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BRANSTON HALL LANE, OS FIELD NO. 6600

FIELDWALKING REPORT

Kate Orr – North Kesteven Heritage Officer, February 2000

Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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Introduction

On the 21st February 1999, Kate Orr and David Start from Heritage Lincolnshire led a fieldwalking survey with a group of 60 members of the public, many of whom had not done any fieldwalking before. The field surveyed is centred on TF 008 662 and is situated to the south west of the village of Branston, at the end of Hall Lane, by Fox Covert and Giles's Gorse. The approximately 10 ha. field had been ploughed a few weeks previously and had not been drilled.

Archaeological Background

Prehistoric

Flint implements have been found 600m to the north of the site (NK13.31)

An Iron Age coin has been found 400m to the east (NK13.49)

Roman

700m to the north of the site, an excavation carried out by J T Hayes revealed a stone foundation of irregular shape. No traces of walls survived but quantities of charred timber and nails were found round the edges. Other finds included pottery, roofing tiles, flue tiles and tessera. (Archaeological Notes 1967). A silver Roman coin is also known from this site. A sherd of amphora bearing the stamp 'EROTIZ' was found on the same site the following year. The probable date is AD 50 -120. (Archaeological Notes 1968). (NK13.31)

A Romano-British inscription 'AURELIA CONCESSA' was found in the adjacent field to the above. (LAASRP 1964).

Romano-British pottery has been found in the adjacent field to the southeast to the fieldwalking site (NK 13.52).

An extensive Romano-British 3rd-4th century pottery scatter with building stone was found 700m to the south of the fieldwalking site (NK13.28)

500m to the east of the fieldwalking site is a Romano-British site identified by pottery, mortaria, coins, brooches and metalwork (NK13.49).

Romano-British greyware has also been found near 'Mere' 900m to the south of the fieldwalking site during enlargement of the pond (Archaeological Notes 1961), (NK13.27)

The road, Bloxholm Lane, may be a Roman route from Lincoln to Sleaford. Folly Lane may also be Roman (Dennis Mills pers comm)

Medieval

Medieval pottery had been found from the fieldwalking field (NK13.29)

100m to the south at Mere is the site of the medieval hospital of St John the Baptist. It was founded in 1240 by Simon of Ropsley for a chaplain and 13 poor men and ceased to exist by 1680. (VCH, 2, 1906, pp 233 & 447; Knowles and Hadcock, 1953, Medieval Religious Houses in England and Wales p29 (NK13.30). To the south was the deserted medieval village of Mere.

At East Mere, on the southeastern side of the Mere or Lake, near St Johns Hospital was a Knights Templar Preceptory. It may more accurately be called a large Templar farm administered by the Preceptory at Willoughton. The land was given to the Templars by several landowners including Simon of Ropsley. There are no earthworks now remaining. (D Mills The Knights Templar In Kesteven) (NK13.55)

Methods

The field was divided into 10m transects from southeast to northwest starting at A and going up to CC i.e. 29 transects (see attached map). The eastern two thirds of the field was surveyed. The visibility was good. Finds were washed and bagged by the participants.

Results

The main group of significant finds were flints:

H – a broken off projectile point of an arrowhead, possibly Early Bronze Age

T - a leaf-shaped Neolithic arrowhead

6 scrapers were found:

G – 1 scraper

H – 1 thumbnail scraper

J – 1 scraper

V – 1 scraper

W – 1 scraper

X – 1 scraper

12 flakes were found:

A 1 flake

J 3 flakes

K 2 flakes

L 1 flake

M 1 flake

V 1 flake

BB 2 flakes

CC 1 flake

The field contained a thin scatter of Roman to modern pottery and other artefacts. No significant distributions of this material were noted.

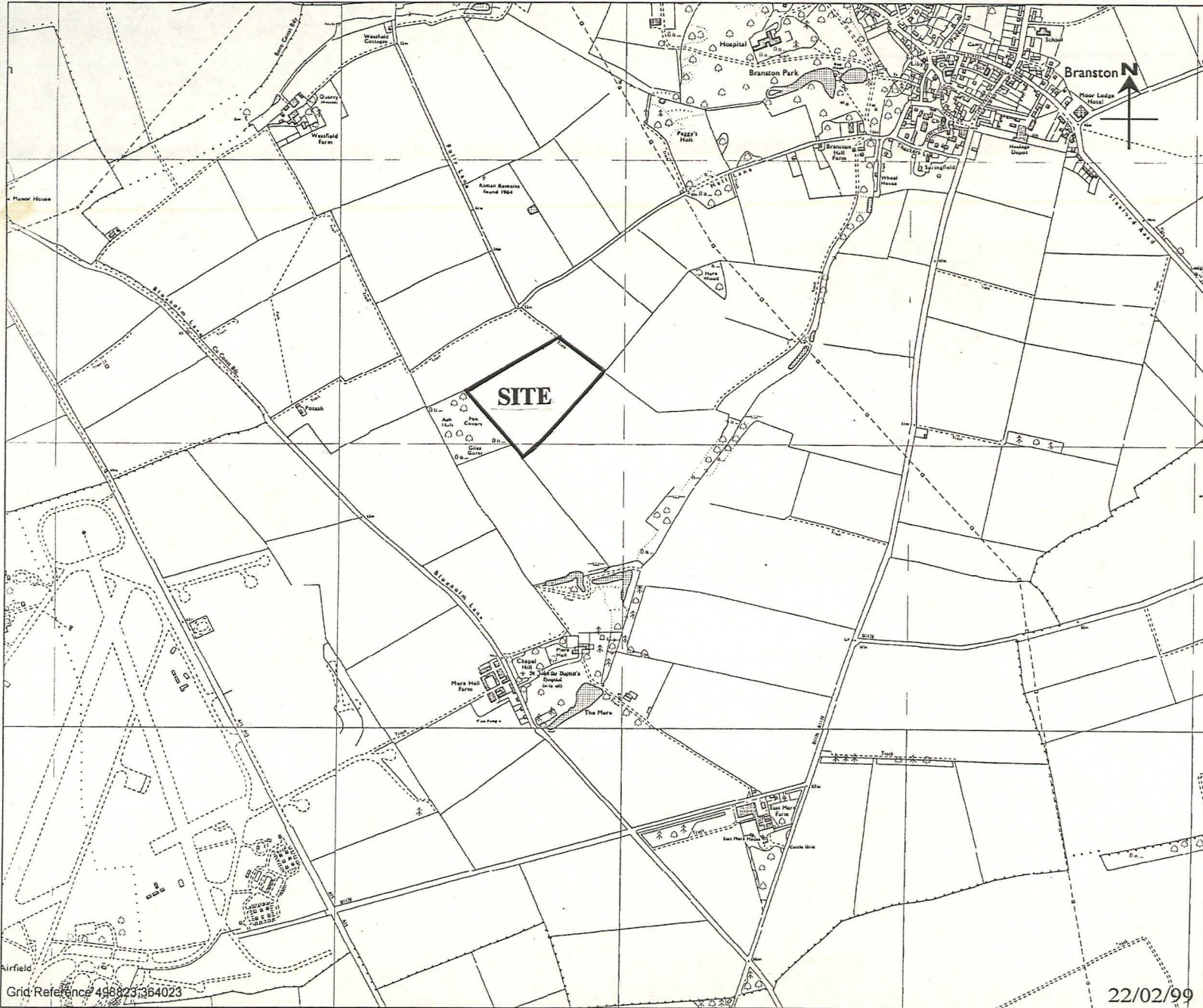
Conclusions

The quantity of flint tools indicates that hunting took place in this field in the late Stone Age / early Bronze Age.

The field contained a thin scatter of Roman to modern pottery and other artefacts in quantities appropriate to manuring the field over the centuries. No significant distributions of this material were noted. Unexpectedly there was not a significant quantity of Roman pottery. This signifies that though near Romano-British settlements, this field was likely to have been a field and not an area of occupation in this period.

Heritage Lincolnshire and North Kesteven District Council would like to thank Tinsleys Farms, Branston for permission to walk the site.

Copies of this report have been deposited with Tinsleys Farms, The Sites and Monuments Record in Lincoln and Heritage Lincolnshire. The finds were discarded apart from the arrowheads and scrapers which have been kept for educational use at Heritage Lincolnshire.

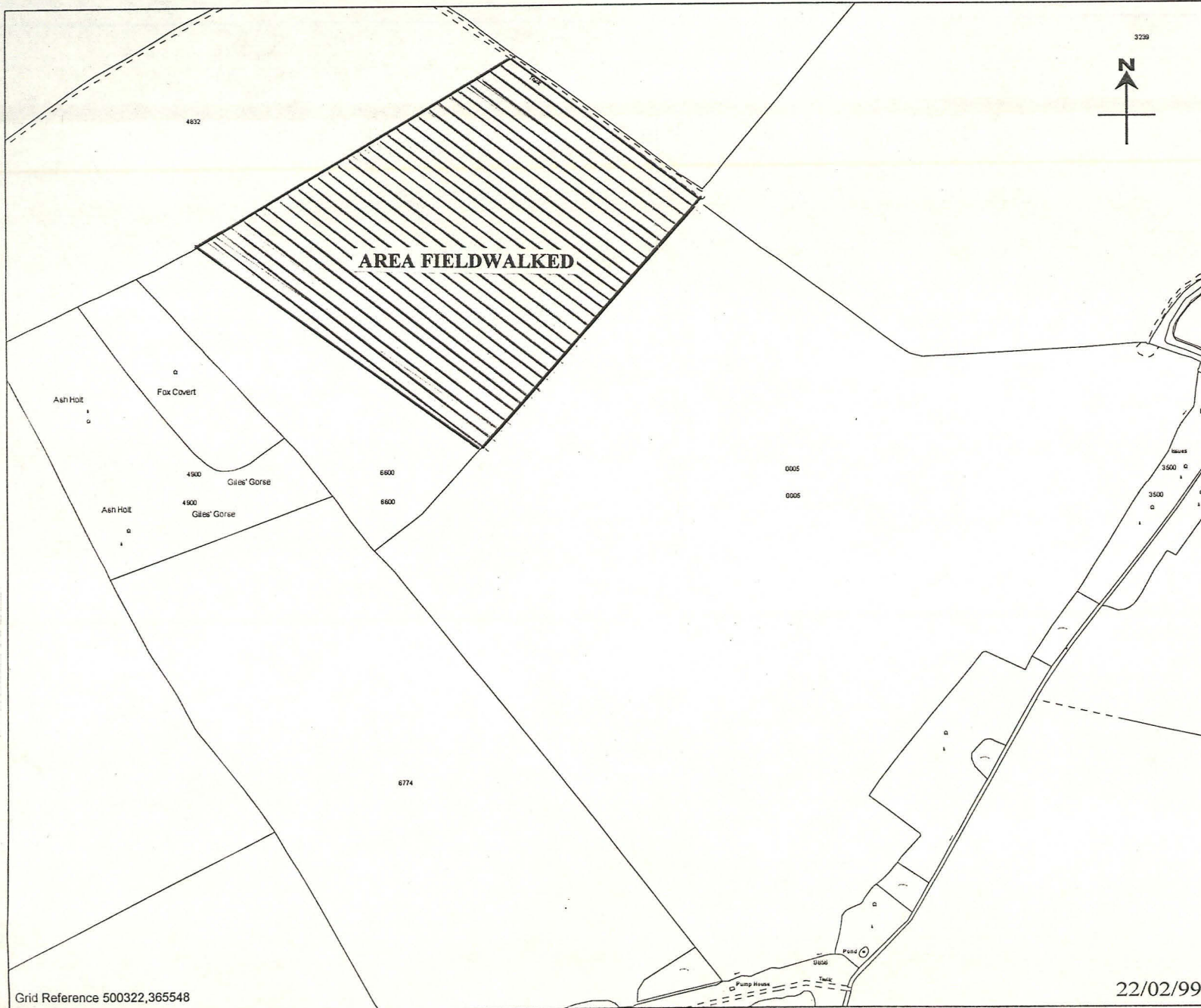


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Location Map

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Survey Area