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**DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF  
LAND EAST OF CLOOT DROVE,  
CROWLAND,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(CCD00)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES



Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section  
05 MAY 00  
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**DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF  
LAND EAST OF CLOOT DROVE,  
CROWLAND,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(CCD00)**

Work Undertaken For  
Persimmon Homes (East Midlands) Ltd

April 2000

Report Compiled by  
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National Grid Reference: TF 2470 1100



A.P.S. Report No. 041/00

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A desk-based assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of a residential development on land to the east of Cloot Drove, Crowland, Lincolnshire. Archaeological evidence dating from the Neolithic (4500-2250 BC) to post-medieval (1500 - 1800 AD) periods has been identified within the 500m assessment area surrounding the development site.*

*The site lies to the northeast of Crowland just off the northern fringe of the gravel peninsula on which the town stands.*

*Previous fieldwalking carried out at the site as part of the Fenland Survey did not identify any archaeological remains. However, the site does lie within the potential area of the Bronze Age barrow cemetery which extends along the Crowland peninsula.*

*A walkover survey was carried out at the site to assess ground conditions and the presence of archaeological remains. No artefacts or archaeological features were observed, although conditions were poor. Despite the presence of overhead cables, the site would be suitable for further investigations in the form of geophysical or fieldwalking surveys, subject to appropriate ground conditions.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

A planning application renewal for residential development on land east of Cloot Drove, Crowland was submitted to South Holland District Council. As a result, the Lincolnshire County Archaeology Officer proposed that a desk-based assessment be carried out to establish the known and potential archaeology of the assessment area and allow appropriate mitigation measures to be formulated.

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Persimmon Homes Ltd. to

undertake a desk-based assessment of the proposed development site. The archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for the Preparation of Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 1999) and a Project Specification approved by the County Archaeology Officer (Appendix 1).

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Crowland is situated in the South Holland district of Lincolnshire, approximately 12km south of Spalding and 22km east of Stamford (Fig. 1). The site is located northeast of the present town to the east of Cloot Drove. It centres on NGR TF 2470 1100 and lies at a height of c.2m above OD on a level ground.

The site lies on calcareous humic gley soil of the Clayhythe series developed on the lower slopes of the gravel ridge on which Crowland sits (Robson 1990, 14).

### 2.3 Definition of a Desk-Based Assessment

A desk-based assessment is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) as an 'assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. It consists of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate' (IFA 1999).

## 3. PROJECT AIMS

The purpose of the desk-based assessment is to obtain information about the known and potential archaeological resource of the proposed development site. In order to achieve this, the assessment considers all archaeological remains within c.500m of the site. The condition and extent of any remains at the site are then



clarified to enable suitable mitigation measures to be devised to minimise their disturbance. In addition to the above, statutory and advisory heritage constraints are identified.

#### 4. METHODS

All archaeological remains or documentary evidence relating to the area within c.500m of the development site was considered. Compilation of the archaeological and historical data relevant to the area of the proposed development site involved examination of all appropriate primary and secondary sources available. These included:

- Historical documents, held in Lincolnshire Archives Office.
- Enclosure, tithe, parish and other maps and plans, held in Lincolnshire Archives Office.
- Recent and old Ordnance Survey maps.
- Lincolnshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- Aerial photographs.
- Archaeological books, journals and reports.

Information obtained from the literature and cartographic examination was supplemented by a walkover survey of the site to assess present land-use and ground conditions.

Results of the archival and field examinations were committed to scale plans of the area.

#### 5. RESULTS

##### 5.1 Historical Data

The earliest reference to Crowland dates to the mid 8<sup>th</sup> century when Felix, the biographer of St Guthlac, referred to it as *Cruglond*, *Cruland* and *Cruwland*. The place-name is Old English in origin and refers to land at the bend in the River Welland (Cameron 1998, 35). The modern spelling appears to have come into common usage in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, replacing the earlier

*Croyland*.

Guthlac was a member of the Mercian royal family who had become a monk at Repton in Derbyshire. Two years later he came to Crowland with two followers to establish a hermitage. Felix recorded that, '*There was on the island a great mound raised upon the earth, which some of yore men had dug and broken up in the hopes of treasure. On the other side of the mound a place was dug, as it were a great water cistern. Over this cistern the blessed man Guthlac built himself a house at the beginning, as soon as he settled in the hermit station*' (Hallam 1954, 5).

A church was built at Crowland and it is recorded as having been consecrated by the Bishop of Lichfield before 706 AD (Stenton 1971, 49). Two years after Guthlac's death in 714 AD, a monastery was established there by Aethelbald, King of Mercia (Stocker 1993, 101).

By the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066 Crowland had been granted to the Abbot of Peterborough Abbey (Swanton 1997, 198). During the medieval period the abbey suffered mixed fortunes, with the monastery and several new churches being destroyed by fires in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries (Cope-Faulkner 1998a, 3).

The peninsula and surrounding marshes were confirmed to Crowland Abbey by a charter from King Stephen in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century and reconfirmed by Henry II in 1155 (Roffe 1993, 80). Land was reclaimed from the fens, principally for arable use and grazing of sheep for wool, which was the main produce of the abbey.

A fair and market were granted to the town by King Henry III in 1226 (Larkin 1925, 25). The fair was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> September with the market every Thursday (White 1856, 821).

After the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539, Crowland Abbey was in the control of the Crown. The central tower and chancel of the



church were demolished at this time (Larkin 1925, 12).

Crowland became an important Royalist stronghold during the English Civil War (1642 - 1646). The area around the Abbey was fortified but was successfully attacked by Cromwell's forces in 1643. A year later it was back under Royalist control (Holmes 1980, 163).

## 5.2 Cartographic Data

The earliest surviving map of Crowland is, 'A map of Alderlands in the parish of Croyland in the Countye of Lincoln' which dates to 1676 (LAO. Brace 19/6). However this map simply depicts the town as a crossroads and does not show any details for the site area. A map of the town dating to 1749 (LAO. FL. Maps 32) is of a small scale and does not show any useful details.

Armstrong's 'Map of Lincoln-shire', which dates from 1788 (Fig. 3) is also of a small scale and does not show any clear details for the development site. Bryant's 'Map of the County of Lincoln' dating to 1828 provides more detail for the site (Fig.4). Cloot Ho Drove which forms the western boundary of the site is shown as being an avenue of trees and buildings, presumably farms, are shown to the east and north of the site.

The surveyors drawings for the first edition Ordnance Survey map dating to 1812 do not show any specific details for the proposed development site.

A detailed 'Plan of the Town of Crowland' dating to 1831 (LAO. ANC 10B/2a) unfortunately does not extend as far as the development site.

Land at Crowland was exempt from tithes since the dissolution of the Abbey in 1539 and consequently no plan was ever drawn for this purpose (Cope-Faulkner 1998a, 5). The only surviving enclosure plan is of land in the fen, away from the development site.

The first edition 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1891 is the first map to show the site boundaries in detail (Fig.5). The site consists mainly of two fields, with the southern part being four smaller ones. On this map Cloot Drove, which forms the western boundary of the site, is labelled *Falls Drove*. A group of water filled pits, probably disused quarries, are shown immediately to the east of the site. Later editions of this map, dating to 1958, show no changes within the site area although some development had occurred south of the site.

The later 1:100000 Ordnance Survey map of 1971 (Fig.2) also shows no substantial changes within the site area. Further development had occurred immediately to the south of the site.

## 5.3 Aerial Photograph Data

Aerial photographs relevant to the assessment area held at the Lincolnshire SMR and parish files at Heritage Lincolnshire were examined.

A number of general views of the town taken between 1952 (CUCAP JF9 -11) and 1984 (TF2410 NMR Neg 2466/8) were held at the SMR. However, the development site lies in the distance on these photographs and it is not possible to determine the presence of any archaeological features.

One of a series of general views of Crowland held by Heritage Lincolnshire (SO 46) shows the development site in 1993. However, it is also in the distance on this photograph and it is not possible to identify any features.

The development site appears to be under arable cultivation on all the photographs examined.

Only one photograph showing archaeological features within the assessment area was located. A little to the east of the proposed development site, a group of cropmarks have been identified around the supposed site of St. Guthlac's cell (CUCAP AYC 9 in Hayes & Lane 1992, 197; Cope-Faulkner 1998a, Pl.3). These include two barrows, one of which is overlain by a medieval stone building. To the north of the road

Map Code No.	SMR Ref.	Description	National Grid Reference (c = centre)
1	20269	Undated cropmark of square enclosure and ditch	TF 2505 1100
2	22021	Undated mound	TF 2400 1120
3	22005	Neolithic flint axe	TF 2400 1040
4	22004	Neolithic flint axe	TF 2410 1060
5	22980/ 22014	Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age worked flints	TF 2450 1035
6	23652	Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age flint point	TF 2397 1047
7	20265	Late Neolithic / Early Iron Age barrow cemetery	TF 2460 1060c
8	23261	Bronze Age Barrow	TF 2479 1074
9	23230	Possible Bronze Age barrow	TF 2505 1087
10	----	Early Bronze Age flint core	TF 2465 1064
11	20263	Early Bronze Age pottery	TF 2436 1032
12	22018	Iron Age bronze pin	TF 2410 1030
13	20260	Iron Age pottery associated with a mound	TF 2400 1120
14	20250	Roman tesserae and possible salt-making site	TF 2505 1087
15	20261	Romano-British pottery associated with a mound	TF 2400 1120
16	22017	Roman coin of Carinus (283 AD)	TF 2430 1050
17	22049	Romano-British intaglio of Apollo	TF 2415 1030

Table 1: Known undated, prehistoric and Romano-British sites and finds from within c.500m of the proposed development site.

cropmarks of boundary ditches and enclosures have been identified (Fig.2, No.1). Cropmarks relating to post-medieval gravel quarries have also been identified.

#### 5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds are held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record. Other, secondary, sources, including parish files and cards held by Heritage

Lincolnshire, were also examined. Details of archaeological and historical remains falling within c.500m of the development site are located on Figure 2 and collated in Tables 1 and 2.

Crowland was investigated as part of the Fenland Survey. The development site was fieldwalked under good ground conditions at that time and no artefactual remains were identified (Hayes & Lane 1992, 192 - 204).



Archaeological information for Crowland has also previously been collated in a report appraising the Conservation Area (Cope-Faulkner 1998a). Areas of significance identified by this report are discussed with the data.

### ***Prehistoric Archaeology***

Significant prehistoric archaeological remains have been identified within the 500m assessment area surrounding the development site. These remains lie on the gravel peninsula on which Crowland is situated. The site lies on the periphery of the peninsula. The 'natural' gravel surface shelves beneath alluvial and former peaty deposits.

The earliest finds are two flint axes dating from the Neolithic period (4000 - 2000 BC). These were found between 260m and 500m southwest of the site (Fig.2, Nos. 3 & 4). Finds of Late Neolithic / Early Bronze Age worked flints have also been made in the same area (Fig.2, No.6) and further to the east (Fig.2, No.5). The site lies on the northern side of the gravel peninsula and environmental conditions at the site during this period may have been, '*boggy, inhospitable and inaccessible*' (Hayes & Lane 1992, 197).

The Bronze Age (2000 - 700 BC) is well represented by the barrow cemetery which extends along the whole of the Crowland peninsula (Fig.2, No.7 and extent after Cope-Faulkner 1998a). Two barrows have been identified within the assessment area (Fig.2, Nos. 8 & 9) and it is possible that the post-medieval windmill mounds identified in the town were also originally barrows (Fig.2, Nos. 24 -26). Other, unidentified barrows were almost certainly destroyed by the development of the town and the disturbance of others is historically attested (see page 2 above). Although no barrows have been identified within the boundaries of the development site, it mostly lies within the potential zone of the barrow cemetery (Fig.2) as defined by an earlier assessment (Cope-Faulkner 1998a, Fig. 20).

Isolated Bronze Age finds, such as the flint core

(Fig.2, No.10) and pottery (Fig.2, No.11), have also been made within the assessment area.

Two discoveries of Iron Age (700 BC - 50 AD) date have been made within the assessment area. A bronze pin (Fig.2, No.12) has been found within the town. Pottery of this period has been recovered from the undated mound to the northwest of the development site (Fig.2, No.13).

During the Bronze and Iron Ages the Crowland peninsula remained isolated. Marine incursions transformed the surrounding peat bog into tidal mud flats which later reverted to freshwater fens (Hayes & Lane 1992, 203).

### ***Romano-British Archaeology***

The work of the Fenland Survey (Hayes & Lane 1992, 198) suggested that, during the Romano-British period (50 - 410 AD), the site lay at the southern limit of an area of fen adjacent to the peninsula. However, by this time environmental conditions had changed to enable the stabilised marsh to the east of the parish to be settled and salt-making activity to take place (*ibid.* 203).

Red and white tesserae have been found at the eastern end of the peninsula (Fig.2, No.14). These small tiles, used for mosaics, are usually Roman in date and associated with high status buildings such as villas or temples.

A coin of the emperor Carinus, dating to 283 AD, and an intaglio of Apollo have been found to the southwest of the site. Romano-British pottery has also been found associated with the undated mound, 250m northwest of the proposed development site (Fig.2, No.15).

The development site itself lies outside of the zone of potential Romano-British settlement identified by earlier work (Cope-Faulkner 1998a) and plotted on Figure 2.

### ***Saxon Archaeology***

Despite the well-documented Saxon history of Crowland, archaeological evidence is sparse. The possible site of Guthlac's hermitage has been identified to the east of the town at the



Map Code No.	SMR Ref.	Description	National Grid Reference
18	22029	7 <sup>th</sup> century Saxon pottery from possible site of St. Guthlac's cell	TF 2505 1087
19	23519	Site of late Saxon monastery	TF 2430 1030
20	20551	Ruins and site of Crowland Abbey (SAM 263)	TF 2423 1030
21	22012	Possible medieval pottery kiln	TF 2440 1030
22	20266	13 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> century bone knife handle	TF 2415 1040
23	22051	Civil War defences	TF 2423 1030
24	22022	Possible windmill mound	TF 2440 1060
25	22020	Probable windmill mound	TF 2410 1030
26	22986	Probable mill mound	TF 2390 1070
27	22015	Hoard of 17 <sup>th</sup> century tradesman's tokens	TF 2416 1031
28	20262	Post-medieval pottery associated with a mound	TF 2400 1120
29	22050	Mounting block in East Street	TF 2395 1028

Table 2: Known Saxon, medieval and post-medieval sites and finds from within 500m of the proposed development site.

same site as the Roman tesserae finds (Fig.2, No.18). The Saxon evidence from this site constitutes finds of 7<sup>th</sup> century pottery. The site of the Saxon monastery is recorded as being at the present site of the Abbey remains, but this is not supported by any archaeological finds (Fig.2, No.19).

#### *Medieval Archaeology*

The principal medieval (1066-1500 AD) site in Crowland comprises the remains of the Abbey (Fig.2, No.20). Although much altered, the surviving structure is mainly of Norman date, with later additions (Pevsner & Harris 1989, 239 - 241). The Abbey site is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 263).

A possible medieval pottery kiln (Fig.2, No.21) has been identified to the east of the Abbey. A bone knife handle, which may be of the type given to pilgrims on St. Bartholomew's Day, has

also been found in the town (Fig.2, No.22).

During the medieval period most of the land surrounding the peninsula would still have been fen used for grazing with only small areas under arable cultivation (Hayes & Lane 1992, 202 - 203). The development site seems to lie on the edge of this fen adjacent to the peninsula and away from previously identified areas of Saxon and medieval settlement (Fig.2).

#### *Post-medieval Archaeology*

A variety of post-medieval evidence has been identified at Crowland. Some earthworks of the Civil War defences survive to the east of the Abbey site (Fig.2, No.23).

Three possible post-medieval mill mounds have been identified within the assessment area (Fig.2, Nos.24 - 26). It is possible that these windmills were sited to make use of existing

barrow mounds (Cope-Faulkner 1998a, 11).

A hoard of 17<sup>th</sup> century tradesmans' tokens were found during repairs to the church (Fig.2, No.27) and a mounting block survives in East Street (Fig.2, No.29).

### *Undated Archaeology*

Two undated sites have been identified within the assessment area. A group of cropmarks consisting of a square enclosure and a ditch have been recorded to the southeast of the development site (Fig.2, No.1). It is possible that they relate to the Romano-British evidence recorded to the south of Postland Road (Fig.2, No.14).

An undated mound has been identified to the northwest of the development site (Fig.2, No.2). Although this earthwork is associated with Iron Age, Romano-British and post-medieval pottery, its exact date is unknown. Its location, away from the peninsula, suggests that it is unlikely to be a former barrow. It may be related to the construction or repair of the river bank and the finds are probably redeposited.

## **5.5 Historic Buildings Data**

A number of listed historic buildings are located in the town centre at Crowland. The Abbey remains are a grade I listed building. All of the other listed buildings within the assessment area are of grade II status.

Several listed buildings are located in East Street. These include the late 17<sup>th</sup> century Manor House and a pair of early 19<sup>th</sup> century shops. The mounting block and war memorial in East Street are also listed. Four 18<sup>th</sup> century cottages and a public house from the same period are the listed buildings in North Street.

None of the listed buildings in Crowland lie within c.400m of the development site.

## **5.6 Walkover Survey**

A walkover survey of the proposed development site was undertaken on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2000. The

weather conditions were poor and visibility was limited.

The site consists of three fields all of which were either set-aside or under grass at the time of the survey. Vegetation cover was dense and no soil exposures were visible. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

Current vegetation cover at the site would prevent further survey by fieldwalking. However, both fieldwalking and geophysical surveys would be possible subject to appropriate ground conditions. However, several overhead power cables cross the site leading to the sub-station immediately to the north. These would provide localised disturbance to geophysical survey results.

On the opposite side of the road to the proposed development site, a dyke had just been cleaned out. Although no archaeological deposits were visible, natural gravel was observed approximately 0.5m below the current ground level.

## **6. CONSTRAINTS**

### **6.1 Heritage Constraints**

Only one Scheduled Ancient Monument protected by the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 (HMSO 1979) is located within the assessment area. This is the Abbey site which is situated on the southern boundary of the assessment area. All other archaeological remains are protected only through the implementation of PPG16 (DoE 1990).

Significant historic buildings within the assessment area are 'listed' and consequently protected by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act of 1990. None of these lie close to the development site.



## 6.2 Other Constraints

Although no specific checks were carried out for the presence of active services (gas, water, electricity etc.) across the site, observations were made during the walkover survey. The only services recognised were the overhead power cables which cross the site.

## 7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

For assessment of significance the *Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling ancient monuments* has been used (DoE 1990, Annex 4; See Appendix 2).

### *Period*

Activity dateable from the Neolithic to post-medieval periods has been recognised within the assessment area. No archaeological remains were identified within the boundaries of the development site although it does lie within the previously defined area of the Bronze Age barrow cemetery (Cope-Faulkner 1998a, Fig. 20). Cemeteries of round barrows are the most characteristic aspect of the Bronze Age.

### *Rarity*

Archaeological remains within the assessment area vary in rarity. The prehistoric evidence from the area is of a type which is relatively common along the fen edge. A number of barrow cemeteries associated with isolated finds are recorded in similar settings. However, the isolated location of the Crowland cemetery, on the peninsula, makes it more unusual.

The possible existence of a high status Romano-British building at Crowland represents a rare occurrence of this type of site in the fenland.

Medieval remains are mainly associated with the Abbey and represent a very unusual group.

### *Documentation*

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the assessment area are kept in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record and parish files maintained by Heritage

Lincolnshire. A previous appraisal of the Crowland Conservation area (Cope-Faulkner 1998a) collated all known archaeological data for the parish. In addition to this, the earlier report defined the extent of the known archaeology and identified areas of potential. A watching brief has previously been carried out a short distance to the south of the proposed development site (Cope-Faulkner 1998b).

The proposed development site, was also investigated as part of the Fenland Survey (Hayes & Lane 1992, 192 - 204).

### *Group value*

The wide variety of archaeological remains recorded on the peninsula at Crowland give them a high group value. In particular, the barrow cemetery and associated finds have a high value when considered together. The medieval archaeology at Crowland also has a high group value as it represents the development of the Abbey and town throughout this period.

### *Survival/Condition*

The present town covers most of the peninsula area which has been the focus of human activity in the past. As a result of this, remains of earlier activity within this area will have been damaged and even destroyed by subsequent development activity.

Important standing remains within the assessment area, such as the Abbey, are relatively well preserved and have protected status.

### *Fragility/Vulnerability*

As already discussed, any near surface archaeological remains within the town have probably been damaged by development. Elsewhere in the assessment area, remains are under threat from agricultural activity. Any shallow-buried archaeological remains which may exist at the proposed development site would be easily damaged by development activity. Any pre-2nd millennium BC archaeology to the north of the site is likely to be sealed by greater or lesser amounts of



alluvium.

### *Diversity*

A high period diversity is represented by the identified archaeological remains. Sites relating to settlement, religion, agriculture and industry were identified, represent a high functional diversity.

### *Potential*

A large quantity of archeological remains have been identified within the assessment area. The majority of these are located on the gravel peninsula to the south of the proposed development site. The undated mound, associated with Iron Age, Roman and post-medieval pottery, is the only site not on the main spur of the peninsula. This site indicates that there is some potential for remains further to the north than the general distribution of sites suggests.

The site lies within the area of the barrow cemetery and there is some potential that unidentified archaeological remains could be present. However, the results of the walkover survey and previous fieldwalking by the Fenland Survey did not identify any archaeological features or artefacts. In view of this the overall archaeological potential may only be considered to be low to moderate, although there is a possibility of early prehistoric remains sealed beneath the alluvium deposits which cover much of the northern part of the site. Any such a site may be well-preserved.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

The assessment has identified a large quantity of important archaeological evidence within 500m of the proposed development site. However, the majority of these are located on the gravel peninsula to the south of the site.

The site may lay within the limits of the Bronze Age barrow cemetery. No artefacts or features were identified during the walkover survey or previous fieldwalking of the site. In view of this the archaeological potential of the site appears

to be low to moderate.

The walkover survey established that the site would be suitable for further evaluation in the form of geophysical or fieldwalking survey, subject to suitable ground conditions.

## 9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## **11. ABBREVIATIONS**

APS	Archaeological Project Services
DoE	Department of the Environment
HMSO	Her Majesties' Stationary Office
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LAO	Lincolnshire Archive Office
OS	Ordnance Survey
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record Office

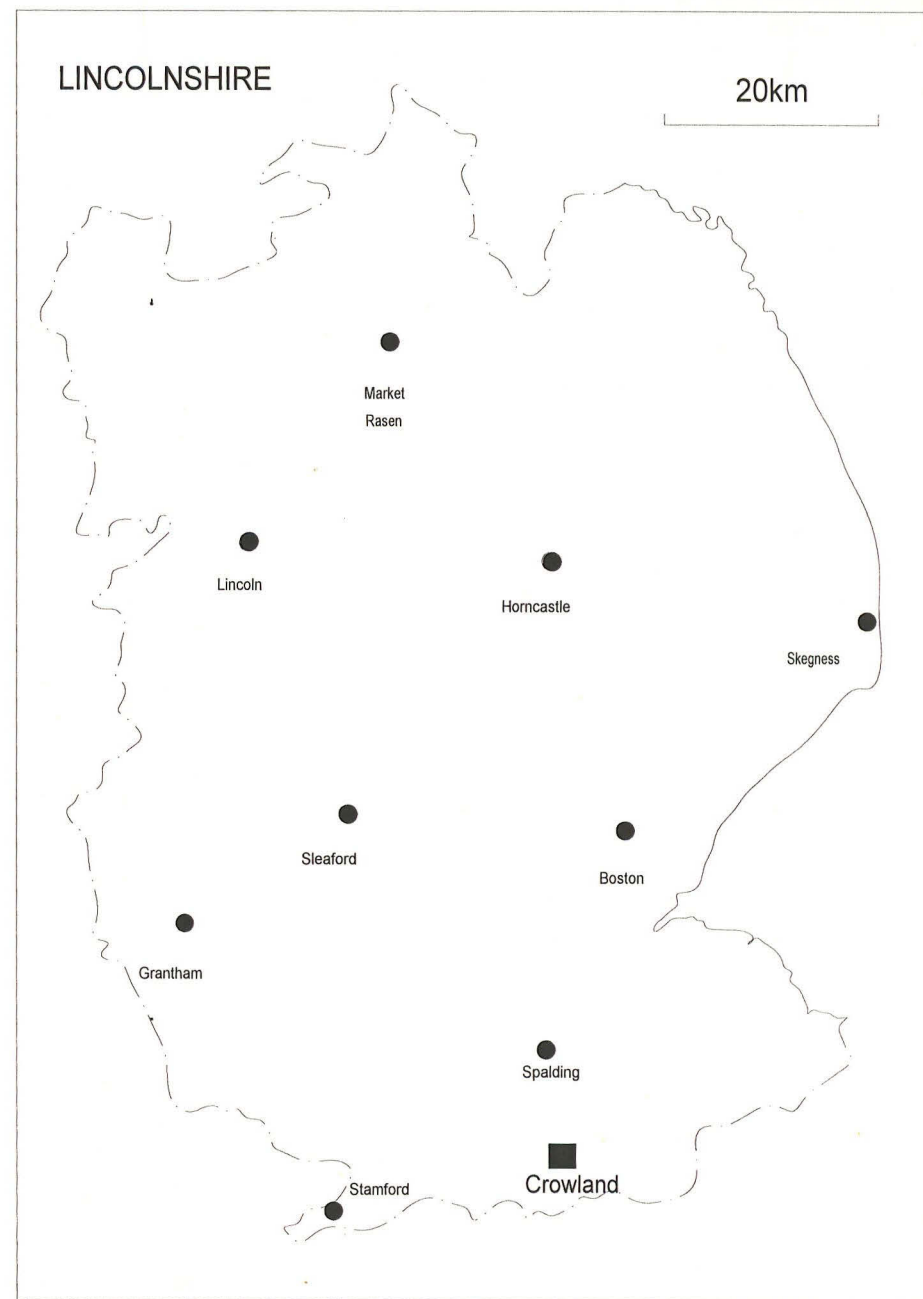


Figure 1 General Location Plan



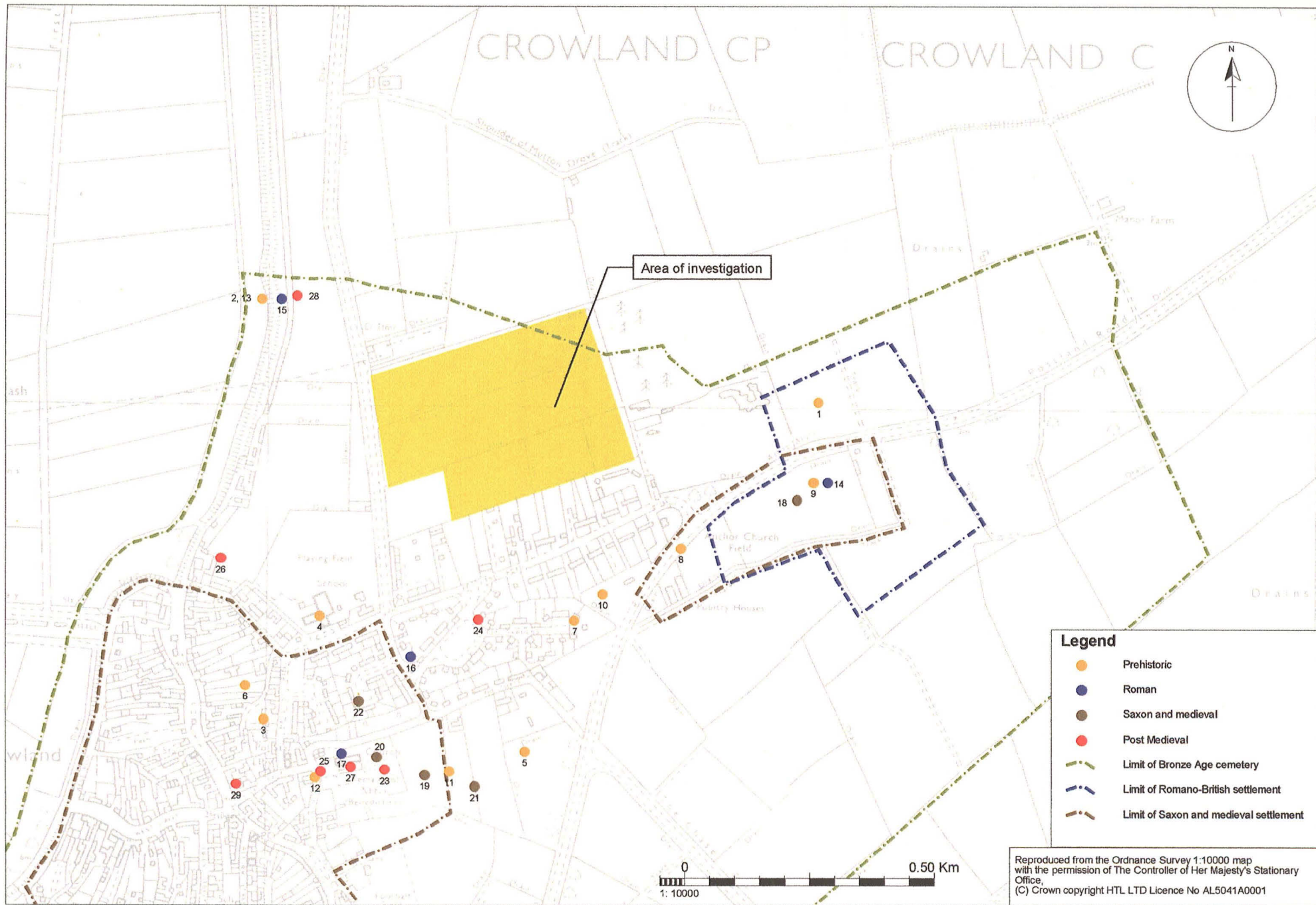


Figure 2 Site location and archaeological setting

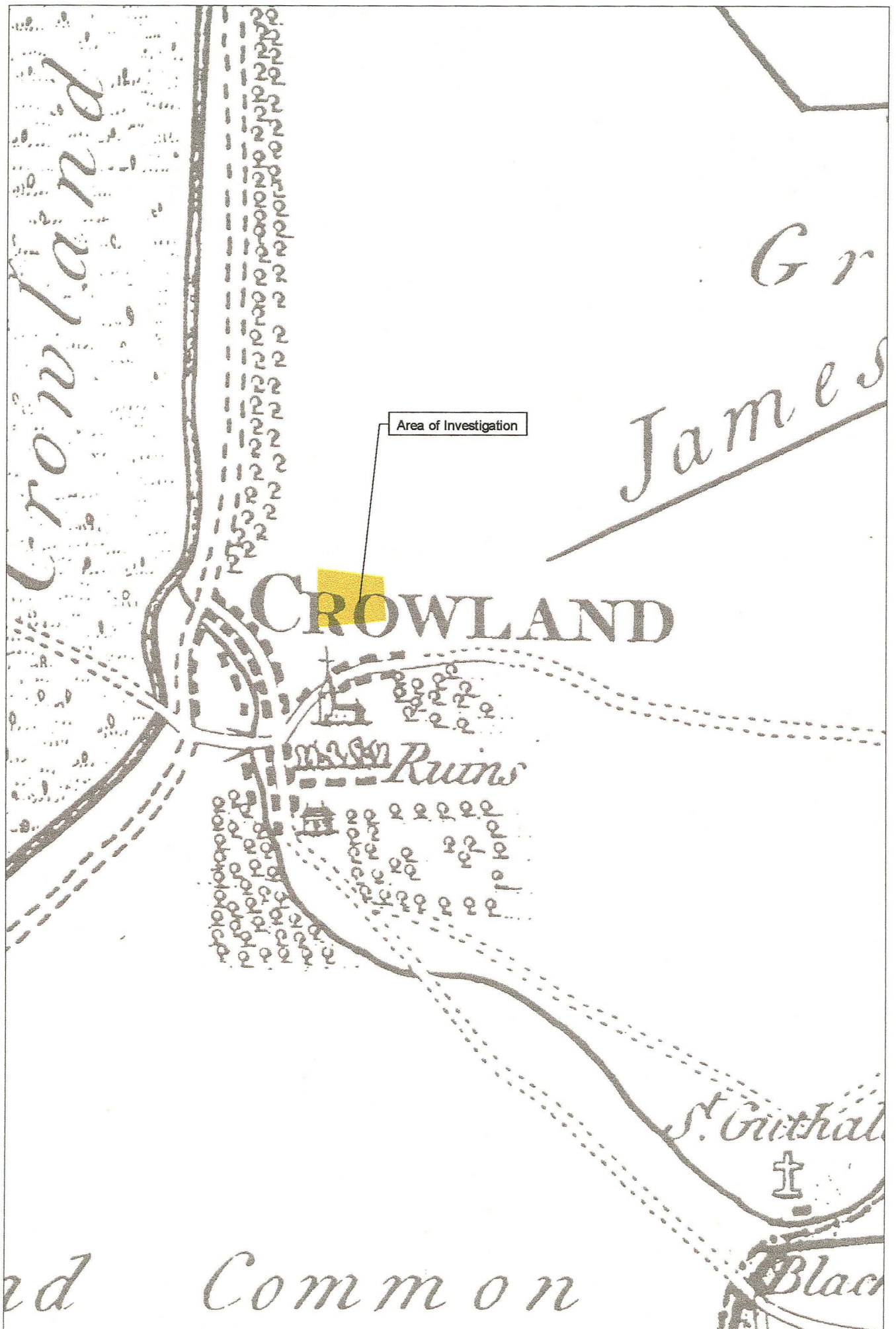


Figure 3 Extract from Armstrong's 'Map of Lincoln-shire' 1778 showing approximate site location



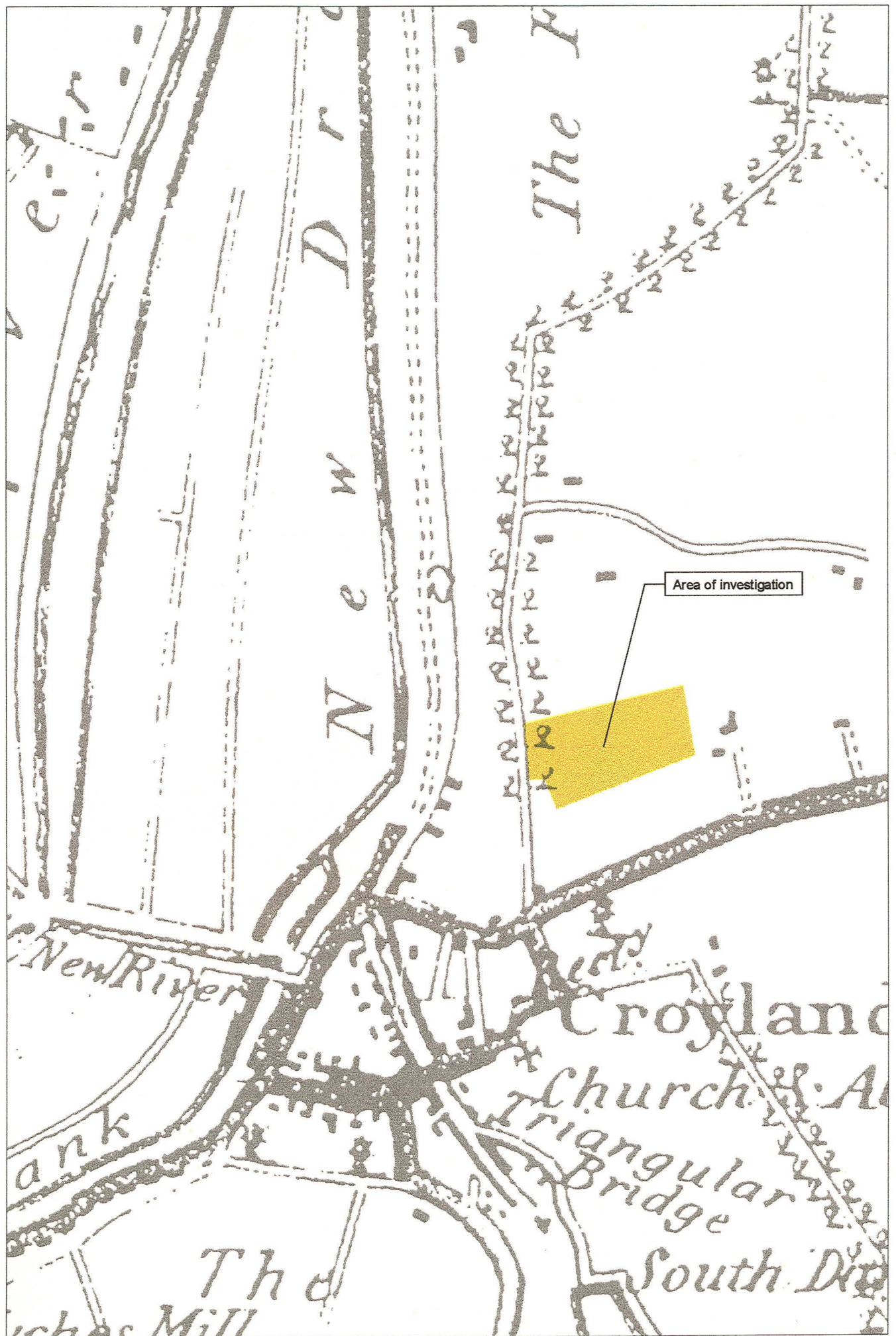


Figure 4 Extract from Bryant's 'Map of the County of Lincoln', 1828 showing approximate site location



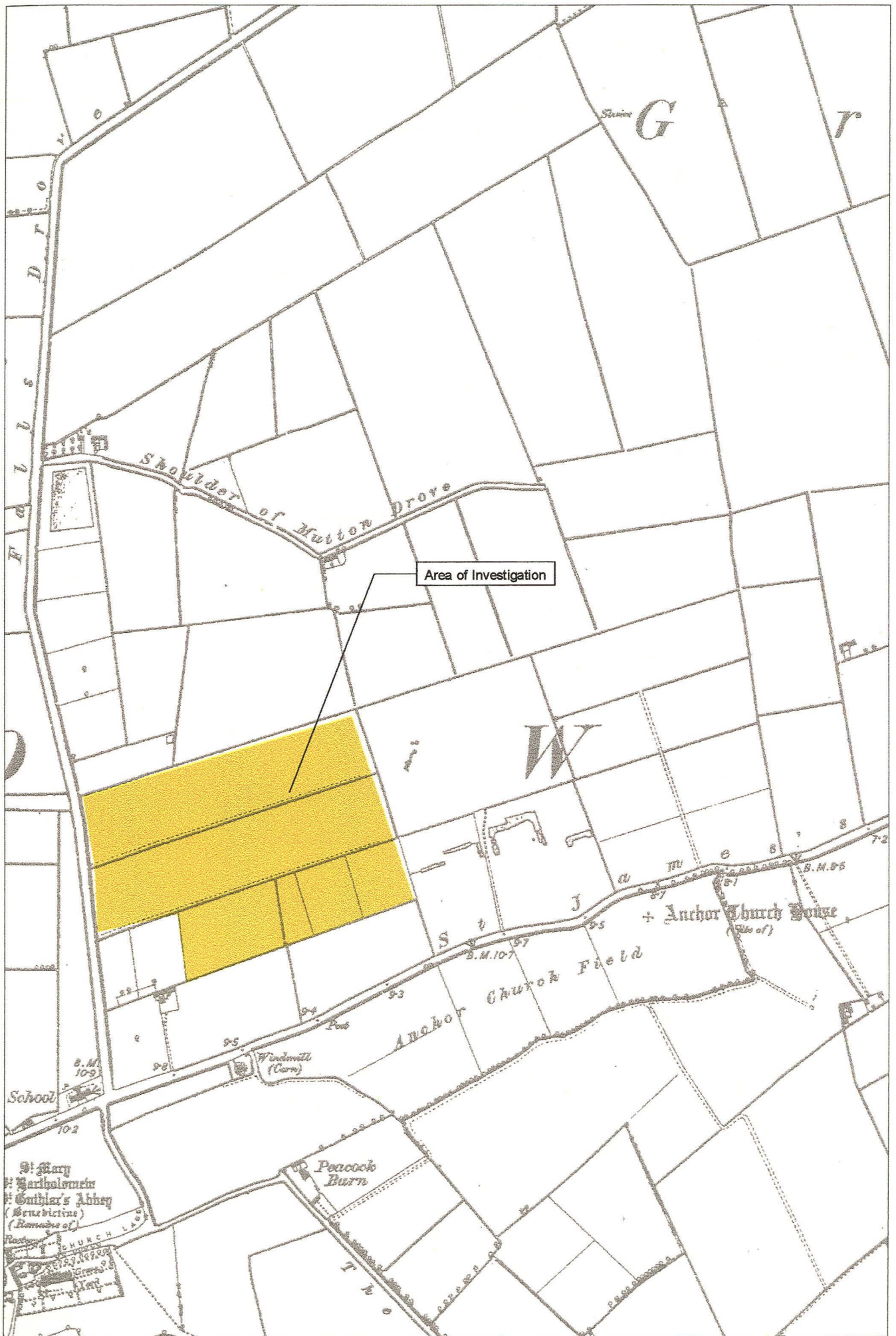


Figure 5 First Edition Ordnance Survey map (1891) showing site location



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APPENDIX 1

SPECIFICATION FOR  
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT  
AT CLOOT DROVE  
CROWLAND  
LINCOLNSHIRE

PREPARED FOR  
PERSIMMON HOMES

BY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

Institute of Field Archaeologists  
Registered Organisation No. 21

FEBRUARY 2000

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## 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This document comprises a specification for the desk-top assessment of land at Cloot Drove, Crowland, Lincolnshire.*
- 1.2 *The site lies in an area of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period onwards, most notably a sizeable Bronze Age barrow cemetery to the south, and the site of the monastery of St Guthlac.*
- 1.3 *The desk-top assessment will collate all readily available data relating to the previous archaeological discoveries in the area. The results of the assessment will be presented in a written report describing the nature of the remains, with supporting illustrations showing their location and extent.*

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This document comprises a specification for the desk-top assessment of land at Cloot Drove, Crowland, Lincolnshire. The site is centred on national grid reference TF 245 110.
- 2.2 The document contains the following parts:
  - 2.2.1 Overview
  - 2.2.2 The archaeological and natural setting.
  - 2.2.3 Stages of work and methodologies to be used.

## 3 SITE DESCRIPTION

- 3.1 Crowland is situated 12km south of Spalding and 22km east of Stamford in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire. The site lies on the northern edge of the town and is centred on national grid reference TF 245 110.
- 3.2 The application site is a roughly rectangular block of land approximately 500m by 300m in extent on the northern edge of the town. The land is currently under arable cultivation.

## 4 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A planning application has been submitted to South Holland District Council for residential development of this land. As part of the process, the Lincolnshire County Archaeologist has suggested that an archaeological evaluation of the site might be advantageous. The desk-top assessment represents a first stage in that
-

process.

## 5 SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 5.1 Crowland is situated in the fens of south Lincolnshire. The site and surrounding area is flat and lies at approximately 2m OD. The village proper lies on the Abbey Gravels which are formed along a southwest to northeast line creating a peninsula of slightly higher ground (3-4m OD). The development site lies just off the north edge of these gravels, perhaps overlapping at the southern edge. Soils here are generally of the Wallasea 2 association, alluvial gley soils developed on marine alluvium (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338).

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- 6.1 The proposed development site lies in an area of archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period onwards. During the Bronze Age, the gravel ridge on which Crowland sits was the focus for a sizeable barrow cemetery. Settlement contemporary with the barrows has yet to be identified but later, Iron Age and Romano-British, activity is also recorded.
- 6.2 Crowland rose to prominence during the early medieval period. It was the site of the Benedictine monastery of St Guthlac, founded in the 10<sup>th</sup> century and surviving until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539. The present village probably largely overlies the medieval settlement.

## 7 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 The aim of the work will be to gather sufficient information to enable the archaeological curator to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological remains present on the site.
- 7.2 The objectives of the desk-top assessment will be to establish:
- 7.2.1 The type of archaeological activity that may be present within the site.
  - 7.2.2 The likely extent of archaeological activity present within the site.
  - 7.2.3 The extent to which the surrounding archaeological features extend into the application area.
  - 7.2.4 The way in which the archaeological features identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.

## 8 DATA COLLECTION

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types of activity, *eg* barrows or medieval field systems, will be individually discussed.

- 9.2 The plans will show the location of the various archaeological sites and finds located during the assessment. The features identified during the search of the relevant aerial photographs will be plotted onto similar scale plans. Additionally, any areas of disturbance or destruction to potential archaeological deposits will be plotted.
- 9.3 Any information that is collected from geotechnical reports will also be incorporated into the report.
- 9.4 The report will outline possible options for future fieldwork and any possible constraints. A full appraisal of all the appropriate fieldwork techniques, both intrusive and non-intrusive will be included.
- 9.5 The report will attempt to place the results of the study into a local, regional and national archaeological context, and will identify any specific research priorities that may be may be addressed by the site.

## 10 PUBLICATION

- 10.1 A report of the findings of the evaluation will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's annual report and a short note presented to the editor of the journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology.

## 11 CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 11.1 Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the sites lies with the Lincolnshire County Archaeologist.

## 12 VARIATIONS

- 12.1 Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made after written confirmation from the archaeological curator that the changes are acceptable.

## 13 PROGRAMME OF WORKS

- 13.1 The work would be undertaken by an experienced supervisor/project officer and would be completed in about 7 days, subject to obtaining prompt access to the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

## 14 INSURANCES

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- 14.1 Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

## 15 COPYRIGHT

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## 16 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hodge CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales No. 13

Specification: Version 1.23-02-00

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## Appendix 2

### Secretary of State's criteria for scheduling Ancient Monuments - Extract from *Archaeology and Planning DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990*

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.

ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.

iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.

v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.

vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.

vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.

viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.

### Appendix 3

#### GLOSSARY

<b>Bronze Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
<b>Cropmark</b>	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
<b>Geophysical Survey</b>	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
<b>Iron Age</b>	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
<b>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
<b>Saxon</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany