

Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
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Mill Street, Clowne, Derbyshire
An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment 2003

(Planning Application Reference Number BOL/03/00012/FULMAJ)

by
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**Mill Street, Clowne, Derbyshire:
An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment 2003**

(Planning Application Reference Number BOL/03/00012/FULMAJ)

Summary

An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) in April 2003 of a site in Clowne, near Chesterfield, Derbyshire (NGR SK 4492 3757). The assessment was carried out ahead of proposed development on the site to assess its archaeological potential. The assessment examined the available documentary and cartographic evidence and incorporated a site visit in order to identify features or potential features of archaeological or historical value. There is some ambiguity surrounding the development of the village. The church is situated approximately 1.2km from the village centre and the street layout is very irregular in plan. The assessment revealed that the study area has remained largely undeveloped from the medieval period onwards, thus the possibility of good survival of any below-ground archaeological deposits is high. Deposits may include evidence for Roman activity across the site, due the proximity of the site to a known Roman road. Also, Saxon and medieval remains, the village suffered very badly from plague in the 1500's and evidence for the contraction of the settlement at this time may also be observed.

1.0 Introduction

This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit (BUFAU) on behalf of Fairhurst and Partners, ahead of the proposed development of a site in Clowne, Derbyshire (centred on NGR SK 4492 3757, hereafter referred to as the study area', Figs. 1-2). The proposed development (Planning Application Reference Number BOL/03/00012/FULMAJ) is for the erection of a Tesco store, petrol station, car parking and relief road. As the study area may contain archaeological remains that would be affected by the proposed development, an assessment of its archaeological implications was required in advance of consideration of the proposals. This is in accordance with government advice in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 *Archaeology and Planning*. This desk-based assessment forms the first stage of assessment of the impact of the proposed development. The aim of the report is to provide a summary of known and potential archaeological information for the study area, based on existing data, in order to enable appropriate archaeological mitigation strategies to be devised. The assessment adheres to a brief supplied by Dr Myers, Development Control Archaeologist for Bolsover District Council (Appendix I) and guidelines set down in the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999).

2.0 Location of study area

The study area is located in the centre of the village of Clowne, 9 miles northeast of Chesterfield (Figs. 1 and 2). The study area is bounded by North Road and Mill Street to the east and south. To the north and west are bowling greens, tennis courts and the back gardens of properties fronting onto Chestnut Drive.

The majority of the site comprises areas of scrub land, with areas of hardstanding and asphalt off Mill St. and North Road used for car parking. A house and garden, Holly House is in the centre of the study area. A Co-operative supermarket lies to the east on North Road and residential properties line Mill Street to the south.

3.0 Objectives

The objectives of this assessment were to determine the likely survival and significance of archaeological remains within the study area, to identify the need for any further archaeological work in advance of the proposed development (if any), and to identify potential requirements for any *in situ* preservation of archaeological remains, or for their recording in advance of, or during, development.

More specific aims of the assessment were to consider the study area in relation to the historical development of Clowne, and the modern layout of the village.

4.0 Methodology

Documentary research of primary and secondary records and maps held at the Derbyshire Records Office, the Derbyshire Local Studies Library, and Birmingham University Library was undertaken. Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record was also consulted. All sources consulted are listed below.

5.0 Geology and topography

Clowne lies on an escarpment of limestone surrounded by areas of Mercia mudstone. The church is situated on one of these clay beds. The study area is situated on a south-facing slope, which rises gently up to Chestnut Drive.

6.0 Archaeological and historical background

As no previous archaeological excavations have taken place in or near to the village, the following background is based solely on documentary and cartographic evidence and the Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record.

Prehistoric and Roman

The Iron Age hill fort of Markland Grips is located 2km miles to the east of Clowne (SK 511752). Exact dates of occupation are unknown although Late Iron Age and 2nd and 3rd century Roman pottery has been found within the fort defences (Lane 1969, 59-67). A Roman road ran northwards from Templeborough Fort to Broxtowe, 4km northwest of

Nottingham, passing along the western edge of Clowne (Hornshaw and Fullelove 1974, SMR 4404, Fig. 3). Buckley (1977, 49) states 'that according to an expert in archaeology, Clowne was once the site of a Roman fortress', unfortunately he does not say who the expert is or why he believes that there was a fort in the village, although he may be referring to Markland Grips to the east of Clowne. Given the proximity of the study area to the Roman road (within 500m, Fig. 3 SMR 4404), there is a possibility of Roman activity, particularly in the roadside area.

Saxon and medieval

The name Clowne, formerly Clown, probably originates from the Celtic word Clun, meaning place of springs or water way. Other suggested origins for the name are from 'Cloon' meaning a meadow (Barber 1897) or from *C. Celyn*, the holly (Davis 1880). The name first appears as Clune in the will of Wulfric Spott. Wulfric Spott was the founder of Burton Abbey. When he died in 1002 he left most of his property to the Abbey. There is some argument as to whether he left Clowne manor to the Abbey or not. It seems generally accepted that he did (WSAS 1916), however, Buckley (1977) offers an alternative theory. He suggests that the manor actually passed into the hands of a man called Morcar 'the will clearly leaves Clowne to Morcar, the chief thane of the seven boroughs' (*ibid.*, 8). Morcar was murdered at the Great Council of Oxford in 1015 and all his property was confiscated by King Ethelred. If Clowne was part of Morcar's estate then it would have become the King's at this time. By approximately 1060 the land belonged to a man named Ernui (or Earnwig). Ownership of the land from Ethelred's time to that of Ernui is unknown, Buckley suggests that the manor passed to King Edmund and was then given to a man named Leofnoth before coming into the hands of Ernui. His evidence for this succession is not wholly implausible.

The manor of Clune is mentioned in the Domesday book. Eight bovates of land were assessed, six of which belonged to Ernui. Clowne was unusual in that Ernui still owned the land in 1086. He was one of a very small number of English lords who retained his lands after the conquest. The land was worth 20 shillings in 1066 but only eight by the time that the Domesday Book was compiled. There is no mention of a church in the Domesday Book. As the local churches in surrounding villages were mentioned e.g. Bolsover, it may be that one did not exist in Clowne at this time.

The Church of St. John the Baptist (then called All Saints) was built during the reign of King Stephen (1135-1154) approximately 1.2km distant from the present village centre. Much of the 12th century build still survives, although a new church roof was built in the 14th century, and the church was substantially rebuilt in the 20th century (Widdows 1948). The location of the church 1.2km distant from the modern village centre has led to discussion as to whether the village originated around the church and then moved northwards, which is a possibility, particularly in the 14th century, as a relocation resulting perhaps from an outbreak of the plague. The land is more fertile around the present village, which lies on a limestone escarpment, compared to the land adjoining the church is (Buckley 1977, 20), although the Clowne Acreage Returns for 1801 states that 'The land in this parish is in general, very poor'.

The plague certainly took its toll in Derbyshire. In 1349-50 77 out of 108 members of the clergy died of it. If that ratio is applied to the rest of the population over two thirds would have died in that year. Clowne may have escaped the first wave, but in 1586-87 the village was decimated. The average monthly burial rate before this year was three, but in June 1587, 54 people were interred and in the following July, 52 (Buckley 1977, 25). Most of the land in Clowne was enclosed in the 1380s by the Folvilles and the Freschvilles.

Another possible reason for the location of the church away from the modern village may be its situation near to the Roman road (see above). The road is believed to have still been in use during the medieval period, and it has been suggested that the church was built for use by travellers rather than by the villagers (Buckley 1977, 15). Indeed, the church does appear to exist in isolation, with no evidence of crop marks or earthworks associated with a deserted settlement in its vicinity. However, it is more usual for settlements to be laid out around the church. There is also no archaeological evidence, so far, relating to the Saxon village. The scheduled base of a cross (SAM 23387, SMR 4403), dated stylistically to the 14th century, is located in the village square, this may suggest that the village was established here by this time, alternatively the monument may have been moved from elsewhere in the village.

Post-medieval

There is little evidence concerning the village in the early post-medieval period. Only occasional references to land owners and tax returns survive. The population was recorded as 55 households in 1563 (Ridden 1978, 63), by 1677 it was approximately 390 individuals (Buckley 1977, 52). It stayed roughly at this level until the beginning of the 19th century (421 in 1801).

The population of the village rose rapidly in the second half of the 19th century from 704 in 1861 to 3896 in 1901. The building of the Southgate Colliery in 1877 just to the east of the village and construction of the rail network to transport the coal had a substantial effect on the village. Today all the buildings in the village appear 18th century or later. Despite the rapid increase in population, the map evidence suggests that there may have been little development within the study area.

The village continued to be called Clown up until the end of the 19th century, when the 'e' was added. This was allegedly due to railway workers laughing at the inhabitants and calling them Clowns (Christian 1988, 38).

7.0 Cartographic evidence

One of the earliest maps of Clowne, dating to 1713, outlines the properties belonging to various landowners. The study area is not shown on the map, however, the early maps serve to demonstrate that by the early 18th century the village was well established with its centre around the cross, as today. The Enclosure Map of Bolsover and Clowne (1778) is the first map to show the study area and the surrounding street pattern. Several small

buildings are shown within the study area, but there is no indication as to their function or date.

The layout of the village is itself quite unusual. Apart from the church being located so far from the centre, the street plan is also irregular, and several plan elements can be detected. Properties in the area around the square, the eastern part of the High Street and along Mill Street appear to be the earliest in the village, with Church Street laid out later. The earliest plots are characterised by being irregular, short, and broad. It has been suggested that the several doglegs in Mill Lane and High Street may be due to the road running around the edges of existing fields (Buckley 1877, 18). This is probably true of the western part of the High Street and Church Street which both fit with the east-west orientation of the strip pattern of the medieval field system to the south of the village. A later block of more regular and more characteristic burgage type plots is visible on the north side of the western stretch of the High Street. These may be 14th century in origin, as other building work was being undertaken on the church at this time which suggests a degree of prosperity. They may also be associated with the redevelopment of the village following an outbreak of plague.

By the time that the Tithe Map was surveyed in 1839 the village had expanded, with more properties being laid out. Only two buildings are shown occupying the study area, one on the frontage of the High Street, and the other on the southern boundary of the study area at the rear of one of the property boundaries. The Apportionment lists all the properties as homesteads and associated outbuildings, all of the open areas are described as grass.

The Ordnance Survey maps show little in the way of post-medieval disturbance within the study area itself. The earliest railway line is visible to the north of the study area on the First Edition OS Map (Fig. 4) and properties have been built all along Mill Street and North Street. These include the Candlewick Mill in Mill Street (Christian 1988), which presumably gave the road its name. There are no buildings visible occupying the study area. Holly House first appears on the Second Edition OS Map (1911, Fig. 5). By this time Clowne had become more built-up, and a second railway line, The Poulter Valley Line, had been constructed along the northern boundary of the site. This line was later dismantled but its route is still preserved along the track running along the rear of the Co-Operative supermarket from North Road, and along the present Chestnut Drive. The associated Railway Stations lay outside the study area. The 1984 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5) shows a large building in the south of the study area, which is no longer extant.

8.0 Walkover survey

A walkover survey was conducted to assess the present character of the study area. The area is currently mostly open scrub land (Plates 1-8). A footpath runs across from Chestnut Drive past Holly House towards Mill Street (Plates 3 and 4). Holly House (Plates 5 and 7) is now derelict and boarded up. Car parking areas occupy parts of the southern boundary, to the rear of shops fronting on to Mill St (Plate 6). To the east is a

Co-Operative supermarket and associated car parking areas (Plate 1). The land slopes gently upwards from the south.

9.0 Conclusions and recommendations

The following recommendations are provisional and subject to approval by Dr Myers, Development Control Archaeologist for Bolsover District Council. The development of the town of Clowne remains open to debate, however, the proximity of the study area to the heart of the medieval settlement may help to shed light on this. The assessment found that the study area has probably lain within the centre of the village of Clowne since at least the 14th century. Thus, evidence relating to the layout of the medieval settlement, especially early property boundaries may be present on the site. The cartographic evidence revealed that the study area has not undergone any significant development at any time, this suggests the possibility of good below-ground preservation of any existing deposits. The village suffered very badly from plague during the 16th century, and evidence for the contraction of the settlement at this time may also be present on the site.

There is also a possibility of activity from earlier periods surviving, perhaps associated with the Saxon foundation of the village. The exact location of the Saxon village is unknown but may be resolved by investigating the archaeology within the study area. The presence of a Roman road so close to the Study Area could also suggest the possibility of archaeological remains from this period surviving.

In short, due to the lack of later disturbance within the study area there is a high potential for survival of below-ground archaeological remains surviving in-situ. Thus, it may be considered appropriate, to undertake an archaeological evaluation, consisting of trial-trenching within the study area. The results of such an evaluation would indicate whether or not any further archaeological mitigation work would be required ahead of any development, such as excavation or the provision for *in situ* preservation of archaeological remains encountered.

10.0 Acknowledgements

This report was researched and written by Emma Hancox and was edited by Alex Jones. Kirsty Nichol managed the project on behalf of BUFAU. The figures and plates were prepared by John Halsted. Thanks are due to the staff at the Derbyshire County Records Office and the Local Studies Library, also to Gill Stroud the Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Records Officer.

11.0 Sources

Textual

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Cartographic

1713 two maps showing land ownership in Clowne.

1778 Bolsover and Clowne Enclosure map.

1839 Clowne Tithe Act and Award.

c.1880 1st Edition Ordnance Survey.

1911 Ordnance Survey.

1984 Ordnance Survey.

1998 Ordnance Survey.

APPENDIX I

Brief for an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment in Connection with a Planning Application:

Location: 'Land between Chestnut Drive, North Road, The Green and Mill Street, Clowne'
NGR: SK49147561

Applicant: Tesco Stores Limited.

Planning Application Reference Number: BOL/03/00012/FULMAJ
District Planning Officer: Mr S. Phillipson (Bolsover District Council)

Brief Issued by: Dr. A. M. Myers – Development Control Archaeologist for Bolsover District Council

Date: 17th April 2003

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Tesco Stores Ltd. have submitted a planning application to Bolsover District Council (BOL/03/00012/FULMAJ) for the redevelopment of a block of land between Chestnut Drive, North Road, The Green and Mill Street, Clowne' (NGR: SK49147561) affecting some 3.3ha. The proposed development includes the demolition of some existing buildings and the erection of a retail store, petrol station and car parking, the construction of a relief road and some associated works.

1.2 This brief sets-out the requirements for an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) of the proposed development site. The Bolsover District Local Plan (adopted February 2000) recognises in para. 8.57,

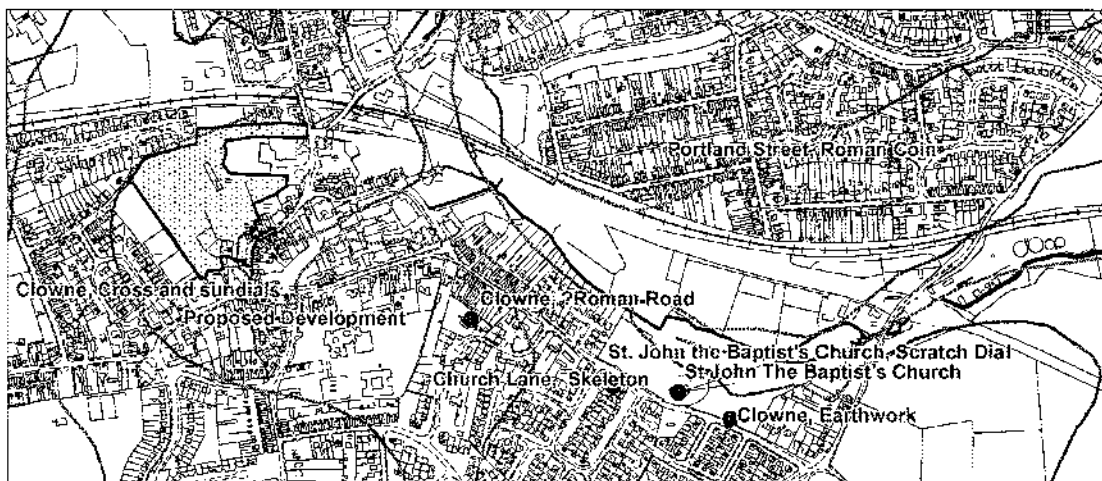
'In many cases, an archaeological appraisal of a development site may be required. In the first instance, this may simply be a desk-based project using existing records, but it may lead to a field evaluation to establish the nature and extent of the remains. The results of an archaeological appraisal should be submitted as part of a planning application where the site is of known, or potential, archaeological significance. Paragraphs 19-22 of PPG16 "Archaeology and Planning (1990)" provide advice on this procedure.'

This approach is embodied in Bolsover District Local Plan Policy CON 13.

2.0 Archaeological Background

2.1 The application site is located in the centre of the current settlement. Today Clowne is a settlement in decline after the collapse of the coal mining industry. Much of Clowne's present form was derived from becoming a coal mining town through the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries. However, there are traces of a much older settlement history. There is a Scheduled medieval cross-base and sundial (Mon. No. 23387: SMR 4403) located within 50m of the southern boundary of the present application. Clowne features in Domesday (1086). Despite the evidence for Clowne's medieval origins little is known or understood about the nature of the settlement from that time until recent centuries. The Domesday description has no mention of a priest or church. The listed church of St John's the Baptist, believed to date back to at least the twelfth century, is located some distance from the centre of the current town. This raises a number of questions concerning the historical development of Clowne. Where and how large was

the settlement from the time of Domesday (and before)? How does the construction of the eleventh century church relate to the earlier settlement? At what date did Clowne's current centre develop? Has the centre of Clowne's settlement shifted in the past? If so, when and why?



Map showing the application site and locations of SMR entries.

3.0 Desk Based Assessment: Approach

3.1 The DBA must seek to draw together all relevant and available cartographic, documentary and photographic sources. A functional record of the existing buildings that includes basic construction descriptions and, where appropriate, photographs or diagrammatic sketches should be included. Any evidence for the survival of earlier stonework relating to previous buildings on the site should be recorded.

3.2 The following should be consulted:

- i) Plans and maps of the site including all available Ordnance Surveys. Historic mapping evidence should be used to document as far as is possible the development of the site, its land-use and its buildings, within the context of Clowne's overall development. These should be used to produce a clear plan or plans of the site on which buildings and structures identified from historic mapping are drawn at a consistent scale.
- ii) The following historic maps should certainly be included:

| | | | | |
|--------|--|------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Clowne | Woodthorpe and Clowne Moor * | 1637 | WEO | Senior vol., 41 v. |
| Clowne | Lands in and about Clowne, giving field names etc. * | 1713- c. 1830 | DRO | D547 M/P5-8 |
| Clowne | Parliamentary Enclosure Plan (see Old Bolsover) | 1780 | DRO | |
| Clowne | Map of Bolsover, Oxcroft & Clowne | c. 1800 | WEO | Ref. no. 2 |
| Clowne | Romeley and Old Romeley | c. 1829 | SA | Clo 11. |
| Clowne | Sections of lands showing mineral layers | 1831 | CEO | 3322 |
| Clowne | Tithe Map | 1839 | DRO | D2360/187a |

DRO reference numbers in brackets had not been traced/updated when this assessment was made.

CEO Chatsworth Estate Office
 DRO Derbyshire Record Office, Matlock
 SA Sheffield Archives

WEO Welbeck Estate Office (information from NA & 'Maps pre 1770' book)

- ii) Place name evidence

iii) Aerial Photographs

iv) Historical documents and photographs held in local museums, libraries and archives.

v) Trade and Business Directories

vi) Archaeological, historical or industrial journals or books

vii) Derbyshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

viii) Historic Landscape Character Assessment (held by Derbyshire SMR)

vi) Geotechnical data, where available.

3.3 Upstanding buildings on the site should be photographed and/ or sketched, and a description provided identifying main construction features and materials, age, function, and visible evidence for phasing.

3.4 Site photographs can be done using either a digital camera or SLR film camera to produce colour images.

3.5 A photographic register detailing location and direction of each shot must be completed. This should relate directly to a plan of the site indicating the position and direction of each photograph, suitably labelled.

3.6 Sketch illustrations of the upstanding buildings or parts thereof should be clearly labelled and the scale indicated. Any existing architects surveys of plans/ elevations if available can be used after checking for dimensional accuracy.

3.7 The preparation of the DBA should follow the guidelines published by the Institute of Field Archaeology.

4.0 Desk Based Assessment: Report

4.1 Bound copies should be provided for the interested parties including the developer and their agent (or as many as agreed), Bolsover District Council, the Development Control Archaeologist and the Sites and Monuments Record.

4.2 An digital copy of the report including illustrations and photographs (PDF Format) should be submitted to the Sites and Monuments Record.

4.3 The DBA report should include as a minimum (see 3.0 above for any specific requirements):

- Non-technical summary
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purpose of the assessment
- Methodology
- An objective summary statement of results
- Conclusion, including a confidence statement
- Supporting illustrations and plans at appropriate scales
- Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices
- Index to archive and details of archive location
- References
- A copy of this brief

5.0 Health and Safety

5.1 Whilst on site all archaeologists will operate with due regard to health and safety regulations.

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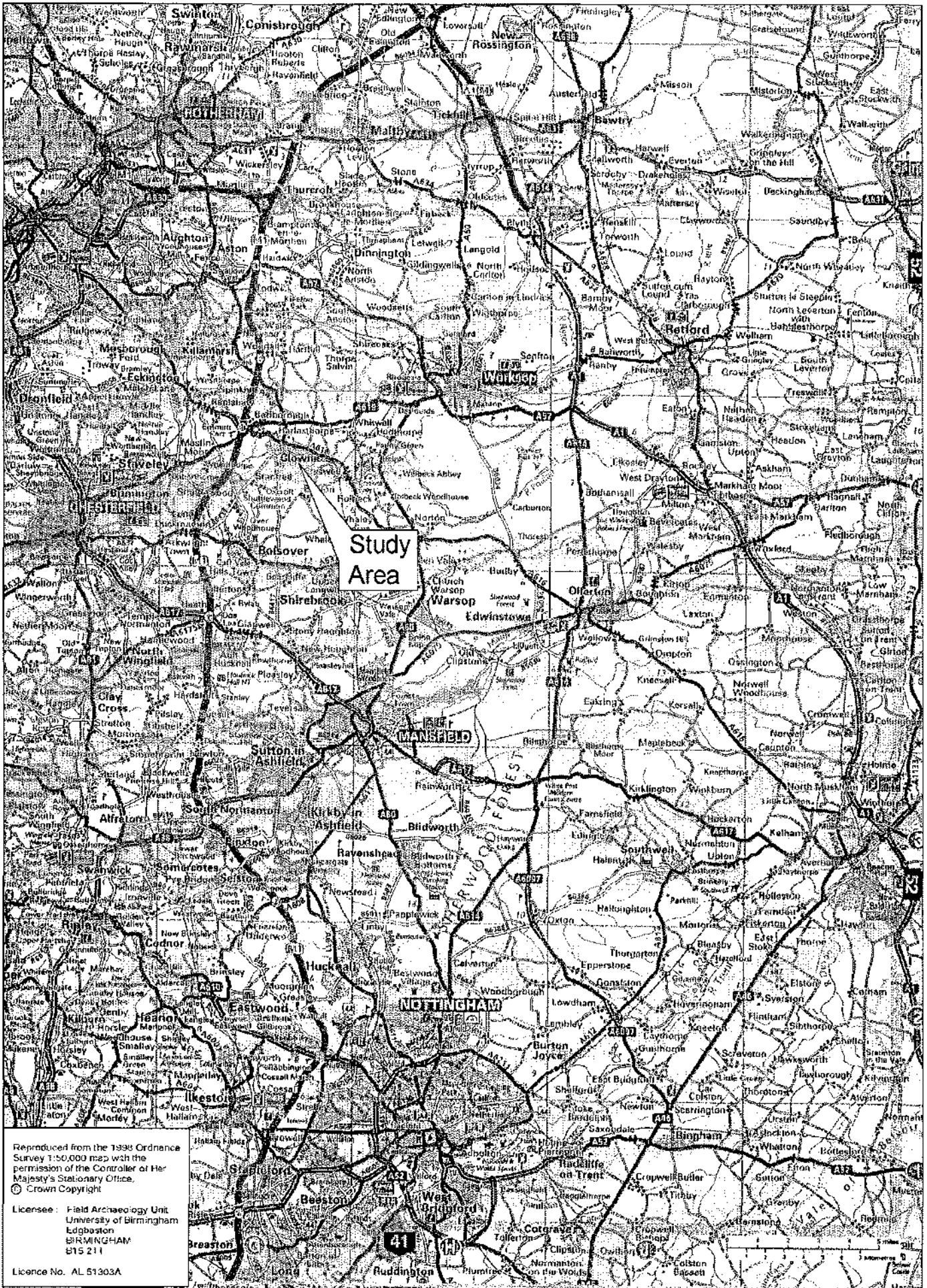
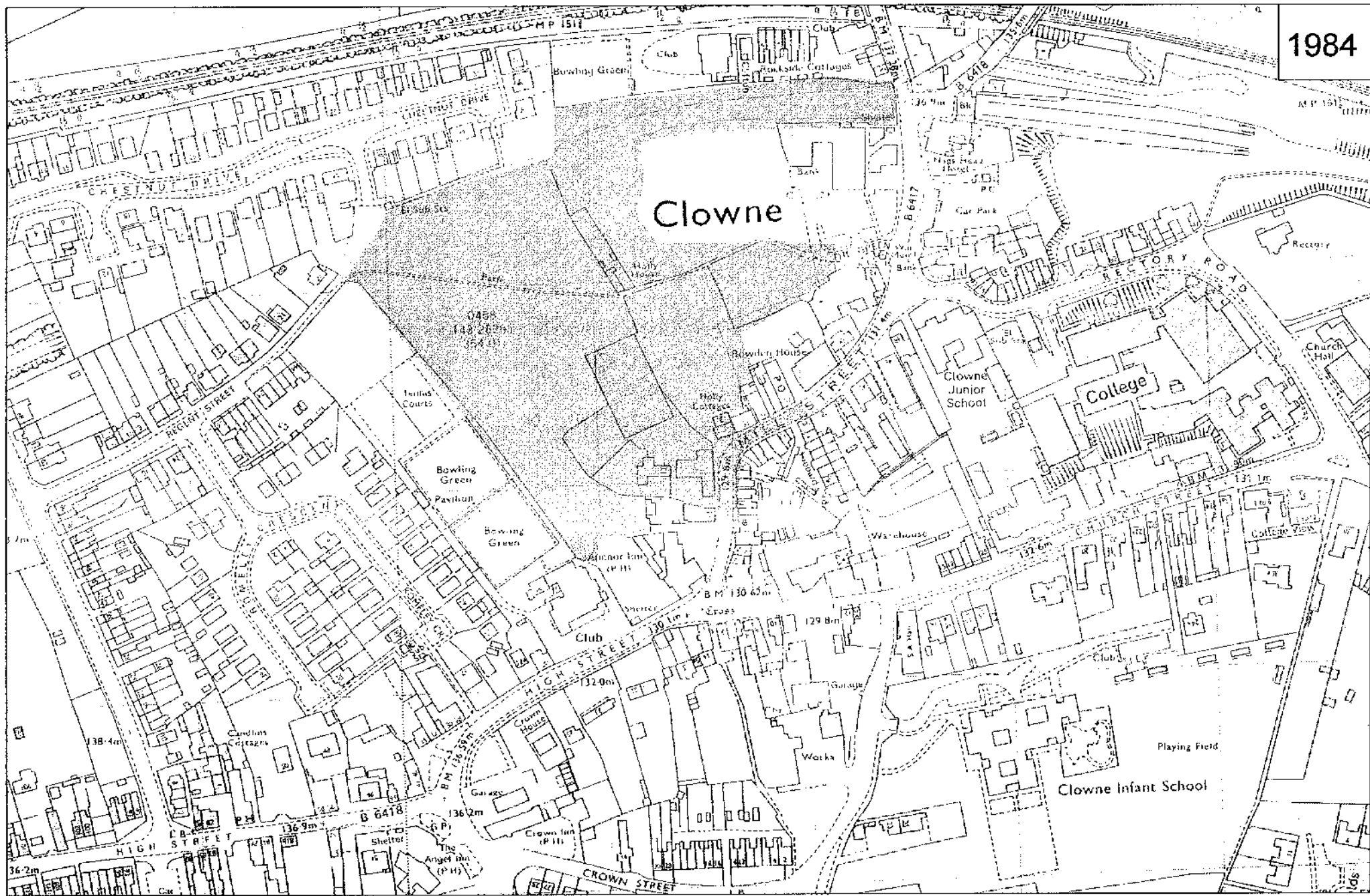


Fig. 1



1984

Clowne

College

Clowne Junior School

Clowne Infant School

Fig.2

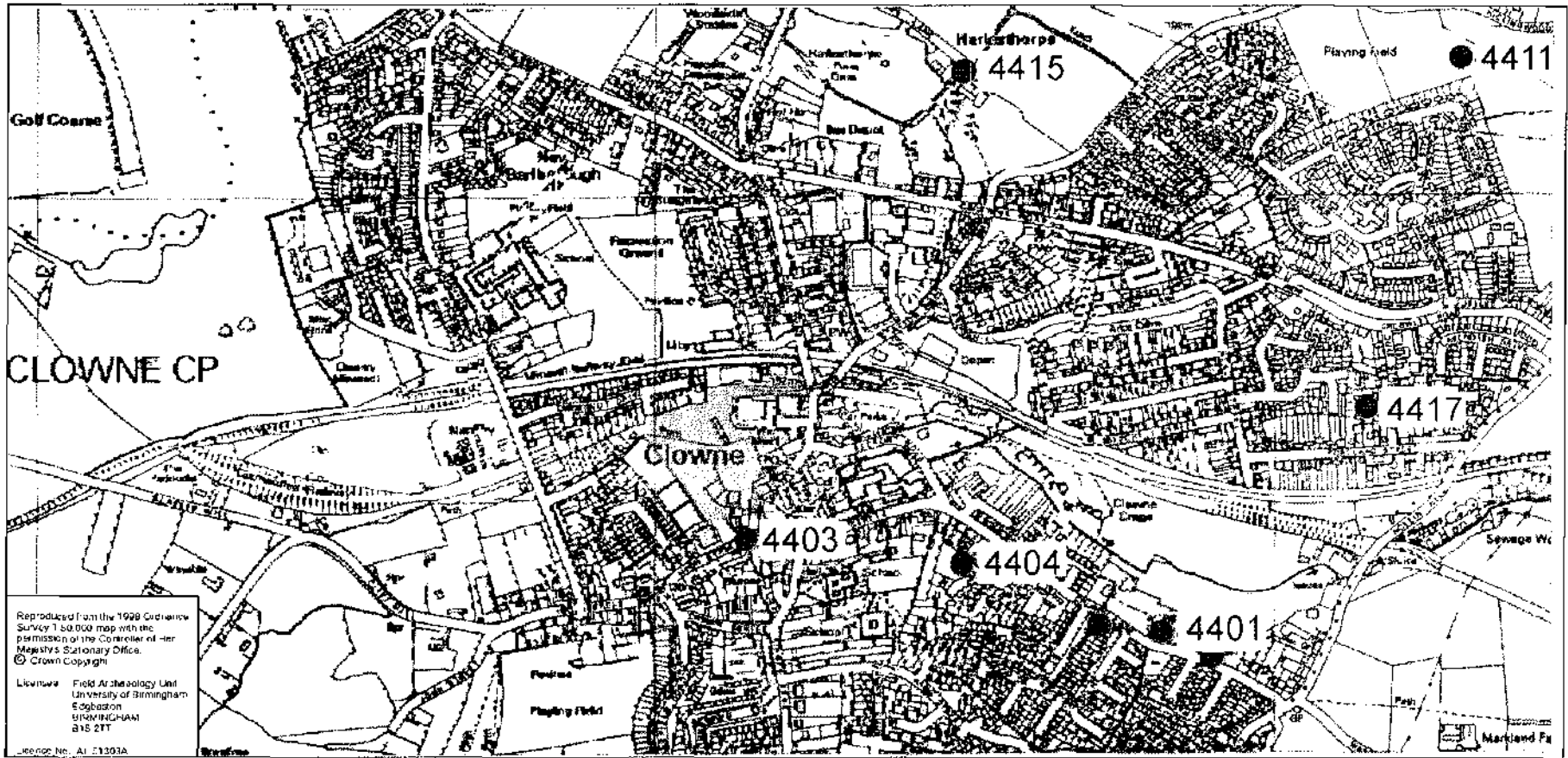


Fig.3

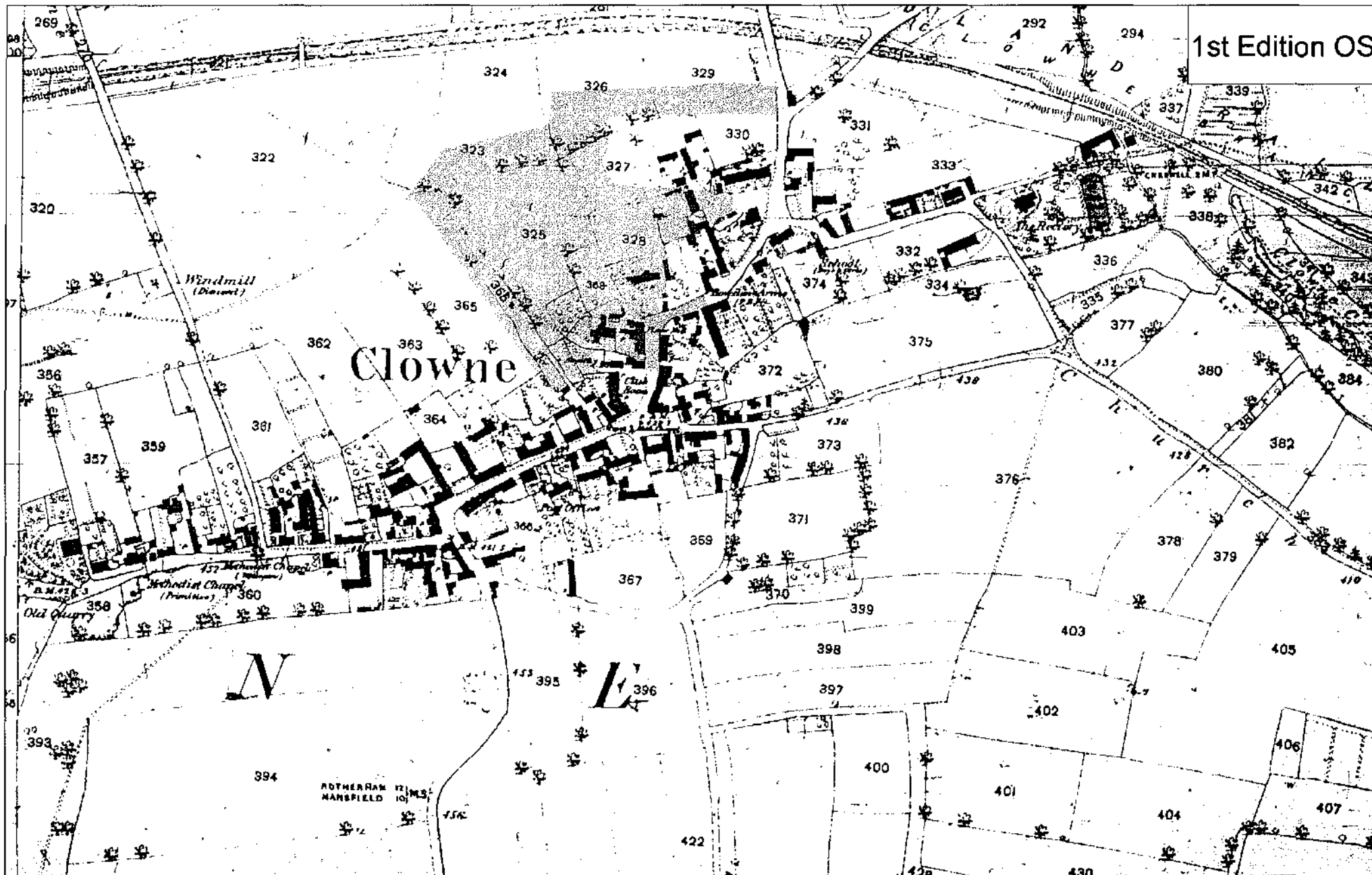


Fig.4



Fig. 5



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4



Plate 5



Plate 6



Plate 7



Plate 8