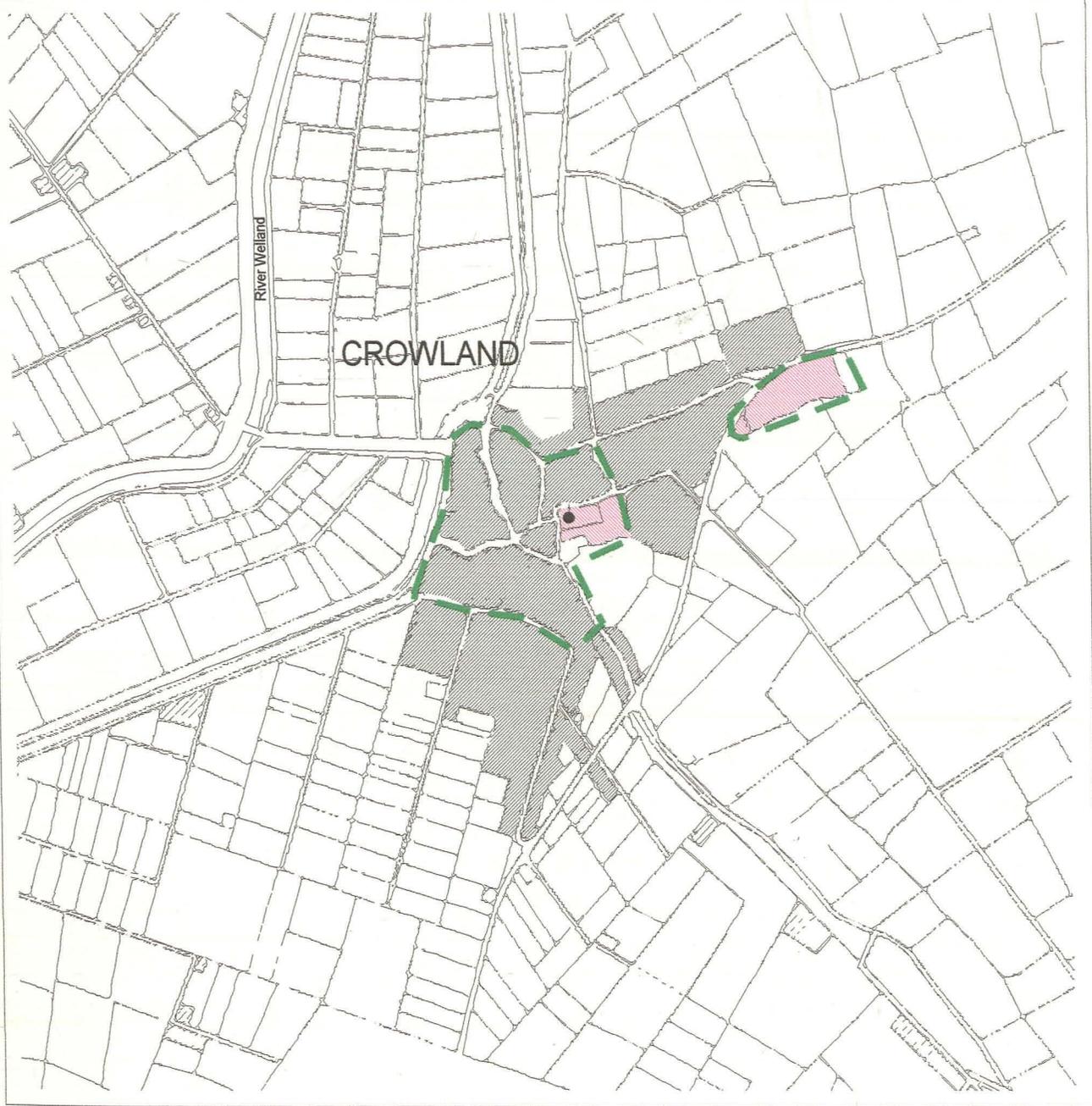


Limit of Zone 2a - Bronze Age cemetery



Limit of Zone 2b - Romano-British settlement

Figure 20 - Zones of Archaeological Interest



0 1km

N



Limit of Zone 1



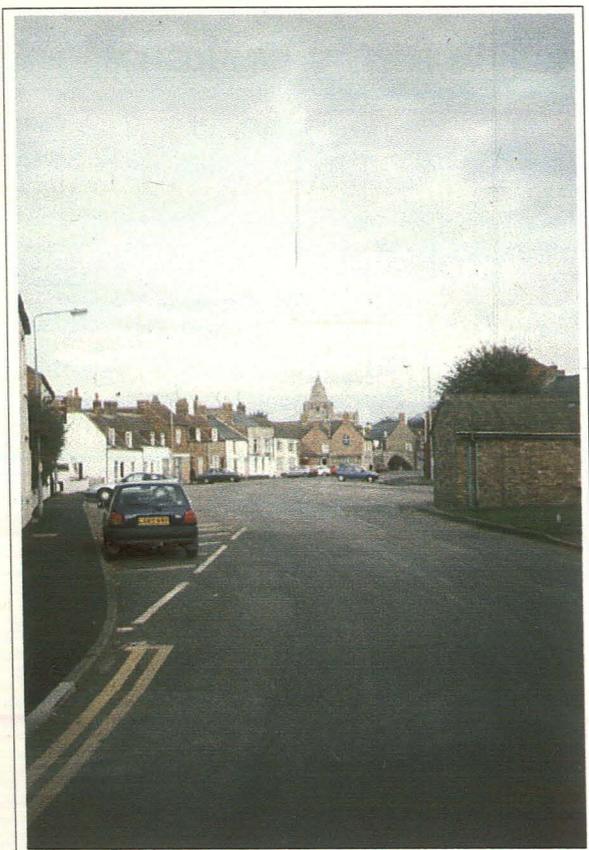
Limit of Zone 2c - Saxon and medieval settlement

Figure 21 - Zones of Archaeological Interest



Plate 1 - Aerial view of Crowland showing the core of the medieval settlement with the abbey in the centre of the photograph. Recent development is visible on the outskirts of the town and within the centre.

(Photo: Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire)



◀ Plate 2 - The main focal points of Crowland are the Trinity Bridge and abbey, here viewed from West Street. (Photo: Archaeological Project Services)

➤ Plate 3 - Soilmarks of a rectangular stone building at Anchor Hill from ground level. Believed to be the site of St. Guthlac's hermitage, Romano-British, Saxon and medieval finds are known from this location which was once a Bronze Age barrow. (Photo: D. Start)



## Appendix 1

### SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS WITHIN CROWLAND PARISH

County Number	Title	Grid Reference
7	Trinity Bridge	TF 240 102
8	St. Guthlac's Cross	TF 261 149
56	Kenulph's Stone	TF 210 093
224	Romano-British settlement	TF 289 142
225	Romano-British settlement	TF 302 139
20817	Medieval boundary earthworks	TF 297 141 - TF 301 140
22613	Ruins and site of Crowland Abbey	TF 242 103

All information from; English Heritage, 1996, *County List of Scheduled Monuments: Lincolnshire*

## Appendix 2

### LISTED BUILDINGS WITHIN CROWLAND

Abbey Walk	Crowland Abbey, 12 <sup>th</sup> century*
East Street	Holy Trinity Bridge*
East Street	18 <sup>th</sup> century mounting block
East Street	The Manor House, 17 <sup>th</sup> century
East Street	Nos. 13 and 15, 19 <sup>th</sup> century, 2 shops
East Street	War memorial, c. 1918
North Street	Nos. 45 and 47, Formerly 2 cottages, 1793
North Street	No. 65, Cottage, 18 <sup>th</sup> century
North Street	The George and Angel Public House, 1714
North Street	No. 46, Cottage, 18 <sup>th</sup> century
South Street	No. 53, Cottage, 18 <sup>th</sup> century
Thorney Street	Crawford House, Late 17 <sup>th</sup> century
West Street	Nos. 33 and 35, Cottages, 18 <sup>th</sup> century
West Street	Nos. 50 and 52, Cottages, 1811
West Street	No. 14, Shop and house, c. 1820

\* Grade I listed building

All information from DoE, n.d., *List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest: District of South Holland*

### Appendix 3

#### 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 4

### GLOSSARY

<b>Cropmark</b>	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
<b>Geophysical Survey</b>	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.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	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.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School • Cameron Street • Heckington • Sleaford • Lincs • NG34 9RW  
Tel. (01529) 461618 • Fax (01529) 461001

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