

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

KIRKBY IN ASHFIELD

Prepared for



Extensive Urban Survey Programme

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KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD

GILL STROUD, 1999

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Assessment

This assessment has been produced through the Extensive Urban Survey Programme, an English Heritage funded initiative to assist local planning authorities with the conservation of their urban archaeological resource. Kirkby in Ashfield is one of 18 small towns in Nottinghamshire selected for such assessment.

The assessment is a desk-based survey, the scope of which includes both above and below ground archaeological remains of all periods, using information from the County Sites and Monuments Record, local histories, early maps and plan form analysis, with the results presented as a series of maps generated by GIS. It provides a foundation for the development of an archaeological management strategy that could be adopted by the local planning authority as supplementary planning guidance.

1.2 Overview of the settlement

Kirkby lies in the south-western quarter of the county, close to the Nottinghamshire/Derbyshire border, and is some 11 miles north-west of Nottingham and 5 miles south-west of Mansfield. The settlement was in existence prior to the Domesday Survey of 1086, its name indicating that it was the site of an early church. Its plan has probably remained unchanged since at least the medieval period, as the development and expansion associated with 19th century industry, coal-mining in particular, took place well to the east of the original village. However, it has not remained completely unaffected by the 20th century, with the building of new houses in the area of the church and the creation of a roundabout at the junction of its two main streets. As Pevsner noted in 1979 'the village centre of Kirkby has been spoilt, but it is still a pleasant surprise in the colliery drabness of the neighbourhood'.

2. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

At Kirkby-in-Ashfield the Coal Measures, which are exposed further west within Derbyshire, are completely concealed, being overlain by bands of Lower Permian Marl, Lower Magnesian Limestone, Middle Permian Marl and Bunter Sandstone, all of which dip towards the east and are topped by superficial patchy deposits of clay, with gravels and alluvia in the river valleys. The historic core of Kirkby itself lies on the limestone while much of East Kirkby is on the sandstone (Gibson 1913; OS Geol. map sheet 112, 1963).

The old village is located at the head of the valley of a small stream which runs south into the Erewash, the latter itself rising to the south-east of Kirkby. The church stands in a commanding position at the top of the ridge formed by the valleys of the two streams, at a height of 169m AOD. Chapel Street and Victoria Street slope gently down to the east towards the head of the Erewash valley at 148m AOD, with the ground rising again in East Kirkby to reach 190m AOD along Diamond Avenue.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Kirkby lay in Broxtow wapentake. After the adoption of the Local Government Act in 1894, Kirkby-in-Ashfield Urban District Council was set up, holding its first meeting in 1896 (Clay-Dove 1985). With the reorganisation of local government in 1974, however, the town came under the newly formed Ashfield District Council which included Kirkby, Sutton, Hucknall and the parishes of Annesley and Felley (Clay-Dove 1987).

4. SOURCES

4.1 Primary sources

Nottinghamshire Archives holds a variety of primary documents relating to Kirkby-in-Ashfield, including the church registers from 1620 to 1971, the early ones having been saved from the fire which destroyed most of the church in 1907. They also hold the archives of the Dukes of Portland, lords of the manor of Kirkby for several hundred years. These include a number of deeds dating from the 16th century onwards, various settlements, accounts, vouchers and assorted legal papers, the manor court rolls of 1660-1769, and over 130 leases dating between 1586 and 1715. None of these original documents were consulted for this report. However, the Archives catalogue generally provides brief summaries of each document, and some information was acquired in this way.

The British Museum apparently holds 22 notebooks kept by Richard Kaye, rector at Kirkby from 1765. He was interested in antiquarian studies among other things, and made copious notes on a variety of subjects (Clay-Dove 1985). It is not known how useful these might be to a study of the town.

4.2 Secondary sources

Very little appears to have been published on the history of Kirkby beyond a couple of early papers by Bonser (1907, 1939) and a more recent history of the township by Clay-Dove (1985).

4.3 Cartographic evidence

Several early maps of the Kirkby area have survived. The Belvoir map of Sherwood Forest of c. 1600 and the Sherwood Forest map of 1609 depicted Kirkby Forest and other lands in the eastern part of the parish, over some of which East Kirkby has since been developed (Mastoris & Groves 1997). Kirkby Forest was surveyed again in 1615 and by William Senior in 1637; copies of the originals are in Nottinghamshire Archives. The earliest map to show the settlement itself is dated 1629, when a survey of the parish in two parts, north and south, was produced by William Senior for the Earl of Newcastle. The originals are held privately by Welbeck Estates; however, Nottinghamshire Archives holds black and white photographic copies. A map of Kirkby believed to have been produced in the 1760's is also held by Welbeck Estates (Nichols 1987), but was not consulted for this report. The Parliamentary Enclosure Map of 1795 is in Nottinghamshire Archives. Since tithes were commuted as part of the Enclosure Award, there is no tithe map of the parish, and consequently the only other pre-Ordnance Survey map to show buildings and plot boundaries is Sanderson's map of 20 Miles around Mansfield, 1835.

4.4 Archaeological evidence

There are thirteen entries in the Sites and Monuments Record for the area of modern Kirkby-in-Ashfield, all but one of them being found in the historic part of the town to the west. Two of these are also scheduled monuments. No archaeological excavations are known to have taken place.

5. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

5.1 Prehistoric (Figure 1)

Two sites producing evidence of prehistoric activity have been recorded from the built-up area of Kirkby-in-Ashfield. The first of these is near the junction of Church Street and Chapel Street, where several Mesolithic flint artefacts were recovered, including cores, flakes and 4 backed blades (SMR 2425). Further east, near the railway, a Palaeolithic flint site was identified in the 1930's, although no further details are known (SMR 5189).

Further afield, several flint flakes were recovered from ploughed land to the west of Kirkby sometime before 1958, one of which had secondary working (SMR 2421). To the north, fieldwalking produced five Mesolithic and two Neolithic retouched flints (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1994; SMR 2536) while to the north-east a Neolithic stone axe was found at Sutton Junction prior to 1973 (SMR 2579).

5.2 Roman (Figure 1)

No Roman artefacts have been recovered from the urban area of Kirkby, although the occasional find has come from the vicinity. There is a tradition that a Roman road is located in the area around Calladine Lane to the north-west (SMR 2473). A 'definite band of stone' had been identified running east-west across the area in the past; however, recent fieldwalking in the area found no proof of such a road, and it was suggested that the small pieces of Permian sandstone which are found scattered over the area may have been mistaken for the agger of a Roman road. However, seven sherds of Roman pottery were recovered (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1994).

Surface finds made in a field to the south of Kirkby comprised a small amount of Roman material, namely one sherd of Derbyshire ware, one rim form in a sandy fabric and a piece of roofing tile (SMR 2549a). In a nearby field a Roman coin hoard and a piece of lead or pewter casting were found by metal detector. The coins were all Roman silver denarii, ranging in date from AD69 to AD 166, which indicates that the hoard had probably been deposited around AD 170. On a site visit, two pieces of Roman pottery were picked up from the field in which the coins were found. The metal casting, which may be Roman, suggests metalworking activity in the locality (SMR 5898).

5.3 Early Medieval

It is clear from both the Domesday Book entries and from place name evidence (see below) that settlement at Kirkby was well-established by the 11th century and that it possessed a church at an early period. This would probably have been established by the English before the Viking invasions, although given the speed of their conversion to Christianity, it is not impossible that it was founded by them (Fellows Jensen 1978). Unfortunately, nothing else is known at present of the pre-Conquest settlement and no remains from the early medieval period have been reported from the vicinity.

5.4 Medieval

5.4.1 Place-name

The earliest documentary reference to the settlement comes from Domesday Book, when it was written as *Chirchebi*. The meaning of the place-name is 'church village', from the Scandinavian *kirkja* and *by* (Gover *et al* 1940). The original significance of *by* may have been a single farmstead or a young secondary settlement, but it had probably developed the sense 'village' by the time of the Scandinavian settlements in England (Fellows Jensen 1978).

The earliest surviving record of the full name comes from 1216, when it is written as *Kirkeby in Esfeld*. Ashfield is an old district name, although the only instances in which it occurs are those of Kirkby and

Sutton in Ashfield, and has the meaning of 'open land with ash trees', presumably referring to the characteristics of the forest in the Magnesian Limestone area.

5.4.2 Domesday Book, 1086

There are two entries in Domesday Book which relate to Kirkby. The first is included with the land of Ralph, son of Hubert, the second with the land of the king's thanes:

M. In KIRKBY Leofnoth had 10 b. of land taxable. Land for 2 ploughs. Ralph has in lordship 3 ploughs and 1 Freeman with 1 b. of land; 20 villagers and 6 smallholders who have 12 ploughs. A church and a priest; 2 mills, 3s; meadow, 3 acres; woodland pasture in places 2 leagues long and 1 wide. Value before 1066 ± 4 ; now ± 3

M. In KIRKBY Aelfric had 2 b. of land taxable. Land for 2 oxen. He also holds from the King. He has 1 plough. [Value] before 1066, 5s; now 2s.

5.4.3 The manor

By 1187 the manor of Kirkby-in-Ashfield had come to the Stuteville family. In 1284 Robert de Stuteville showed disobedience and contempt by not answering the king's summons for aid in his last expedition into Wales. He was pardoned on paying a fine of 100 marks for every knight's fee which he held, a total of fifteen, indicating his importance. In 1340 Robert de Stuteville finally forfeited the manor, whereupon it was granted by Edward III to John Darcy, Justice of Ireland, along with the manor of Eckington in Derbyshire. In 1418 the manor passed to the two infant daughters of Philip Darcy, upon his death at the age of 20, and subsequently came to the Conyers family through the marriage of Sir John Conyers to the younger of the two daughters.

5.4.4 The settlement and its environs

From Domesday Book it is known that the manor at Kirkby in the 11th century included a church and two mills. From this time there appears to be no information about the settlement until the 14th century, when various Inquisitions Post Mortem provide a number of details.

The first of these is dated 1310, held on the death of Alianora, wife of Robert de Stuteville:

'There is there a capital messuage which is not valued because it greatly needs repair. There is there an orchard the fruit and the herbage whereof are worth yearly 2s. There are there in demesne 116 acres, 3 roods of arable land ... and 15 acres 1 and a half roods of meadow ... there is also there a several pasture which is called 'Parkerfeld' ... and a certain park ... also a certain water-mill ...' (Standish 1914, 236).

The capital messuage referred to is thought to have been located immediately to the south of the church, on a site known as Castle Hill and where earthworks are visible. The site is now a scheduled monument. King Edward I is said to have spent a day at Kirkby castle in February 1292 on his way to Codnor, at which time it was presumably still in good repair. It continued to deteriorate after 1310, however, as is made clear by later references. In August 1337 it was stated that the messuage of the manor was 'worth nothing a year beyond reprise, because the houses are ruinous and broken up' (Blagg 1939, 195), while in 1357 it was recorded that the buildings were still in ruins (Train 1952). It is not clear whether the Darcys, who were lords of the manor by this time, ever constructed a new house on the site of the earlier one.

Kirkby Park, recorded in 1310 as seen above, is referred to again in 1337, when the underwood with agistment was valued at 60s a year. However, in 1344 John Darcy obtained a licence to enclose and make a park at Kirkby. Whether this was simply confirming his right to the earlier Stuteville park, which may have

suffered the same degree of neglect as the manor house, whether he was enlarging it, or even creating a new park, is not clear.

There is said to be an Inquisition Post Mortem of 1322 which contains an extent of the manor of Kirkby listing 35 free tenants, 8 tenants for life, 14 *nativi*, and 22 toftmen and cottars. It also mentions a reduction of rents (Wallis Chapman 1910). Somewhat surprisingly the document is not reproduced in the Thoroton Society Record Series publications of Inquisitions Post Mortem relating to Nottinghamshire.

Documentary references to selions, together with surviving features in the modern landscape, indicate that the arable land of the village was once contained in large open fields, cultivated in strips. Leases of 1610 indicate that there were three common arable fields, namely Hardwick Field, the Lee and the Overfield. The common lands of Kirkby Moor and Waste lay to the east, as did Kirkby Forest, part of Sherwood Forest and subject to its laws.

5.4.5 Market and fair

About the year 1260 (secondary sources give dates between 1259 and 1261), there was a grant of a weekly market on a Thursday and an annual fair. There is no evidence of a clearly defined market place, and the steps and shaft of a cross which stands at the junction of Church Street and Chapel Street may be the remains of a boundary cross rather than a market cross (Stapleton 1891)

5.4.6 The Church of St Wilfrid (SMR 2416)

The existing church has its origins in the medieval period, although it was mostly destroyed by a fire in 1907 which broke out in the organ chamber and spread to the whole structure. It was replaced by a building described as being 'without special merit' (Pevsner 1979). The only early work is 13th century masonry in the chancel walls and two 15th century buttresses to the aisles.

There appears to have been some confusion in the past as to the church's dedication. In the Archbishop of York's returns of 1743 the rector referred to the church as St Luke's (Clay-Dove 1985), as did mid-19th century directories, although it is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1887 as St Wilfrid's.

5.4.7 Trade and industry

Kirkby's economy was almost certainly based on agriculture throughout the medieval period, with the only reference to 'industry' coming from the Domesday record of two mills, presumably corn-grinding mills, the site of one of which is thought to have been on the Erewash to the south of the settlement.

5.5 Post-medieval (16th - 18th century)

5.5.1 The manor

By the beginning of the 17th century the manor had become part of the Earl of Newcastle's estates.

5.5.2 Communications

Roads

Among a number of roads named in indictments in the 17th century was the 'Kingsway' leading from Pinxton to Kirkby, referred to in 1682, as was the 'lane between the Forest and Pinxton', which was probably the same road. Names of other highways at Kirkby mentioned in 17th century documents include 'Hooke Lane', 'Town Gate', 'Lee Lane', and 'Kirkby Lane' (Copnall 1915).

In 1787-8 an Act of Parliament was passed to enable the turnpiking of a 7-mile stretch of road between Larch Farm, Blidworth and South Normanton, in Derbyshire, passing through Kirkby-in-Ashfield from east to west (Cossons 1934).

Near the end of the 18th century difficulties arose over the use of the road from Kirkby to Sutton, then known as Rice Lane. The price of coal from Pinxton had increased following the turnpiking of the road which ran between there and Kirkby; consequently inhabitants of Kirkby had transferred their custom to Blackwell. This led to heavy and damaging use of Rice Lane, in response to which local farmers had placed posts across it. Following a petition to have the lane declared a public carriage road, a bar was placed at its Kirkby end, requiring all through traffic to Sutton to pay a toll (Clay-Dove 1985).

5.5.3 The settlement and its environs

It is clear from documents in the archives of the Dukes of Portland that all the tenants acquired leases on the same date, presumably for ease of management. A number survive from 1610. All are for 21 years, and show that lands were leased for a sum of money, four days boon work, two capons and the growing of 40 ash saplings. Among the lessees were two yeomen, eighteen husbandmen, two 'freemasons' and one joiner. The next batch of leases, dated 1630, generally required either five or ten ash saplings to be grown, rather than the 40 expected previously. By 1709 the growing of trees was no longer a condition; in its place, each tenant was required to keep a hound and deliver one load of coal per annum.

The leases of 1610 indicate that at least part of the open fields were still being cultivated in common, each tenant having different amounts of land within them. Clearly some enclosure had taken place, however, as several closes are named, one in particular being 'New Close lately in Overfield'. Interestingly, Senior's map of Kirkby in 1629 does not appear to show any common fields at all, which suggests that within those 19 years the remainder of the open arable land had been enclosed.

Buildings in the village in the 17th century included a substantial house opposite the church, which came to be known as the Manor House and which stood until 1964, and the rectory to the north of the church. An inventory of Matthew Brailsford, rector from 1703 to 1734, indicates his high standard of living (Clay-Dove 1985). There were also five licensed victuallers recorded at Kirkby-in-Ashfield in 1675 (Copnall 1915).

In 1795 a Parliamentary Enclosure Act for Kirkby was passed, with the Award allotting just over 2023 acres of 'several commons or waste lands' (Tate 1935).

5.5.3 Population

A visitation of 1603 required the number of recusants and communicants in each parish to be provided. In response, the incumbent of Kirkby-in-Ashfield returned a figure of 207 communicants and no recusants. He did not provide a number for non-communicants (ie those under the age of 16). Wood (1942) assumed that they would have made up some 60% of the total population, and consequently estimated that there were 331 inhabitants of the parish at that date.

In 1676 the figures returned were 274 communicants, no Roman Catholics and 2 dissenters (Guildford 1924). Increasing this by 60% to take account of non-communicants gives a figure of 441. Such an increase in population since 1603, if correct, is somewhat unusual, as many places in Nottinghamshire appear to have experienced population stagnation or decrease at this time (Wood 1937).

In the Archbishop of York's returns of 1743, the rector recorded 'about six score families' in the parish, seven of which were Protestant Dissenters, one Quaker family and an 'uncertain number of persons that run up and down after the Methodist preachers'. This has been used to estimate a population of about 600 (Clay-Dove 1985), almost a doubling of the 1603 figure at a time when the population of many market towns appears to have still been less than it was at the beginning of the 17th century (Wood 1937).

Lowe (1798) gives a figure of 891 for the population of Kirkby 'taken from house to house'.

5.5.4 Trade and industry

Iron smelting

It appears that in 1630 the Duke of Newcastle was already considering building a forge, since several leases of that date contain a memo noting that he should be entitled to do so, while one to a certain John Wilson of Selston noted that Wilson was to build the forge. As far as can be gathered from a brief comparison of field names recorded in these leases with those on Senior's map, it seems as though the Duke was keeping his options open with regard to location, since all appear to be in different parts of the manor. It is not clear whether this forge was ever constructed.

In 1666 the Duke granted to a certain Humphrey Jennens of Erdington, Warwickshire, 'all the wood and underwood ... commonly called by the name of Kirkby Wood' in order to make charcoal. In 1671 Jennens 'did erect and build a furnace commonly called Kirkby Furnace and also severall other buildings thereunto neere adjoyning for his agents, servants and workmen'. The record of a marriage in Kirkby Church Register in 1680 of Thomas Eyre, *faber ferrarius*, may refer to one of these workmen (Johnson 1960). According to Johnson, the furnace appears to have ceased production sometime in the early 18th century, although Morley (1999) says that it was out of blast between 1750 and 1765 and that it had closed down by 1788.

Textiles

Framework knitting was certainly being carried out in the parish by the early 18th century, since in 1709 Grives Farm was occupied by a man described as a farmer and framework knitter (Clay-Dove 1987). It became more important over the course of the century.

Other

William Senior's map of 1629 clearly shows the water-powered corn-mill on the Erewash to the south of the town.

As at many other places on the Magnesian Limestone, lime-burning was carried out in the area to produce lime for the land. Lowe (1798) describes the lime produced at Kirkby as being 'of a weak kind'.

5.6 19th century

5.6.1 Communications

Railways

Early in the 19th century, the first railway was built in the vicinity of Kirkby, skirting it to the south and east. This was the Mansfield/Pinxton line, which came about as the result of a desire by the coal owners of the Upper Erewash Valley to reach a wider market. The line opened in 1819, with wagons initially being pulled by bullocks and later by horses. The railway was an economic success and was later acquired by the Midland Railway (Birks & Coxon 1949a, 1949b). The Midland opened the line from Kirkby to Nottingham in 1848, constructing a station about a mile to the east of the village, just south of the junction with the line to Mansfield.

The sinking of pits in the concealed coalfield brought about further development in the railway system so that by the end of the century the area to the south and east of old Kirkby was a network of main lines and colliery branches. The Great Central railway opened a station to the south of Kirkby in 1891 for goods traffic and 1892 for passengers. Known at first as Kirkby and Pinxton station, it was renamed Kirkby

Bentinck in 1915. The Great Northern opened a line just to the west of the Midland in 1897, although they never opened a station at Kirkby (Clay-Dove 1985).

5.6.2 The settlement and its environs

While the original settlement at Kirkby remained relatively unchanged, land to the east, which had originally been part of Kirkby Forest prior to enclosure, became increasingly developed. What is today known as East Kirkby was originally called Kirkby Folly, the name coming traditionally from the building of an inn at Four Lane Ends, supposedly in 1803, which either could not be finished due to lack of funds or was considered to be on a foolish site. Kirkby Folly was described in 1869 as 'a small hamlet adjoining the railway station' but by the end of the century it had become larger than the old village (Clay-Dove 1985).

An anonymous writer who visited Kirkby towards the end of the 19th century wrote:

'A pilgrimage anywhere on a dull December day is perhaps a mistake; a pilgrimage to Kirkby-in-Ashfield certainly is. We imagined that an old forest-side village could never be other than picturesque but we found it could be bald, commonplace and somewhat dreary; and that its most striking features were the vileness of its roads and the number of irresponsible cattle straying about its streets ...' (*Weekly Guardian* 19.8.1911).

5.6.3 Population

The 10-yearly census, which commenced in 1801, provides the following figures for Kirkby-in-Ashfield:

Year	Population		
1801	1002		
1811	1123		
1821	1420		
1831	2032		
1841	2143		
1851	2363		
1861	2886		
1871	3075		
1881	4212		
1891	6533		
1901	10392		

The rapid increase in population after the 1870's indicates the impact of the coal-mining industry in the area.

5.6.4 Religious buildings

The increasing population brought with it the requirement for more places of worship, in particular to accommodate the non-conformists.

Baptists

In 1818 a Baptist chapel was erected on what was at that time Town Street, but which became known as Chapel Street, while a further chapel was built at East Kirkby in 1873.

Methodists

Various sites were used for meetings of the Wesleyan Methodists until a chapel was built in 1834 on Chapel Street. A school building was added to the rear in around 1865. In 1910 a new chapel was opened on a different site on The Hill; the old chapel was converted for use as a snooker hall (Smith 1979).

In East Kirkby, Methodists met in a wooden structure known as 'Noah's Ark' in New Street until a more permanent building could be constructed. This was achieved in 1879 when the Trinity Methodist Church was opened. A temporary school was built at the rear of the chapel in 1887 and was replaced by a brick building in 1890. The church was enlarged in 1897 and a new building on the same site was opened in 1913 (Clay-Dove 1985).

Primitive Methodists

Primitive Methodists were meeting at East Kirkby by 1859 and opened their chapel on Lowmoor Road in 1876. It was extensively restored in 1924 but sold in 1959 to the Meridian Hosiery Company for use as a factory. A few years later it was demolished under a scheme for the development of Kirkby centre (Smith 1979).

Church of England

By 1885 St Thomas's iron mission church had been erected at East Kirkby and was in the charge of one of the curates of the parish church. It was described in White's Directory of that date as 'a very pretty structure'.

5.6.5 Education

In 1826 a National School was opened on Church Street. It was rebuilt in 1854 and enlarged in 1875 before being handed to the Kirkby School Board. A second school was opened on Chapel Street in 1870 and taken over by the Board in 1888. New premises were built in 1900 (Clay-Dove 1985). In East Kirkby a Board school was built on Station Street in 1878 which had been enlarged by 1900.

5.6.6 Trade and industry

Textiles

The framework knitting industry, which had already been present in the 18th century, continued to develop through the first half of the 19th century, although some trouble was experienced in 1811 when a number of frames were smashed as part of the Luddite disturbances at that time. In 1844 a study carried out into the state of the framework knitting trade and the condition of the knitters found that there were 155 masters' shops in Kirkby and Kirkby Woodhouse and a total of 474 frames in employment, with a further 27 unemployed or in smith's hands (Felkin 1845).

In 1832, White's Directory noted that in addition to the framework knitters, some of whom were also small farmers, there were also bobbin net makers; however, the Directory of 1844 states that 'the bobbin net trade, which employed so many hands a dozen years ago, has completely left the village'.

Coal mining

The earliest colliery to be sunk in the Kirkby area was Portland Colliery, to the south-east. This colliery was already present in 1836, as it is shown on Sanderson's map of that date. Kirkby or Summit Colliery, to the north-east of the old village, was sunk in 1887 by the Butterley Company, becoming one of the largest in the country and generating its own electricity, while Bentinck Colliery to the south was sunk by the New Hucknall Colliery Company in 1894-5.

Other

Flour continued to be ground at Kirkby Mill, although its location had changed slightly. Tradesmen mentioned in 1831 included a grocer, shoemaker, blacksmith, wheelwright, warp lace manufacturer, maltster, butcher, baker and limeburner (Clay-Dove 1985).

The presence of the limeburner in 1831 indicates the continuation of a practice already present in the 18th century. Late 19th Ordnance Survey maps show a number of sites where limekilns were either in operation or disused, a particularly large area being to the south-east where the Portland Works were located. Limestone was quarried from various sites. Brick-making also developed around East Kirkby towards the end of the 19th century, with both Bentinck and Summit Collieries constructing brickworks adjacent to the mines.

5.7 20th century

East Kirkby continued to expand into the 20th century, and in 1901 it was formed into an ecclesiastical parish separate from Kirkby-in-Ashfield. A further railway was built through the town, separating the old settlement from the new, with passenger services commencing from Kirkby Central station in 1917 and finishing in 1956. However, in the 1980's the area suffered from heavy job losses, particularly in coal mining. One result of this has been the re-introduction of rail services withdrawn during the Beeching era, to aid regeneration in the coalfield area. Consequently a new station at Kirkby was opened on the Robin Hood Line in 1996 (The Railway Correspondence and Travel Society 1998).

6. THE DEVELOPMENT OF KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD

The town has been divided into plan elements, or components, based on map evidence and documentary sources (the two earliest maps, of 1629 and 1795, have been reproduced as figures 2 and 3 respectively). These plan elements have been subdivided below according to the earliest date of their assumed occurrence, although these divisions are tentative only, and need to be confirmed by further work. Subsequent major changes are briefly summarised, together with the degree of survival of early features to the present day. The line of the Great Central Railway has been taken as the southern limit of the area under consideration in the idenfication of components, with the exception of the mill sites.

6.1 Medieval components (Figure 4)

Component 1 'Kirkby Castle' (SMR 2415)

The earthworks representing the fortified manor at Castle Hill, Kirkby, have been scheduled (National Monument No. 13397). The site includes a levelled rectangular platform measuring 60m from north to south by 50m east to west. The platform is steeply scarped on the east side. At the south-west corner there is a sub-circular mound, flat-topped, which is thought to represent the remains of a tower built into the perimeter wall of the manor house. The north wall has been replaced by the existing wall of the churchyard. The area to the south has been disturbed by ploughing.

An Inquisition Post Mortem of 1357 states that

'... there are [in Kirkby] a hall 100 feet in length and 2 long chambers and a kitchen covered in stones, tiles and a thatch which in the lifetime of John Darcy, formerly lord there, were broken and ruinous and still are ...' (Train 1952, 36).

Brief descriptions of the Stuteville's properties elsewhere also offer a picture of what might be expected at Kirkby. Their manor house at Cottingham was described in 1282 as 'well constructed with a double ditch enclosed by a wall', while their capital messuage of Kirby Moorside comprised 'diverse houses both necessary and others, well-built, one grange in bad repair excepted'. The manor house at Kirkby may have been something similar (Speight 1994).

The limits of the component have been defined running eastwards to the stream, down a steeep scarp, partly to include a 'pear-shaped' earthwork defined on maps and partly to incude the fish ponds at the bottom, which may have had medieval predecessors. The area is marked as an orchard in 1629. The component

also includes an area to the west of the church, between the churchyard and the road, which had a building on it in 1629.

Component 2 Church and churchyard

The architect who supervised the rebuilding of the church after the fire in 1907 produced a ground plan of the church in c. 1150, as well as plans of its later development (reproduced in Bonser 1907). While it might be expected that this is the site of the pre-Conquest church, there is no evidence for it at present and nothing appears to have come to light during the rebuilding. By c. 1150 there was a church with a nave and at least one aisle on the north side. Towards the end of the 12th century it was extended eastwards. In the 13th century the chancel and the tower were built. There may also have been a south aisle at this time. Sketches of the church made in the 18th century indicate that at some point, possibly the 15th or 16th century, a clerestory was built over the nave. The church was altered and partly rebuilt about 1860 and was much restored in around 1868 (Young 1971).

The extent of the churchyard is based on that shown on Senior's map of 1629. It still had approximately that form in 1836 but by 1887 had been extended westwards to the road. It was closed for burials in 1883 and was described in 1985 as having been levelled 'in recent years' (Clay-Dove 1985).

Component 3 Settlement fronting the west side of Church Street

A block of properties of generally similar width, but of varying length, are shown on the 1629 map. There is the suggestion from later maps that there may once have been a common rear boundary on the line of that of the properties towards the north-western end of Church Street, and the component has been drawn accordingly. The character of the 17th century plots is still apparent in the modern plan for a good part of this area, with the exception of the southern end, where a large house of 1622, known as the Manor House, was demolished in 1964 and replaced by an estate of what Pevsner (1979) described as 'nondescript bungalows'. The pinfold, a grade II listed building, lies at the southern end of this component, while Kirkby Cross, also a grade II listed building and a scheduled monument, lies close to the north-eastern end, although not on its original site. According to Stapleton (1912) a rough upright flat stone about 3 feet high, which he thought might have been an old boundary stone, stood at the foot of the cross in 1887, but had disappeared a few years later.

Component 4 Settlement fronting the south-east side of Church Street

On the earliest map this area is blank, shown as 'free', with the exception of a building fronting the road immediately to the north of the church in an area which is now a carpark but was previously the walled kitchen garden of the rectory. By the end of the 18th century several buildings fronted the road, while the rectory and outbuildings stood to the rear. The fact that nothing is shown on the map of 1629 does not necessarily mean nothing was there, since the rectory at least is said to have been Elizabethan in origin, a late 16th century west wing having been demolished in 1964. It was altered and enlarged in 1717 by the then rector in order to make it 'the most commodious dwelling that any parson in the county hath' (Clay-Dove 1985). It is now a private house, and is a grade II listed building.

Component 5 Settlement fronting the north-east side of Church Street

A row of properties are depicted on the 1629 map, one of which is wider than the others, with the building set back from the street. This still survives today, being a grade II listed building of the 16th century. The lines, complete or partial, of several early property boundaries are still visible in the lines of more recent properties.

Component 6 Settlement on the corner of Cow Pasture Lane and Sutton Road

Although there does not appear to be a building at this corner on the map of 1629, there is clearly a rectangular plot set in a larger enclosed area called 'Croft End'. This suggests that there may have been an earlier building in existence here. The corner had become built up again by the end of the 18th century.

Component 7 Settlement along the northern frontage of Chapel Street

A block of fairly regular properties is depicted on the map of 1629, those in the eastern half of this area being slightly longer than those to the west. Both ends of this block have been substantially altered in recent times, the eastern end by the insertion of a new road with housing, the western end by housing and a roundabout.

Component 8 Settlement along the southern frontage of Chapel Street

This area consists of a row of short, relatively broad properties generally sharing a common back boundary which also forms the back boundary of much of component 5. It is now separated at its western end from component 5 by a lane which provides access to Kirkby House.

Component 9 Kirkby mill (marked on Figure 6)

The area marked is that of the mill in 1629, on the assumption that one of the two mills mentioned in Domesday Book is likely to have been on the this site. The 17th century mill appears to have been on a leat to the north of the river course, with an overflow channel running from the building to the river as well as a possible truncated channel to the south, although it is difficult to be certain with only the black and white copy of the map as reference.

6.2 Post-medieval components (Figure 5)

Component 10 Mill and mill pond

Comparison of Senior's map with the enclosure map appears to indicate that by the end of the 18th century the mill had been rebuilt in a different position, slightly further south and west, with a mill pond to the east. The pond was present by 1774, as it is shown on Chapman's map.

Component 11 Settlement along north-western frontage of Church Hill

By the end of the 18th century a couple of buildings had been erected by the roadside adjoining a piece of land which was allotted in the Enclosure Award. They may therefore represent squatter encroachment on the outskirts of the village. A smithy was located at the southernmost end in 1887. The area is now occupied by modern buildings set back from the road.

Component 12 Settlement in Orchard Road area

Senior depicts what appears to be a dwelling with outbuildings in this area in 1629. A number of buildings were still present at the end of the 18th century, but there was little here by 1900. The narrow access lane shown on 19th century maps has been widened into Orchard Road and modern buildings erected.

Component 13 Settlement on the southern side of The Hill

This formed part of an area marked 'The Earle of Kingston his groundes' on the 1629 map. Any buildings and enclosure boundaries present at that time may not have been depicted, as the purpose of the map was to show the Earl of Newcastle's estate. Some buildings were present here by 1795.

Component 14 Settlement on the northern side of The Hill

This formed part of an area marked 'Fre Land' in 1629. A single large dwelling is shown on the 17th century map, although it is possible there were others, the land not forming part of the Earl of Newcastle's estate. It was still relatively undeveloped by the end of the 18th century; however by 1900 Park Street had been constructed, together with adjacent housing.

6.3 19th century components (Figure 6)

Component 15 Mill

The site of the mill appears to have changed again in the 19th century, possibly when it was rebuilt in the late 1850s or early 1860s, with maps showing it a little way to the west of the mill pond. It was sold to the New Hucknall Colliery company in the 20th century and demolished in 1934.

Component 16 Cemetery, Church Hill

This burial ground was opened some time after 1887 and before 1900.

Component 17 Mansfield/Pinxton tramway / Midland Railway

The Mansfield-Pinxton tramway was taken over by the Midland Railway, with some alterations in the route (17a). The Midland also opened a line from Nottingham to Mansfield (17b). The line closed in 1966, the track was lifted and the station was demolished in 1967, although track has since been relaid to the south of Kirkby as part of the Robin Hood Line.

Component 18 Great Central Railway

The Great Central railway opened in 1891 for goods traffic and 1892 for passengers. It was closed in the 1960s and the line was lifted.

Component 19 Great Northern Railway

The Great Northern opened a line just to the west of the Midland in 1897. It was closed in the 1960s although the line was relaid and the cutting and tunnel re-excavated for the new Robin Hood Line which opened in 1996.

Component 20 Summit Colliery

Kirkby or Summit Colliery was sunk in 1887. A brickworks was constructed on the southern side of the colliery. The mine was closed in 1969 and much of the area is now an industrial estate, although the pithead baths building remains *in situ* (Railway Correspondence and Travel Society 1998).

Component 21 Cemetery, East Kirkby

As East Kirkby developed and grew, the old churchyard became inadequate. Consequently three acres of land on Kingsway were purchased by the Burial Board for a cemetery and a chapel erected.

Components 22-27 Settlement to the east of Kirkby village

By the end of the 19th century Park Street, Vernon Road, Hampden Street and Harcourt Street had been laid out to the north of Victoria Road, with some blocks of housing having been constructed. Area 22 includes The Hill Methodist Church.

Component 28 Settlement to the south of Urban Road

Streets and housing had been constructed in this area by the end of the 19th century.

Components 29-30 Settlement to north and south of Station Road

Apart from a solitary building, the original 'Kirkby Folly', this area remained undeveloped until the mid-19th century. By the end of the century several roads had been laid out, with housing, two chapels and a church, two schools and two brickworks.

6.4 20th century development (Figure 7)

20th century development is represented by a single un-numbered component. It should be noted that the occasional earlier building, such as an isolated farm which was at a distance from the core of medieval and post-medieval settlement, and therefore not part of it, may occur within this component if it has been engulfed by modern housing development.

6.5 Discussion

Although finds of both prehistoric and Roman date have been found in the vicinity of Kirkby, there is no evidence of settlement in the area of the later town, and at present it would seem that Kirkby's origins lie in the early medieval period. As noted previously, there is strong place-name evidence for the existence of an early church at Kirkby, which would presumably have acted as a focus for the pre-Conquest settlement. However, no artefacts of early medieval date have been recorded from Kirkby, nor is there anything in the layout and boundaries of the later settlement which might indicate earlier origins. The site of the medieval church and manor house at the top of the hill, with the scarp on one side, was clearly deliberately chosen. It is quite common for churches to occupy the highest point of the settlement, and to be rebuilt on the same site; consequently in the absence of other evidence it is suggested that the early church would have been erected there also.

The plan form of what is suggested to be the medieval settlement is based on two regular double-rows at right-angles to each other, forming an 'L' shape, with one on the road running north from the church towards Sutton (components 3, 4 and 5) and the other on the road running west towards Mansfield (components 7 and 8), both these places already being in existence in the 11th century and with churches established by the time of the Domesday Survey. The fact that the western end of component 8 appears to cut into the northern end of component 5 suggests a chronological relationship, as might the step in the back boundaries of the tofts in component 7.

Kirkby-in-Ashfield was granted a market and a fair in about 1260, the period between 1250 and 1275 being a time when a considerable number of settlements were acquiring market charters. While the grant of a market led to some places increasing in relative importance in the settlement hierarchy, it seems that Kirkby was one of the many which remained in approximately the same position, with no greater than average settlement growth following the market's establishment. Its taxation ranking in 1086 was 63rd, rising to 54th by 1334 (Unwin 1981). There do not appear to be any further references to this market, and it may only have been relatively short-lived, possibly not surviving the population decline of the 14th century. Certainly there is no evidence in the settlement plan for a market place, not even in the form of a widened street.

The extent of the village as indicated on the enclosure map at the end of the 18th century is virtually unchanged from that suggested for the medieval village. It seems likely, therefore, that any increase in population could be accommodated within the existing plan, either by building within established plots or by reoccupying plots which had become abandoned previously. Similarly, expansion continued to be negligable in the early decades of the 19th century, there being little obvious difference between the enclosure map of 1795 and Sanderson's map of Kirkby in 1835 despite the fact that the population of the parish, as recorded in the census, doubled between 1801 and 1831. This again suggests that housing needs were being met by an increased density of settlement in already occupied areas, with development taking

place in yards particularly in response to the growth of the framework knitting industry. Several rows of cottages are apparent on later 19th century maps, particularly along Church Street, running back at right angles to the road, in some cases to the rear of pre-existing buildings on the street frontage.

The development of the concealed coalfield was the stimulus to dramatic growth at Kirkby; however, much of this took place to the east of the existing village, on land which had previously been part of Kirkby Forest. This growth was already underway by the end of the 19th century, but really took off in the first decades of the 20th century.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ISSUES

7.1 Research questions

- 1. Currently nothing is known of the pre-conquest settlement at Kirkby. What date was the first church established and where was it? Did it act as a focus for an early nucleated settlement, and what was its relationship with other contemporary settlements in the area, particularly the early royal estate at Mansfield?
- 2. Domesday Book records two mills at Kirkby; one of these is assumed to have been on the same site as the 17th century mill, but where was the other? In an Inquisition Post Mortem of 1244 it was stated that Ranulf le Poer, who had held lands in Pinxton and Normanton, also held of the fee of Kirkby the mill of Boctheyt, rendering to the lords of the fee of Kirkby 5s yearly (Standish 1914). Maybe this was the second Kirkby mill, but where was Boctheyt?
- 3. What of Kirkby's market and fair? How long did they survive? Where was the market held and is the cross indeed a boundary cross rather than a market cross? It supposedly once stood on the other side of the road where exactly, and when was it moved?
- 4. The manor house was clearly in ruins in the first half of the 14th century was the site reused after the mid-14th century by the new lords of the manor? Was the dereliction of the hall mirrored by similar problems in the village, as is suggested by a reference to a reduction of rents around that time? If so, was there any depopulation and shrinkage in the settlement area?
- 5. The location of Kirkby Furnace still not known with any certainty although it may come to light through a combination of documentary work and fieldwork. Johnson (1960, 46) believed that he had discovered evidence of its location in one of Meadow Farm's fields bordering the River Erewash, where he described finding

'the drained beds of the mill-leat and dam of what could well be the Kirkby Furnace. The poor condition of the grass in the vicinity, the moulds of sterile soil and cinders, the patches of iron slag and the ridges due to open-cast working of ironstone rakes support the claim that in this meadow stood Kirkby Furnace'

while Morley (1999) records its site as being 'at the foot of Church Hill in the angle formed by Pinxton Lane and Park Lane near the old Limeburner's Arms. By the side is the lane to Meadow Farm ...'

6. Figures indicate an increase in population over the course of the 17th century, a relatively unusual feature. Why would this be so? Did early industrial development play a part, for example Kirkby Furnace or the textile industry? The increase appears to have continued through the 18th century, yet if Senior's map of 1629 and the enclosure map of 1795 are compared, the village itself seems barely to have grown. Do the population estimates give the correct picture? Was a substantial amount of the population increase settled elsewhere, spread out in surrounding hamlets, for example in Kirkby Woodhouse and Annesley Woodhouse, as well as in farms established as the land became increasingly enclosed? Or could it all be accommodated within the existing limits of the settlement?

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7. Are there any remains of structures associated with the framework knitting industry in Kirkby?

7.2 Archaeological potential

7.2.1 Existing protection

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Certain nationally important archaeological sites and monuments enjoy special protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* 1979. This protection ensures that the case for preservation is fully considered should there be any proposals for development or other work which might damage the monument. Any such proposals are subject to Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent, administered directly by the Secretary of State. They include not only demolition, damage or removal, but also restorative works. There would normally be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation of the monument.

There are two sites within Kirkby-in-Ashfield which are currently scheduled, namely Kirkby's market cross (National Monument No. 23371) and Castle Hill fortified manor site to the south of St Wilfrid's Church (National Monument No. 13397).

Archaeology in the Local Plan

Ashfield Local Plan, adopted December 1995, contains the following policy relating to ancient monuments and archaeological sites:

POLICY P16 Development affecting areas of archaeological interest will not be permitted where:-

- a) it would result in any disturbance to a scheduled ancient monument or other nationally important monument and/or its setting, or
- b) on other sites of archaeological interest, where in-situ preservation is merited, it would involve significant alteration or cause damage or would have a major adverse impact on its setting.

Where in-situ preservation is not merited, a planning condition may be imposed, or section 106 agreement negotiated requiring the site to be surveyed, excavated and recorded prior to development as appropriate.

Conservation areas (Figure 8)

The *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas)* Act 1990 required all Local Planning Authorities to determine which parts of their areas were of special architectural or historic interest and to designate them as conservation areas, in order to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the area. It is also their duty to review them from time to time, and to determine whether any further parts of their areas should also be designated as conservation areas.

Kirkby Cross conservation area was designated in 1975. It is dominated to the south by the church, its overall character being created by an almost continuous street boundary by either buildings or stone walls (NCC leaflet). However, this character has been eroded over recent years, with the loss of some old buildings and the erection of new ones in brick. New buildings are currently being constructed within the conservation area just to the north of the rectory.

Conservation areas in the Local Plan

Ashfield Local Plan, adopted December 1995, contains the following policy relating to conservation areas:

POLICY P15 Development in conservation area will only be permitted where:

- a) it preserves or enhances the character or appearance of the area, or its setting.
- b) In the case of demolition or partial demolition it can also be demonstrated that the building is beyond economic repair, viable alternative uses cannot be found or redevelopment would produce substantial benefits for the community that would outweight the building's loss.
- Redevelopment following demolition is undertaken within an agreed timescale secured by condition.
- d) A fully detailed scheme has been submitted including full details of redevelopment where appropriate.

Listed buildings (Figure 8)

A listed building is one recognised by the government as being of special architectural or historic interest, as specified by the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act* 1990. Listing is made at three levels of importance, Grade II, Grade II* and the most important, Grade I, and listed building consent is required, in addition to normal planning consent, before any alterations, extensions or demolitions can be made to a listed structure which might affect its character.

There are 17 listed buildings in the built-up area of Kirkby. All are Grade II, and all can be broken down according to their earliest structural phase as follows:

Earliest structural phase	C16 or earlier	C17	C18	C19	C20
Number of structures	3		11	1	2

Planning Policy Guidance 15 allows the creation and maintenance of a list of buildings of local historic/architectural interest, although this does not confer a statutory obligation. Currently there are no buildings in the urban area of Kirkby identified as being of local interest, although it is hoped that a survey to identify such buildings will be undertaken in the near future.

Listed buildings in the Local Plan

Ashfield Local Plan, adopted December 1995, contains the following policies relating to listed buildings:

POLICY P17 Development involving the alteration, extension or change of use of a listed building will only be permitted where:

- a) they do not have any adverse effect on the architectural and historic character or appearance of the building or its setting,
- b) they respect the scale, design and materials of the existing building, and
- c) in the case of demolition or partial demolition, it can be demonstrated that the building is beyond economic repair, viable alternative uses cannot be found or redevelopment would produce substantial planning benefits for the community that would outweigh the building's loss.

POLICY P18 Development will not be permitted where, through its siting, scale or design, it would have a major adverse impact on the setting of a listed building.

7.2.2 Above ground remains

The old part of Kirkby-in-Ashfield still retains vestiges of its past as an agricultural village and has a distinctly rural feel to it. Many of the buildings are of stone, frequently lying directly on the street frontage, particularly along Church Street. In addition, some buildings have their gable end on to the street. The lines of many of the plot boundaries shown on the early 17th century map, and which are probably of medieval origin, are still visible today, including the long rear boundaries which run behind most of the properties on either side of Church Street.

There are also remnants of a couple of the old yards along Church Street, and it would be interesting to know whether any buildings retain elements typical of framework knitters' cottages.

To the east of the old village there are some survivals of late 19th century and early 20th century terrace housing built in association with the development of the collieries, while a guided walk to view the remains of some of the railways of Kirkby-in-Ashfield has been published (Railway Correspondence and Travel Society 1998)

7.2.3 Below ground remains

With no archaeological work having been carried out in Kirkby, it is difficult to assess the degree of survival of earlier features.

Clearly the area with the most obvious potential is at the southern end of the original village, around the rectory, the church and the site of the manor house. Although the latter has been robbed for stone, with buried remains having been damaged by ploughing, and possibly by tree roots when the area was in use as an orchard, the fact that some earthworks are still visible, and that it has been afforded protection from further damage by scheduling, indicates that there is considerable potential not only for survival of medieval features but also of earlier remains. Similarly the churchyard contains evidence of past populations, and possibly of the original pre-Conquest church. Deposits relating to two buildings marked on Senior's map of 1629 may survive below the western side of the churchyard and the carpark to the north of the church - their proximity to the potential focus of the early medieval settlement makes these areas particularly important.

Further north along Church Street, the tendency to construct modern buildings set back from the street means that the remains of earlier buildings may survive along the street line. The degree to which medieval and earlier features survive below later buildings depends at least in part on when the latter have cellars - it is not known how common a feature cellars are in Kirkby.

There may be some potential for environmental work, with the possible survival of organic remains along the course of the stream, and in the area of the mill.

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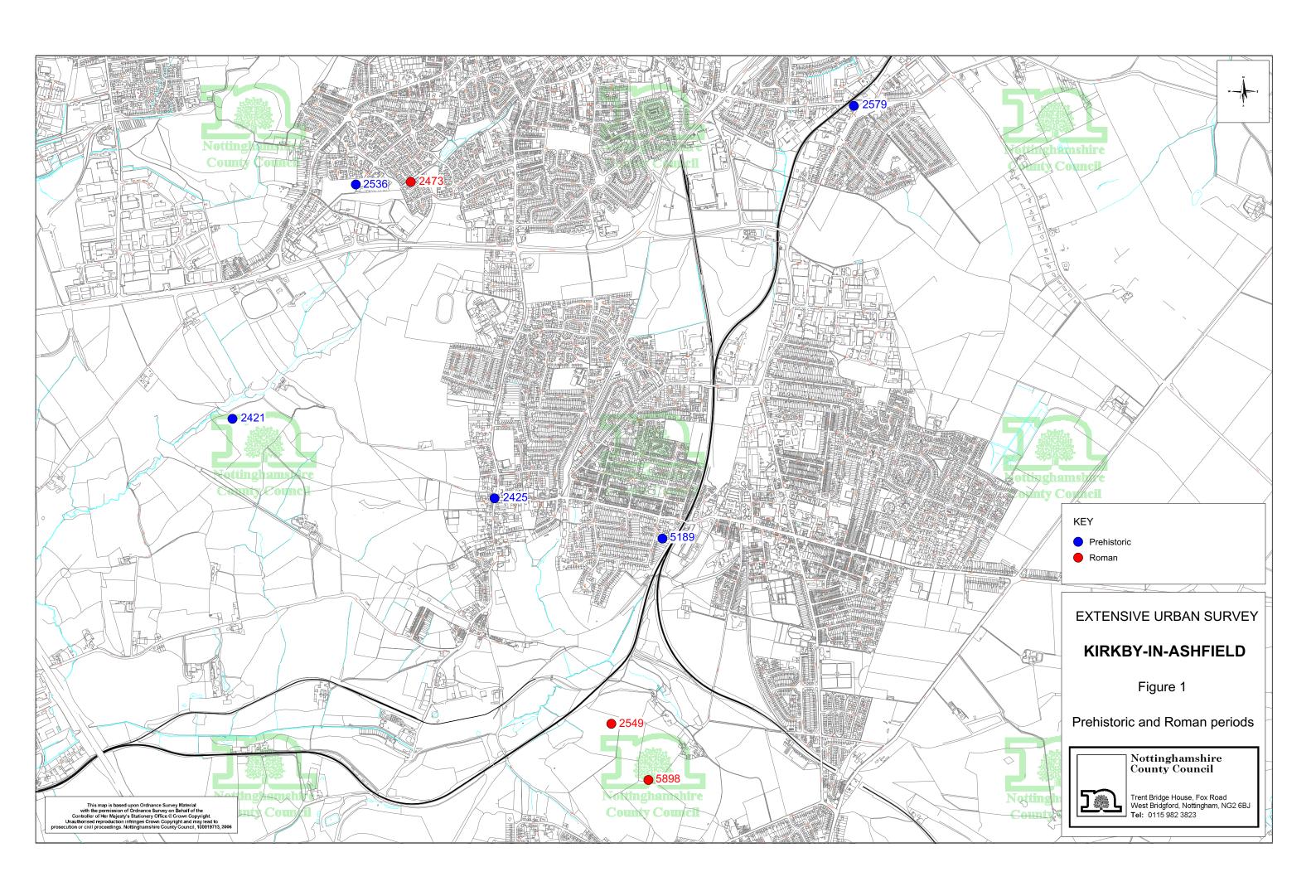
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EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD Part of Senior's map of 1629 Figure 2

