

# SWINESHEAD

March 22nd 2026



## INTRODUCTION

Swineshead is a town in Lincolnshire, with a long and remarkable history being mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon chronicles AD 675 and AD779 however it is not mentioned in the Domesday book but Drayton, which was an important dock giving good navigable communication with the sea. Early transport would have been by river and timber causeways to the nearby rivers which in turn gave access more lucrative markets. It was known to the Saxons as Swinesaefed or Swynesheced and has archaeological evidence of human settlement near the Fens from Mesolithic times.

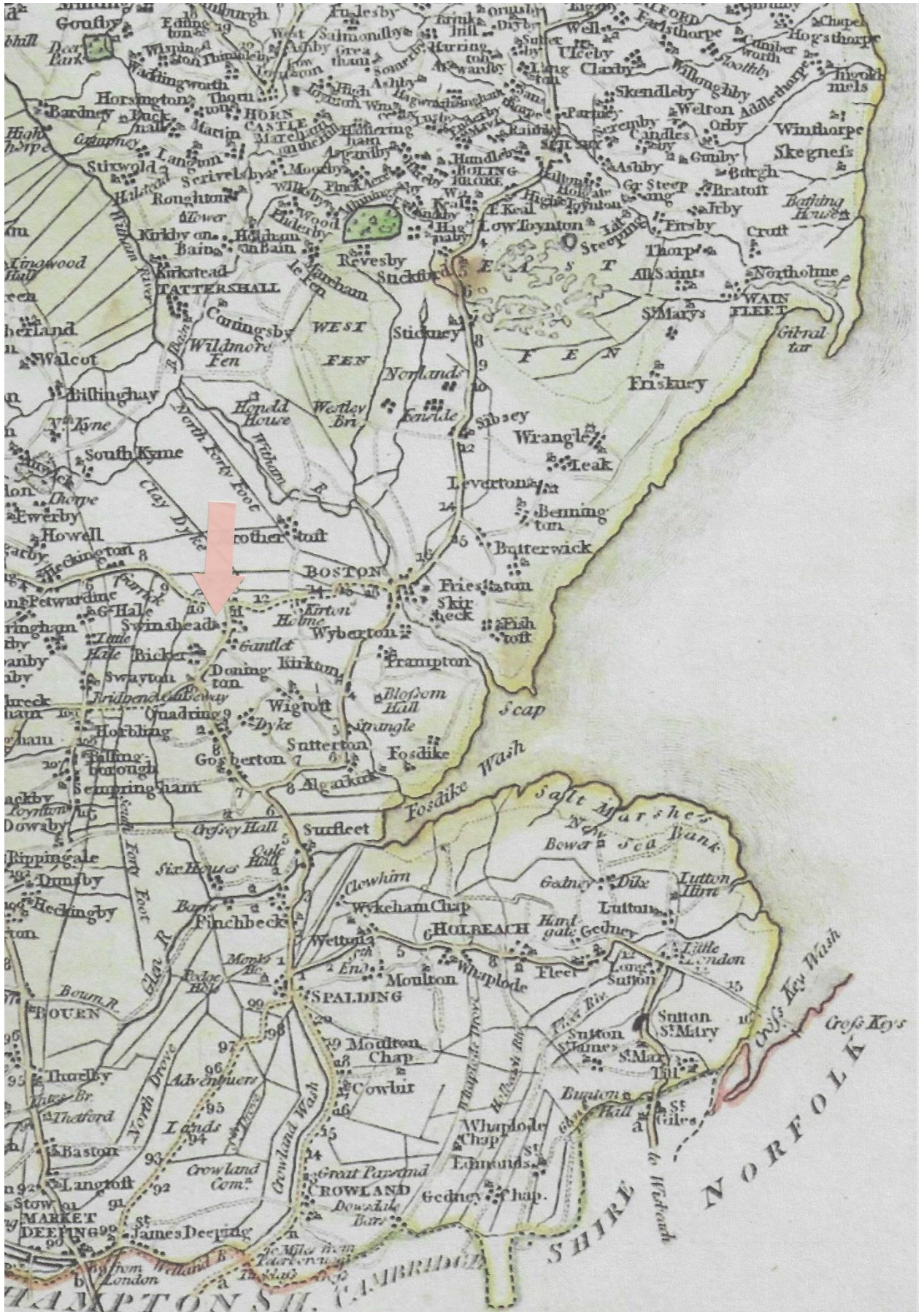
The name Swineshead probably comes from the Scandinavian words "swin" and "swei" meaning tidal creek and the addition of Saxon "head" meaning dock. (Dock on the River Swin) Like many other fenland villages and towns, the early economy relied heavily on summer grazing, fishing, particularly eels, reeds for building materials and to a lesser extent wild fowling. It was also possible that there was a small salt industry from the Celtic occupation until the medieval period as this area was tidal salt marsh with "islands" of higher ground drained for crops or cattle.

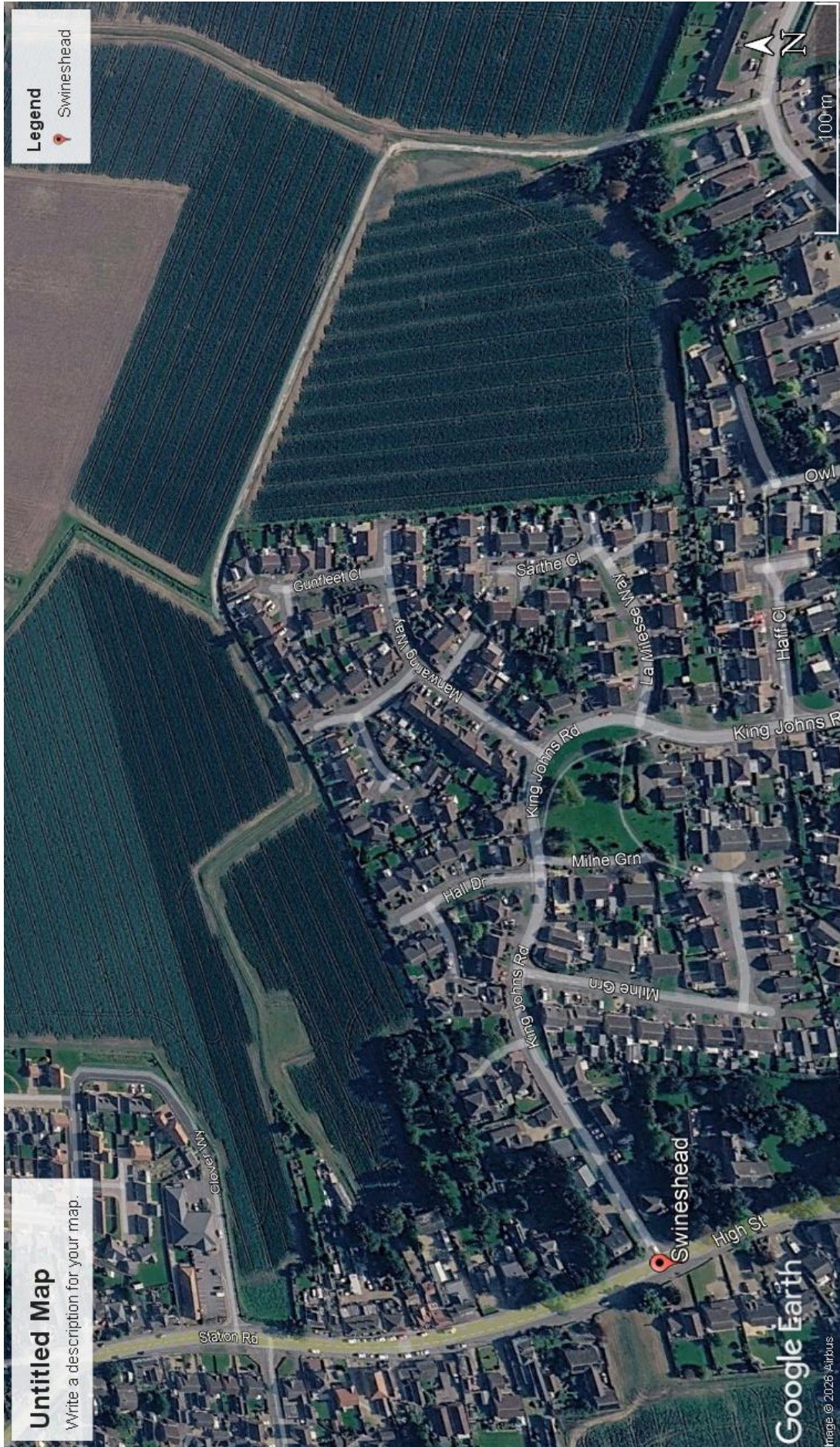
Swineshead Abbey founded in 1135 as a Savigniac monastery, but in 1147 was converted to Cistercian by Robert de Gresley. In 1536 it was dissolved and the building of a private house and a park in 1607 destroyed the last traces of it. The site is now a scheduled monument. There is still nationwide controversy regarding the death of King John and the fabled lost treasure.

The remains of a motte and bailey castle at The Manwar Ings survive well as a series of substantial earthworks. They are rare in representing one of very few medieval monuments to have survived in an area of intensive modern cultivation. Locally known as a Danish encampment and said to be possibly residence of Turkil, the Dane during the reign of Canute 1016-10(?) who apportioned the Fens to the towns who held land abutting on to the Fens. Nearby is the deserted medieval village of Stenning, or Estovening, mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 represented by the site of the moated Estovening Hall. The enclosed list is made up of coins and artefacts recovered from field as outlined on the attached map.

The fields detected were comprised of Fenland Silt over boulder clay and were flat and level ground with boundaries of dykes or drainage ditches and hedges. It is assumed that any signs of previous field division have been obscured by modern farming trends although some may be visible in crop marks. The finds were recovered randomly from all over the field with no apparent heavy concentration at any one point, the depth of the finds varied from surface to approximately eight inches. There is no confirmed archaeological evidence on these fields although arial "crop" marks and recovery of pottery sherds indicate some form of human intervention

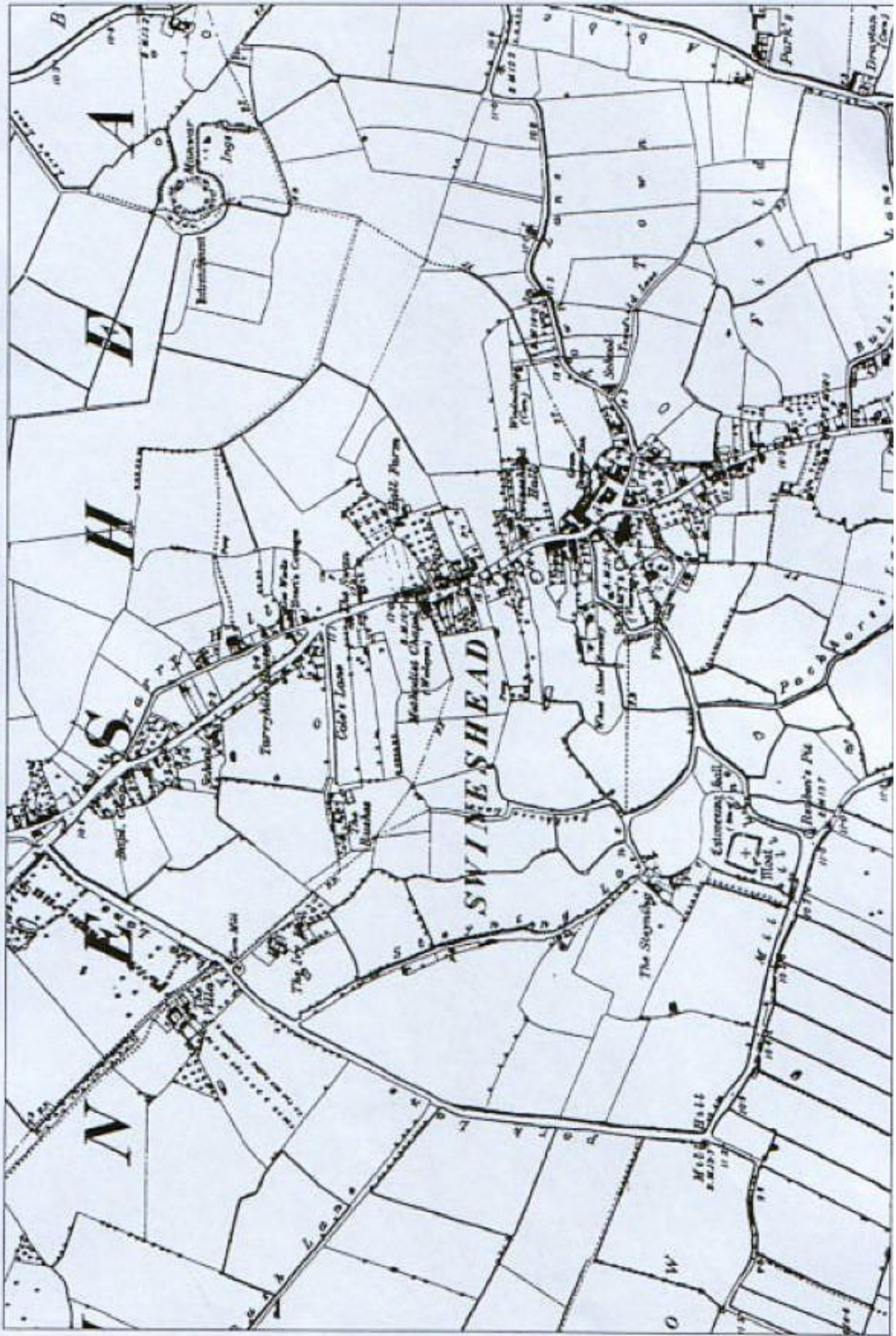
The field was lightly undulated possibly indicating ancient roddons or perhaps where islands once were as this area was tidal salt marsh with "islands" of higher ground drained for crops or cattle until major drainage took place in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Like most of the Lincolnshire fenland villages and towns the main economy is still based on agriculture, in the past commercial activities relied heavily on fishing, particularly eels and to a lesser extent wild fowling, woad and flax was also grown as well as the cutting of reeds for thatching and mud and stud walls. It may be also be possible that nearby there was a small salt industry from the Celtic occupation and until the medieval period. Early transport would have been by rivers and timber causeways to the nearby lost Bicker Haven which in turn gave access more lucrative markets. Until major drainage took place during the 17<sup>th</sup> century cattle, sheep and geese used drove roads until major infrastructure took place in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.







# SWINESHEAD 1891

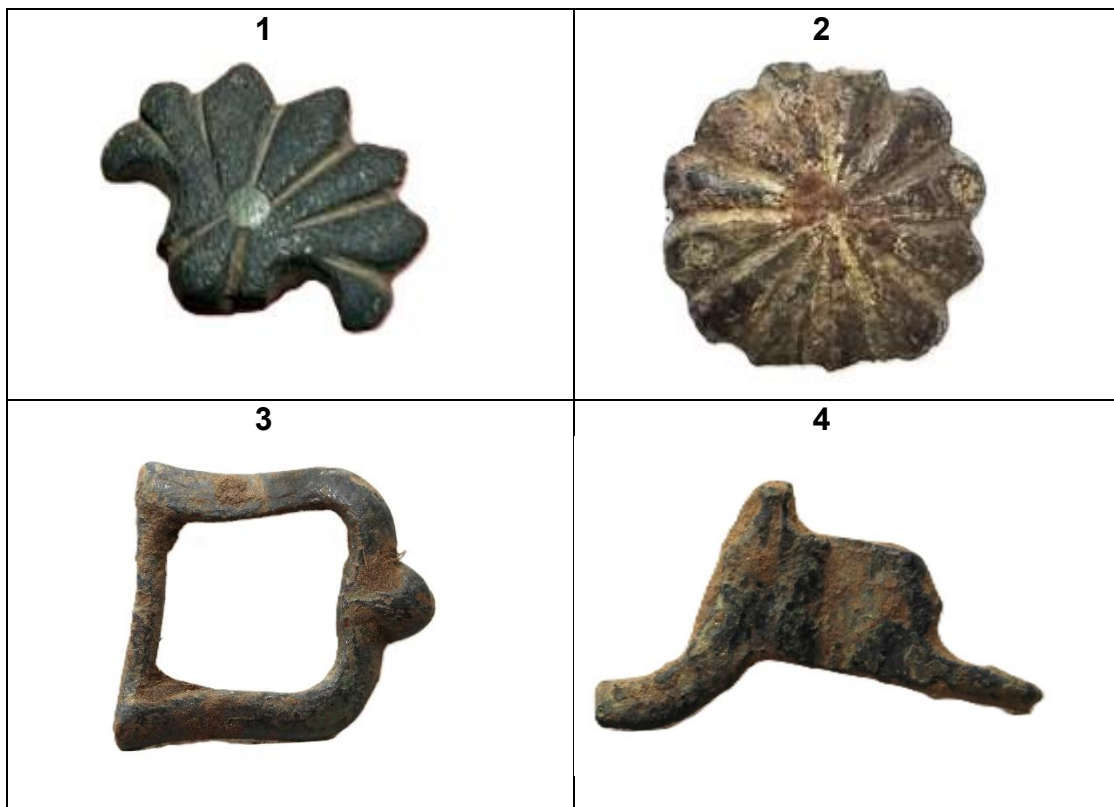


## ARTEFACTS

Artefacts recovered ranged from Roman occupation to modern day with the majority being manufactured from a copper alloy, {Copper alloys are metal alloys that have copper as their principal component. They have high resistance against corrosion. Of the large number of different types, the best known traditional types are bronze, where tin is a significant addition, and brass, using zinc instead. Both of these are imprecise terms. Latten is a further term, mostly used for coins with a very high copper content. Today the term "copper alloy" tends to be substituted for all of these, especially by museums.}

Many artefacts were unfortunately corroded, broken or plough damaged. Items manufactured from Lead were in abundance but nothing of historic interest apart from a few musket balls of different calibre and some bag seals. Miscellaneous brass or copper or copper alloy working horse harness fittings mostly in the form of buckles were recovered but again most being broken or plough damaged. A variety of buttons were found, most ranging from Georgian "Dandy" type, four-hole trouser button and the brass military of World War two period. A prolific amount of 303 and .22 Bullets found possibly indicates limited arial or military action of some sort.

Many other miscellaneous items have not been included due to excessive corrosion or damage making them non-identifiable. A few random copper alloy objects are yet to be identified and dated. My apologies for the poor quality of the illustrations which may lead to possible errors in identification but for various reasons it was not possible to take "studio" quality photographs at the event.





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Items in brackets [abc] denote assumption, not fact.

Footnotes marked thus [1]

1	Medieval Copper alloy strap mount.
2	Medieval Copper alloy strap mount.
3	Medieval Copper alloy buckle frame
4	Medieval Copper alloy buckle fragment.
5	Medieval Copper alloy strap mount.
6	Medieval Copper alloy buckle fragment.
7	Medieval Copper alloy incised finger ring.
8	Medieval Copper alloy strap mount.
9	Medieval Copper alloy pot leg fragment.
10	Medieval Copper alloy purse bar fragment.

11	Medieval Copper alloy strap mount.
12	Copper alloy item, purpose and age not known.
13	Medieval Copper alloy spur fragment.
14	Georgian/Victorian Copper alloy strap/furniture mount.
15	Georgian/Victorian Copper alloy strap/furniture mount.
16	Medieval Copper alloy buckle
17	Medieval Copper alloy sword hanger
18	Medieval Copper alloy buckle
19	Medieval Copper alloy buckle frame
20	Tudor copper alloy clothes hook.
21	Tudor copper alloy clothes hook.
22	Tudor copper alloy clothes hook.
23	Georgian/Victorian silver metal [ <i>spoon handle?</i> ]
24	Georgian/Victorian Copper alloy barrel tap.
25	Georgian/Victorian Copper nut crackers.
26	Copper alloy item, purpose and age not known.
27	Enamelled badge. <b>[1]</b>
28	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century copper alloy brass thimble.
29	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century silver metal silver ring [ <i>set with turquoise</i> ]
30	Georgian “nipple” tombac button.
31	Georgian “nipple” tombac button.
32	Georgian decorative tombac button.
33	19 <sup>th</sup> century copper alloy spherical button
34	Brass LNER uniform button. <b>[2]</b>
35	Brass Royal Marines uniform button.
36	19 <sup>th</sup> century copper alloy button <i>damaged</i> .
37	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century silver metal finger ring, stoned missing.
38	18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century lead musket ball.
39	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century copper alloy brass thimble.
40	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century copper alloy brass thimble.
41	19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup> century pocket watch key
42	Horseshoe charm/brooch, age not known

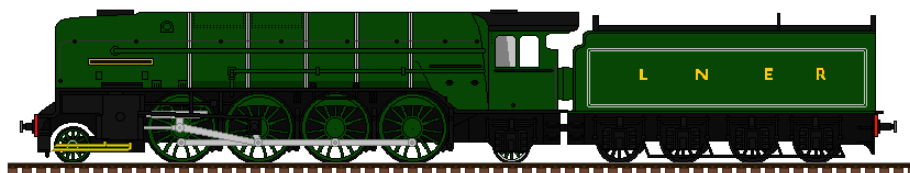
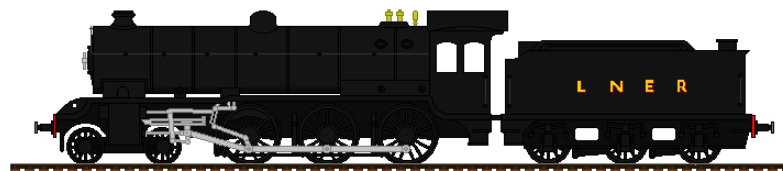
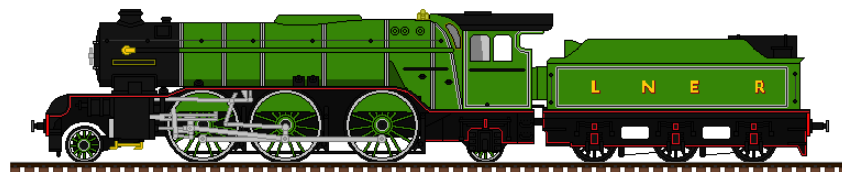
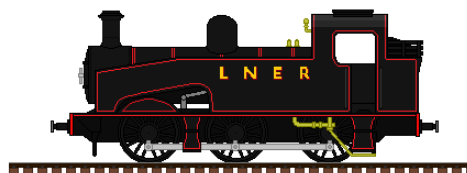
## Footnotes

**[1]** The National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers (NUAAW) was

a trades union representing farmworkers in the United Kingdom. The Union was founded in 1906 by trade union activist George Edwards. It was dissolved in 1982 when it merged into the Agricultural Section of the Transport and General Workers' Union



[2] The London and North Eastern railway (LNER) was formed on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1923 as one of the big four railway companies in Britain after the amalgamation of the Great Northern Railway, Railway, Great, Great Central Railway, Great North of Scotland Railway. Hull and Barnsley Railway and North British Railway



## COINAGE

Coinage recovered from this site have been dated from Roman up to and including current decimal issues. Medieval silver hammered coinage dating from between 1200 to 1600 includes cut halves (Ha'penny) and quarters (Fourthing later farthing) Due to the similarity of hammered silver coins, plough damage and the common practice of clipping edges makes exact dating difficult.


Copper coins additionally suffer from corrosion caused by age and use of agricultural chemicals. the pictures only show some of the coins found and are in no specific order and not attributed to any one person. Where possible Monarchs, dates and both obverse and reverse images have been included.

The photographs do not illustrate all coins found as any image would lack sufficient definition to be identified.



<p>13</p> 	<p>14</p> 	<p>15</p> 	<p>16</p> 
<p>17</p> 	<p>18</p> 	<p>19</p> 	<p>20</p> 
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<p>45</p> 	<p>46</p> 	<p>47</p> 	<p>48</p> 

<b>49</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>
			

Coins not dated for reasons of expediency are marked thus?

Unidentified monarchs are marked thus #

	<i>DENOMINATION (if known)</i>	<i>SIDE</i>	<i>MONARCH</i>	<i>DATE</i>
1	Roman bronze	Obverse	#	2 <sup>nd</sup> century
2	Roman bronze	Reverse	#	2 <sup>nd</sup> century
3	Roman bronze	Obverse	#	2 <sup>nd</sup> century
4	Roman bronze	Reverse	#	2 <sup>nd</sup> century
5	Hammered silver farthing	Obverse	#	1200-1600
6	Hammered silver farthing	Reverse	#	1200-1600
7	Hammered silver farthing	Obverse	#	1200-1600
8	Hammered silver farthing	Reverse	#	1200-1600
9	Hammered silver farthing	Obverse	#	1200-1600
10	Hammered silver farthing	Reverse	#	1200-1600
11	Hammered silver farthing	Obverse	#	1200-1600
12	Hammered silver farthing	Reverse	#	1200-1600
13	Hammered silver penny	Obverse	#	1200-1600
14	Hammered silver penny	Reverse	#	1200-1600
15	Hammered silver penny	Obverse	#	1200-1600
16	Hammered silver penny	Reverse	#	1200-1600
17	Hammered silver penny	Obverse	#	1200-1600
18	Hammered silver farthing	Reverse	#	1200-1600
19	Hammered silver farthing	Obverse	#	1200-1600
20	Hammered silver penny	Reverse	#	1200-1600
21	Hammered silver penny	Obverse	#	1200-1600
22	Hammered silver farthing	Reverse	#	1200-1600
23	Hammered silver farthing	Obverse	#	1200-1600
24	Hammered silver penny	Reverse	#	1200-1600
25	Hammered silver penny	Obverse	#	1200-1600

26	Hammered silver penny	Reverse	#	1200-1600
27	Hammered silver cut half penny	Obverse	#	1200-1600
28	Hammered silver cut half penny	Reverse	#	1200-1600
29	Hammered silver cut half penny	Obverse	#	1200-1600
30	Hammered silver cut half penny	Reverse	#	1200-1600
31	Hammered silver penny	Obverse	#	1200-1600
32	Hammered silver penny	Reverse	#	1200-1600
33	Hammered silver cut half penny	Obverse	#	1200-1600
34	Hammered silver cut half penny	Reverse	#	1200-1600
35	Hammered silver soldino	Obverse	#	1660-1685
36	Hammered silver soldino	Reverse	#	1660-1685
37	Hammered silver half groat	Obverse	Tudor	1405-1603
38	Hammered silver half groat	Reverse	Tudor	1405-1603
39	Hammered silver half groat	Obverse	Tudor	1405-1603
40	Hammered silver half groat	Reverse	Tudor	1405-1603
41	Copper "Rose" farthing	Obverse	Charles 1st	1625-1649
42	Copper "Rose" farthing	Reverse	Charles 1st	1625-1649
43	Copper halfpenny	Obverse	George 2nd	1727-1760
44	Copper halfpenny	Reverse	George 2nd	1727-1760
45	Copper penny	Obverse	Victoria	1837-1901
46	Copper penny	Reverse	Victoria	1837-1901
47	Silver sixpence	Obverse	George 5th	1941
48	Silver sixpence	Reverse	George 5th	1941
49	Silver half crown	Obverse	George 5th	1942

**Coins too corroded or damaged are identifiable but not listed above.**

2 <sup>nd</sup> century Roman bronze	<b>0</b>
Early Georgian (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> ) copper pennies, half pennies and farthings.	<b>16</b>
Victorian copper pennies, half pennies and farthings.	<b>7</b>
Edwardian copper pennies, half pennies and farthings.	<b>0</b>
Later Georgian copper pennies, half pennies and farthings.	<b>4</b>
Decimal or foreign currency	<b>2</b>

## **JETTONS, TOKENS, BAG SEALS & TALLIES ETC.**

Jettons are not strictly coinage but items minted for use in merchants' calculations. Sums were carried out using counting boards or cloths which bore a chequered pattern or lines. Jettons were set on the lines/squares, each line/square having a value in Roman numerals, and moved around the board/cloth to perform addition or subtraction.

Trade tokens usually consist of "coins" manufactured from a copper alloy as substitute for small change or payment. Most relate to specific merchants and will have relevant Guild coat of arms on one side; some are also a form of alms for the poor houses.

Field tallies are usually very basic and often made out of lead which may have been confused with gaming pieces. Out of date or very worn copper coinage was often over stamped or etched for use as field tallies. Deliberately distorted silver coins are assumed to be love tokens, not often found using copper coins.

Lead bag, bale and cloth seals are small lead discs that were crimped onto bags or bales of merchandise to identify textiles, as well as parcels and bales of trade goods. Lead seals such as cloth seals and bale seals were widely used in Europe between the 13th and 19th centuries as a means of identification and as a component of regulation and quality control. The obverse would typically display a city's arms, and the reverse would record data such as the length or width of fabric or the weight of a parcel. During the late 19<sup>th</sup> century with advent of domestic gas and electricity household meters had seals attached to wire in order to prevent tampering and theft. The General Post Office (Royal Mail) often used lead seals as security on sacks of letters and parcels, also as safety confirmation on telegraph/telephone poles, often they were left blank but may be found with a crown impression and post office designation. Another common form of seal is also a General Post Office seal, a small rectangle or square with crimp marks of vertical bars left by the crimp pliers. Often, they will have the destination name or number embossed.







1 & 2	Amusement arcade token 20 <sup>th</sup> century
3 & 4	French Jetton 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century
5 & 6	French Jetton 14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century
7 & 8	Medieval lead trade tokens/gaming pieces
9 & 10	Medieval lead trade tokens/gaming pieces
11 & 12	Medieval lead trade token
13 & 14	17 <sup>th</sup> century Copper Trade token.



## POTTERY AND OTHER SURFACE FINDS

The majority of recovered pottery shards and other surface finds have been dated where possible but there may be errors, a more in-depth analysis would give a more specific timeline.



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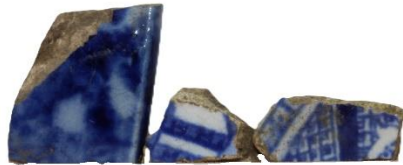
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1	Carved stone loom weight, (Mica-Schist)	possibly pre-Roman
2	Late iron age bowl fragment.	Pre-Roman
3	Colour coated domestic ware	Roman 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> century
4	Colour coated domestic ware	Roman 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> century
5	Domestic ware rim fragment	Roman 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> century
6	Coarse un-glazed domestic ware	Roman 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> century
7	Grey "Huntcliff" ware	Roman 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> century
8	Coarse un-glazed domestic ware	Roman 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> century
9	Samian ware	Roman 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> century
10	Coarse glazed domestic ware	Late Saxon- early medieval
11	Cistercian ware	13 <sup>th</sup> century
12	Cistercian ware	13 <sup>th</sup> century
13	Coarse green glazed domestic ware	Medieval
14	Coarse green glazed domestic ware	Medieval
15	Cistercian ware	13 <sup>th</sup> century
16	Staffordshire slip glaze	15 <sup>th</sup> century
17	Staffordshire slip glaze	15 <sup>th</sup> century
18	Pancheon ware [1]	15 <sup>th</sup> century
19	Pancheon ware [1]	15 <sup>th</sup> century
20	Black glazed cup/jug handle	Georgian/Victorian
21	Decorative transfer decorated fragment	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
22	Imported Oriental domestic blue ware	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
23	Glass fragment	Roman 2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> century
24	Oyster shells	Roman – 20 <sup>th</sup> century
25	Clay marble [2]	19 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century

## Footnotes



[1] example of Pancheon ware

[1] For the game of marbles has captured the imaginations of children, collectors, and cultural historians. Among the vast array of available marbles, clay stands out not only for their humble materials but also for their archaeological and historical significance. Very often overlooked by metal detectorists these small, unassuming spheres are more than just relics of play from the 18th through early 20th centuries. Early clay marbles, unglazed and often rough-surfaced, were affordable and widely accessible, making them popular for people of all classes.



## COLLECTIONS

Photographs of multiple assorted recovered items as submitted by members, some individual items may be pictured elsewhere.











**RUBBISH**

All metallic items of no historic interest, aluminium drinks cans, foil pie dishes rusty iron and plastic or glass broken bottles will be placed in the receptacles provided and disposed of in an approved manner.



**COMBAT STRESS**  
FOR VETERANS' MENTAL HEALTH



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