

# THE BRIGANTIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AT KIRKBRIDGE FARM,  
STANWICK St JOHN, NORTH YORKSHIRE.  
APRIL, 1996.

NYCC HER	
SNY	6990
ENY	935
CNY	
Parish	1043
Rec'd	29/04/1996

A report to Mr Michael Johnson

NYCC  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
APR 30 1996  
JHE VWF  
Ackd. ✓ 30.4.96 with the comment  
that if Henry is agreeable  
it sounds like further conditions  
will be unnecessary.

VWF 30.4.96.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AT KIRKBRIDGE FARM,  
STANWICK St JOHN, NORTH YORKSHIRE.  
APRIL, 1996.**

1. Instructions were received from Mr Michael Johnson of Kirkbridge Farm (formerly Stanwick Old Hall), Stanwick St John, North Yorkshire, for archaeological monitoring of excavations in an area south-east of the farmhouse in connection with the insertion of a drain, a septic tank, and associated soakaway trenches. This monitoring was to be undertaken in response to a condition attached to a Scheduled Monument Consent.

2. Work was carried out by Percival Turnbull on the 23rd and 24th of April, 1996, and was carried out in accordance with the Standard Specifications of this Practice.

3. This note should be considered in conjunction with the previous report on monitoring, dated July 1995, in which the archaeological significance of the site is discussed.

4. The location of excavations is shown on the attached plan. The small, rectangular garth in which the septic tank was to be located shows signs of having been terraced in the past: the level of the ground at the southern end is a good half-metre higher than that immediately to the south. The area was grassed at the time work was undertaken, but there were visible signs of a series of demolished, modern installations (animal pens, a sheep-dip, etc.). The garth appears to have been enclosed at some time in the mid-nineteenth century.

5. All trenches were excavated to a depth which penetrated the natural subsoil, which was over the whole of this area represented by clean, soft deposits of fluvio-glacial sand. This proved to be very free-running and prone to collapse in places, and a considerable hole had to be dug to allow insertion of the septic tank.

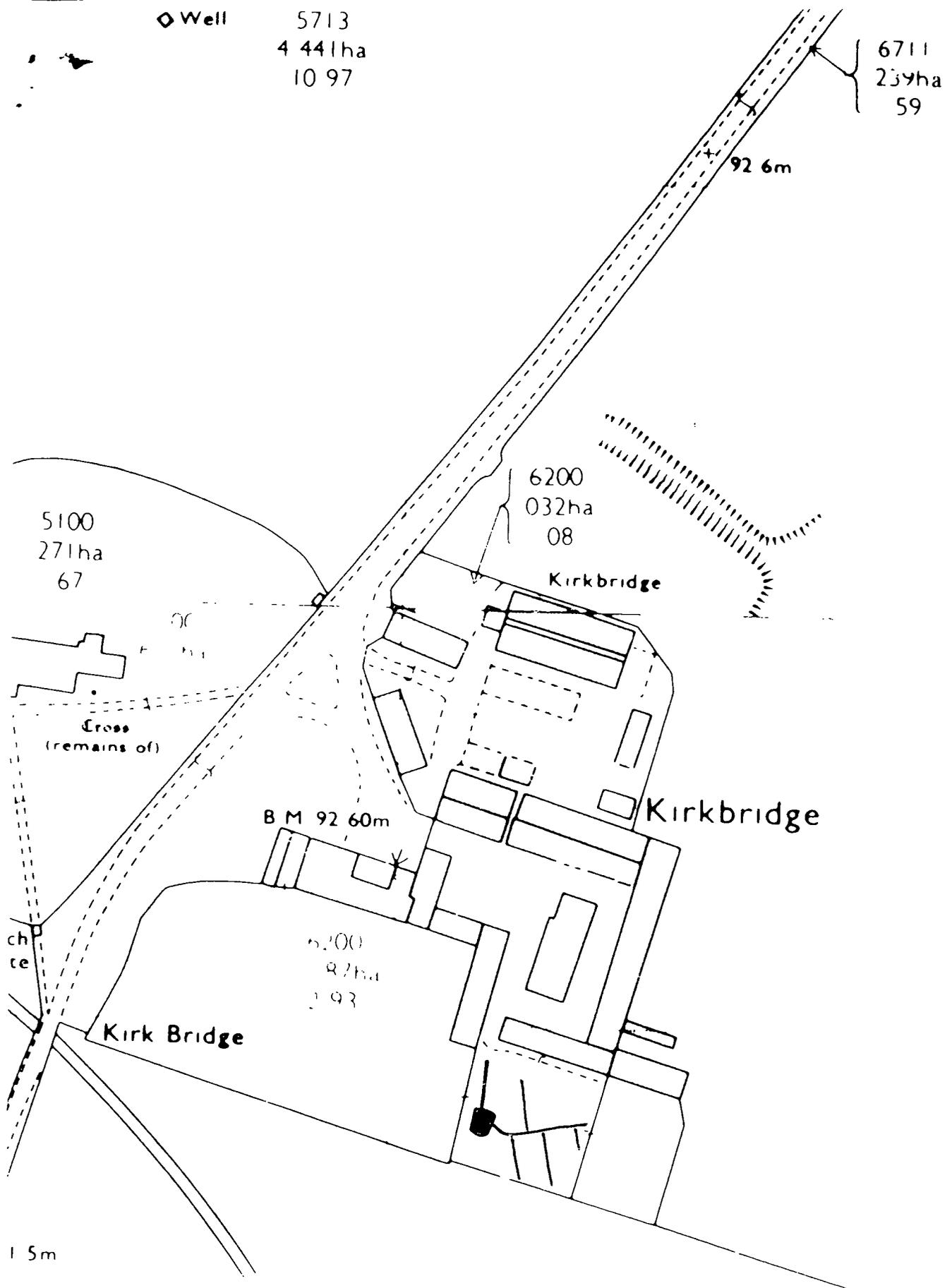
6. The whole of the area proved to be covered by a black, rich, loose loam, clearly a cultivated soil of recent date. This varied in depth from *circa* 30 centimetres at the northern end of the area to almost a metre at the southern end. This appears to be the result of the terracing mentioned above, additional topsoil having been built up on the southern side to allow the creation of a flat area. This humic deposit directly overlay the natural sand subsoil.

7. No structure or feature of archaeological significance was noted. During excavation, the surface of the natural sand was carefully scraped by the machine bucket before any of the deposit was removed, and it is certain that, had any feature been cut into the surface of the sand, it would have been recognised.

8. No sherd of pottery of anything other than modern date was noted, nor was any other significant artefact. Indeed, the cultivated soil over the site was remarkable for its cleanness and for the general lack of inclusions. It is worthy of

note that, in an area which is at the heart of the Iron Age *oppidum* as well as of the former mediaeval village, neither in this nor in the previous watching brief has any sherd of Iron Age, Roman or mediaeval pottery been found. It is possible that the site of Kirkbridge Farm has been scraped clean (at the time of building the Carolean mansion house?): so far as is known, the only mediaeval material from the immediate vicinity is a small group of sherds from a ditch which continues southward that shown to the north of the farm buildings complex by the Ordnance Survey.

Percival Turnbull.  
26,iv,1996



Kirkbridge Farm Watching Briet  
 April 1996  
 Location of trenches  
 Scale 1/1,250