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**DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT OF THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON LAND
ADJACENT TO CREASE DROVE,
CROWLAND,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CHW 02)**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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30 APR 2002

Highways & Planning
Directorate



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON LAND
ADJACENT TO CREASE DROVE,
CROWLAND,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(CHW 02)**

Work Undertaken For
Persimmon Homes (East Midlands) Ltd

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

April 2002

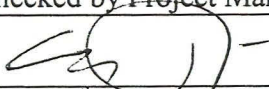
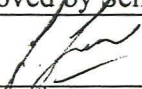
National Grid Reference: TF 2364 0925



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Crease Drove, Crowland
CHW 02

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1. SUMMARY

A desk-based assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development on land adjacent to Crease Drove, Crowland, Lincolnshire.

The site lies adjacent to an extensive barrow cemetery of the Bronze Age period (2250-800 BC) which was identified during gravel digging in the 19th century. Cropmarks also show further barrows west of the site on the slightly higher ground of the gravel peninsula. Romano-British (AD 50-410) and Saxon (AD 410-1066) remains are known from the vicinity, but from outside the assessment area.

Medieval (AD 1066-1500) remains are known from the core of Crowland, although the investigation area was probably used as sheep walks or cattle farms during this period. Early maps indicate that the proposed development area has largely been open ground.

The site is presently under arable cultivation and is unsuitable for fieldwalking. Geophysical survey is considered an appropriate investigation technique.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment is defined 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).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Persimmon Homes (East Midlands) Ltd to undertake a desk-top assessment of land adjacent to Crease Drove, Crowland, Lincolnshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site by examining an assessment area of 600m from the centre of the site.

2.3 Site Location

Crowland is situated 12km south of Spalding and 22km east of Stamford, in the civil parish of Crowland, South Holland District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed development area is located adjacent to Crease Drove to the south of the village at National Grid Reference TF 2364 0925. The proposed development area encompasses approximately 5.1 hectares of land.

2.4 Topography and Geology

The local topography describes a generally flat area of land within the fens of South Lincolnshire. The site lies at a height of *c.* 2.3m OD with a very gentle rise to the north.

Local soils are of the Downholland 1 Association, typically humose clayey soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 166). These soils overlie drift deposits of Nordelph Peat formed approximately 2500 years ago that

cover an estuarine or marine sand and gravel, also known as the Abbey Gravels, which outcrop immediately northeast of the site (Horton 1989, 27). Former courses of the Welland were identified immediately south of the proposed development area during the Fenland Survey (Hayes and Lane 1992, 195). Below these drift deposits is a solid geology of Jurassic Oxford Clay (BGS 1984).

3. AIMS

The purpose of the desk-based assessment is to obtain information about the known and potential archaeological resource within the vicinity of the proposed development site. In addition to the above, statutory and advisory heritage constraints were identified.

4. METHODS

The research undertaken in the compilation of this archaeological desk-based assessment involved the examination of all available primary and secondary sources relevant to Crowland and the immediate surrounding area. These sources consisted of:

- Historical documents held in the Lincolnshire Archives Office
- Enclosure, tithe, parish, and other maps and plans, held in the Lincolnshire Archives Office
- Ordnance Survey maps
- Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record

- Parish files held by Heritage Lincolnshire
- Aerial photographs
- Secondary sources, in the form of periodical articles and books, held at the Lincolnshire Archives Office, Lincolnshire Library and Heritage Lincolnshire

This research was supplement by a walkover survey of the land, undertaken to assess the current ground conditions, land-use patterns, and to ascertain the presence of any surface finds of an archaeological character, and of features that might indicate the presence of archaeological remains. The results of the archival and field examinations were committed to scale plans of the area.

No geotechnical information relevant to the assessment site was available.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Historical Evidence

Crowland is first mentioned in the mid 8th century by Felix, the biographer of St. Guthlac. Referred to as *Crugland*, *Cruuulond* and *Cruwland* the name is derived from the Old English *cruw* or *crug*, meaning a bend, referring to a bend in the River Welland (Cameron 1998, 35). Throughout the middle ages Crowland was often referred to as Croyland, the modern spelling becoming commonplace after 1700.

Felix was writing about St. Guthlac c. 745, several years after the saint's death. Guthlac was a member of the Mercian royal family and gave up the warrior life at

the age of 24 to become a monk at Repton in Derbyshire. Two years later he left Repton and travelled to Crowland with two followers and established a hermitage (Page 1988, 105). Guthlac died in AD 714 and King Æthelbald of Mercia established a monastery on the island in 716, although this date has been refuted (Hayes and Lane 1992, 202).

Much of the subsequent history of Crowland centred on the abbey and surrounding town. The proposed development area lies south of the town within an area known as Alderlands. This area of land probably comprised part of the initial gift to the abbey, although it is not until 1155 that a genuine charter including this land is first documented (Page 1988, 107). However, Alderlands became subject to a costly suit after the abbot of Peterborough lay claim to it in the early 13th century and succeeded in gaining rights to the marsh (*ibid.* 108). By the mid 15th century, the boundaries of the Alderlands had disappeared and a dispute again ensued with Peterborough Abbey, although the outcome was still unsettled by 1448 (*ibid.* 114) and eventually settled by 1484 much to the detriment of Crowland Abbey (*ibid.* 116).

The surrounding fens and marshes, in which Alderland was located, was primarily used by the abbey for the rearing of sheep which were rotated around the fen pastures (Darby 1974, 68). Centred on granges at *Munckelade*, *Asewyck*, *Brotherhous* and *Nomansland* the rotation of the sheep also included their manors in Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire (Page 1929, 603). Also within the fens was a number of farms which were rented out and upon which cattle were raised primarily for the use of the priory (Darby 1974, 86).

5.2 Cartographic Evidence

The proposed development site is located to the south of Crowland. Appropriate maps of the vicinity were examined.

The earliest plan depicting the area to any detail is entitled '*A Map of Alderlands in the Parish of Crowland and in the Countye of Lincoln*' which dates to 1676 (LAO Brace 19/6). The map, made to show disputed lands in the Alderlands area, shows that the proposed development site lies in open ground which is '*divided among y^e Coppyholders of Croyland*' (Fig. 3).

Armstrong's '*Map of Lincolnshire*' which dates to 1778, is generally of too small a scale to be useful. (Fig. 4). However, the area south of the town is depicted as open ground and referred to as '*Crowland Common*'.

Bryant's 1828 '*Map of the County of Lincoln*' shows and names Alderlands and depicts Crease Drove (Fig. 5). Windmills are shown to the north and northeast of the site which appear as open ground.

The 1st edition 6" to 1 mile Ordnance Survey plan of 1891 shows the introduction of field boundaries. Development is largely absent from the investigation area, a situation which remains unchanged on the subsequent 2nd edition map of 1906 (Fig. 6). Later Ordnance Survey drawings show no significant changes until the 1970s when some field boundaries have been lost and development has occurred along Kennulph's Drove, just to the east.

5.3 Aerial Photographic Evidence

Aerial photographs relevant to the

assessment area held by the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record were examined. Additional photographs held by Tom Lane were also examined. Results of aerial photographic examination have been plotted and are shown on Figure 7.

Several photographs, taken by Tom Lane in August 2000 show the area immediately to the west of the proposed development site. These show five circular cropmarks, some with a secondary circle within (coloured red on Fig. 7). Based on their form these would appear to be barrows dating to the Bronze Age (Plate 1). Ditched enclosures also appear on these photographs. None have a direct association with the barrows and it is therefore impossible to determine if they are contemporary or of different date. Darker vegetation and soils are apparent further to the east and indicates the extent of the peat. Some of the enclosure ditches run towards the peat and it is possible that any further continuation has subsequently been masked by the peat.

Two photographs are held by the Sites and Monuments Record in Lincoln. The first is an oblique view of an area north of the proposed development site taken in June 1952 and shows a circular cropmark adjacent to Crease Drove (Code: CUCAP JF9, coloured blue on Fig. 7). A second photograph, taken in April 1954, is a view along Crowland High Wash. Cropmarks are visible in the distance but are generally unclear. However, the areas of cropmarks match closely to the photographs taken by Tom Lane.

Nothing is known about the geology or soils suitability for producing cropmarks. However, the presence of peat at the site would mask archaeological remains and hinder cropmark formation. The edge of

the peat is shown as a blue hachured line on Figure 7. No plots of aerial photographs by the RCHME or any other organisation have been undertaken on this area.

5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds are held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the parish files held by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. Other, secondary sources were also examined. Details of archaeological and historical remains falling within *c.* 600m of the proposed development site are collated in Table 1 and located on Figure 8.

Table 1: Known archaeological sites and finds within the vicinity

Map Code	SMR Ref.	Description	National Grid Reference
1	20265	Bronze Age barrow cemetery	-
2	-	Bronze Age barrow with flints	TF 2340 0970
3	-	Bronze Age barrow with flints	TF 2350 0980
4	20270	Bronze Age dagger fragment	TF 2345 0967
5	-	Medieval gilded statue of the Madonna	TF 2358 0980
6	22001	Post-medieval mill mound	TF 2382 0999
7	-	Post-medieval house (Crawford House)	TF 2414 0997

Prehistoric Archaeology

The area of investigation lies along the gravel peninsula which was the focus for a Bronze Age barrow cemetery and extended to the northeast of the town. Two of the recorded barrows (Nos. 2 and 3) were destroyed principally through gravel quarrying during the 19th century (Hayes and Lane 1992, 197). The aerial photographs discussed above also indicate that the barrow cemetery extended further to the southwest. Finds recorded from these barrows indicate that cremation was the common funerary practice and flint and bronze tools accompanied the burials.

The barrow cemetery is one of several recorded in the vicinity. Located west of Crowland in Deeping St. Nicholas is a scattered cemetery centred on Little Duke Farm (Palmer 1994, 4). A similar concentration can be found to the south in Borough Fen where twenty-five recorded barrows are known (Hall 1987, 26).

The site falls to the south and east of the known extent of the barrow cemetery, close to the former course of the Welland identified during the Fenland Survey

(Hayes and Lane 1992, 195).

Romano-British Archaeology

Romano-British finds are known from Crowland but fall outside of the investigation area. The nature of the finds indicate possible settlement and casual loss of material (Cope-Faulkner 1998, 9).

Saxon Archaeology

Middle Saxon material has been found east of Crowland, outside of the investigation area, and is probably related to the foundation of St. Guthlac's hermitage c. 699 AD.

Medieval Archaeology

The focus of the medieval settlement was at Crowland and was centred on the Abbey to the north of the assessment area. A medieval gilded statue of the Madonna was found in the north of the assessment area and was probably associated with the abbey and perhaps discarded after the dissolution of the monastery in 1539.

Post-medieval Archaeology

A mill mound is recorded in the County Sites and Monuments Record and was

probably one of several mills that served the town. It is possible that this mound utilised an earlier barrow. A 17th century house, Crawford House, also falls within the investigation area (DoE 1987, 14).

Previous Archaeological Intervention

A watching brief undertaken during development along Plank Drove, 600m to the northwest identified no archaeological deposits, although late prehistoric peat development was recorded (Albone 2000, 4).

5.5 Walkover Survey

The site was visited on 25th April 2002 to assess the potential of the site to contain archaeological features and to note any constraints to further work.

The proposed development area is currently divided into three fields separated by a track and a modern road. All three fields have an established crop of wheat and visibility was generally poor. As a result, no artefacts were noted.

In the northwest corner of the northern field was a notable change in height which probably indicates the edge of the gravel peninsula. A slight area of higher ground was also visible within the central field and may mark a smaller gravel island emerging from beneath the peatier soils. The southern field was generally flat.

Fieldwalking is not currently possible across the site as crop growth has hindered visibility. Geophysical survey is appropriate for the site with no complicating factors noted apart from a waste pile on the western edge of the central field. No constraints (electricity, gas, water services, *etc*) were observed that would affect future archaeological work.

6. CONSTRAINTS

6.1 Heritage Constraints

No Scheduled Ancient Monuments protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 (HMSO 1979) are present within the assessment area. All archaeological remains within the assessment area are therefore 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. Only one listed building falls within the assessment area, Crawford House which dates to the late 17th century and is located at the northern edge of the area examined (DoE 1987, 14).

6.2 Other Constraints

No specific checks were carried out to determine the presence of services (gas, water, electricity, *etc.*) across the site. No services were identified during the walk-over survey.

If further archaeological intervention is required, the excavation of trenches would entail a certain degree of risk which would be enhanced by the use of a mechanical excavator.

Access to the site is from Crease Drove and is suitable for mechanical excavators.

7. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria used to assess the significance of the remains present within the

assessment area were adopted from the *Secretary of State's Criteria for Scheduling Ancient Monuments* (Department of the Environment 1990, Annex 4; see Appendix 1).

Period

Funerary remains of the Bronze Age are recorded immediately to the north and west of the site and lie on the gravel peninsula. Undated enclosure remains are also recorded. No definite sites or features of any date have been recorded previously on the area.

Rarity

Bronze Age barrow cemeteries are relatively common in this locality with examples known from the west and south and are typical of the period. However, they may retain rare or unusual characteristics. However, these remains have only been identified to the north and west of the site.

Documentation

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the assessment area are kept in the Lincolnshire Sites and Monuments Record.

A number of general histories of Crowland have previously been produced, although tend to concentrate on the abbey. The archaeological considerations of Crowland has also previously been discussed (Cope-Faulkner 1998). This report provides the first site-specific archaeological and historical consideration of the proposed development area.

Group Value

Clustering of Bronze Age barrows to form a cemetery indicates a moderate-high group value.

Survival/Condition

All archaeological deposits or features potentially existing within the assessment area survive only as buried remains. Any shallow buried sites are likely to have been partially damaged by ploughing activity, although peat coverage may have afforded some protection.

Fragility/Vulnerability

All archaeological deposits present on the site would be vulnerable to disturbance from development at the site.

Diversity

Low period diversity is represented by archaeological remains principally of Bronze Age date. Low to moderate functional diversity is provided by sites and remains relating to burial practises with enclosures of unknown date possibly representing agricultural activities.

Potential

The existence of a barrow cemetery to the north and west of the site would normally indicate high potential for associated archaeological remains to be present. However, the cemetery is visibly restricted to the gravel peninsula and possibly does not extend this far to the east, where a former course of the Welland has been identified.

Remains of later periods have left little impact at the proposed development site.

8. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

Details regarding the development are not yet known. However, construction is likely to impact through the peat and into the underlying sands and gravels or silts and clays of a former course of the Welland.

Past impact on the site is restricted to ploughing, although the length of time and the maximum depth to which this has been undertaken is not known.

9. OVERVIEW

No direct evidence for ancient or recent settlement of the proposed development site has been identified during this Desk Based Assessment. The fields appear to have been in arable agricultural use from the medieval period to the present day.

Although, finds and features have been made in the general vicinity these have been sited on the well-drained gravel peninsula north and west of the site and none is known from the peatier soils that constitute the underlying geology at the development site.

Although the Desk Based Assessment has not indicated any positive traces of ancient activity within the proposed development site, geophysical survey is likely to be required to determine whether the barrow cropmarks continue onto the site beneath the peat. Fieldwalking of the site (when conditions are appropriate) would be a possible next stage of investigation. Although the visibility of the field surface is poor, the lack of any obvious pre-recent artefacts or remains during the walkover survey suggest that fieldwalking is probably superfluous.

10. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological desk-based assessment of land adjacent to Crease Drove, Crowland, Lincolnshire, was undertaken in order to determine the archaeological implications of the proposed development

of the site.

The assessment has identified evidence of Bronze Age funerary activity occurring within the assessment area although no archaeological remains have been identified from within the boundaries of the proposed development site.

The potential for unrecorded prehistoric features is deemed to be moderately low considering the site's position 'off' the gravel peninsula that formed the focus of prehistoric and later activity.

Historically, the area was maintained as an agricultural landscape through the medieval and later periods.

Structural remains dated to the Post-medieval period have previously been identified within the assessment area, though similar remains do not fall within the proposed development site.

No artefactual remains were observed during the walkover survey. At the time of the walkover survey ground conditions were generally unsuitable for fieldwalking. Geophysical survey is appropriate for the development area.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to thank Mr B. Gibbs of Persimmon Homes (East Midlands) Ltd who commissioned this report. This report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. Tom Lane also provided recent aerial photographic coverage of the Crowland region. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was kindly provided by Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County

Council. Dave Start permitted access to the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire. Thanks are also due to the staff of Lincolnshire Archives Office and Lincoln Central Library.

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13. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
BGS	British Geological Survey
DoE	Department of the Environment
HMSO	Her Majesties' Stationery Office
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LAO	Lincolnshire Archives Office
RCHME	Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record

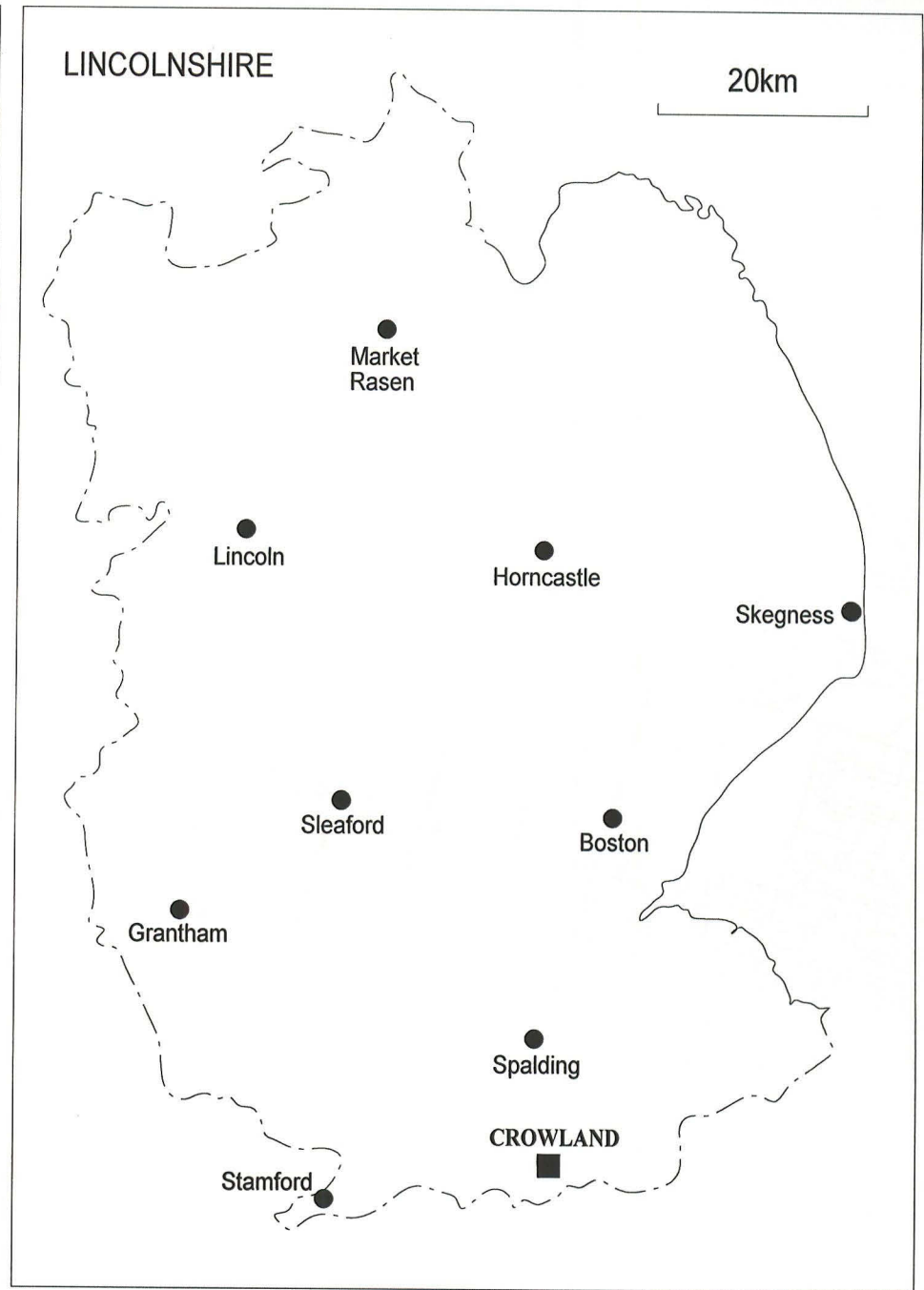
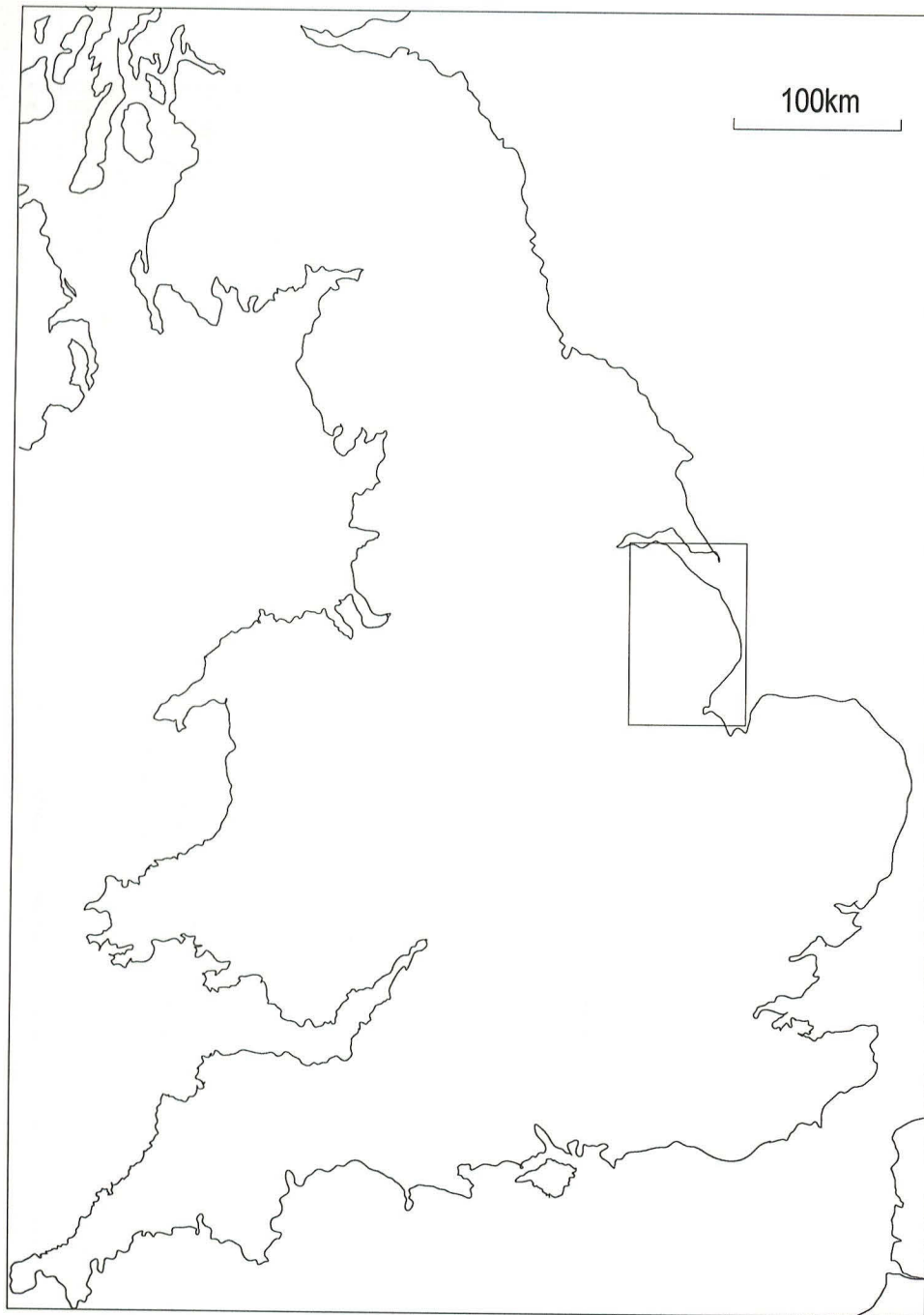


Figure 1 - General Location Plan



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Figure 2 - Site location plan

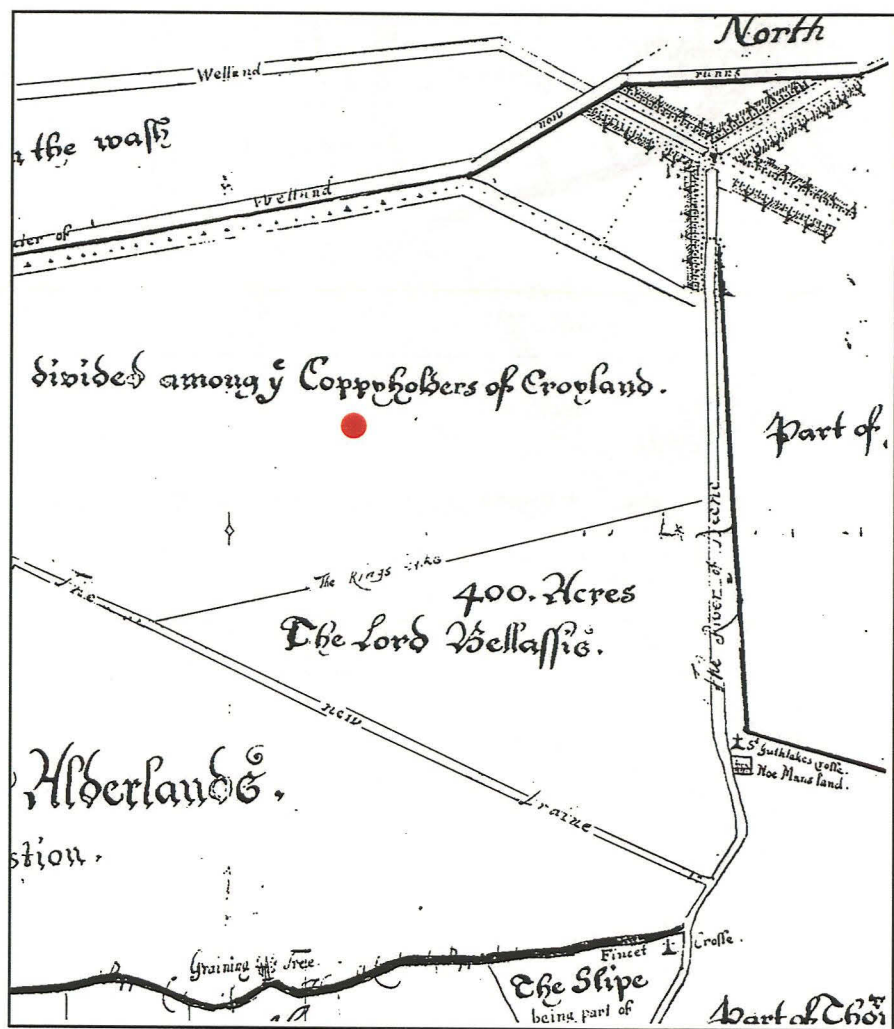


Figure 3 - Extract from 'A Map of Alderlands in the Parish of Croylond and in the County of Lincoln', 1676

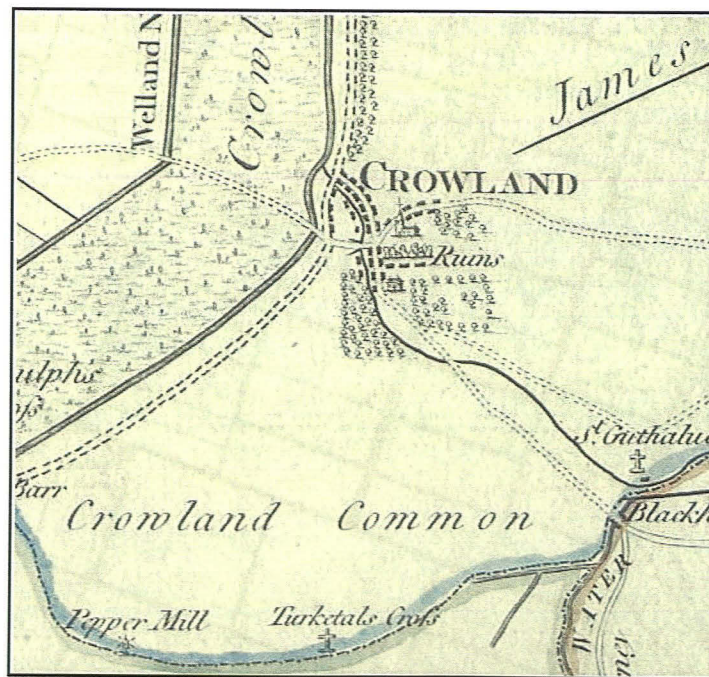


Figure 4 - Extract from Armstrong's 'Map of Lincolnshire', 1778

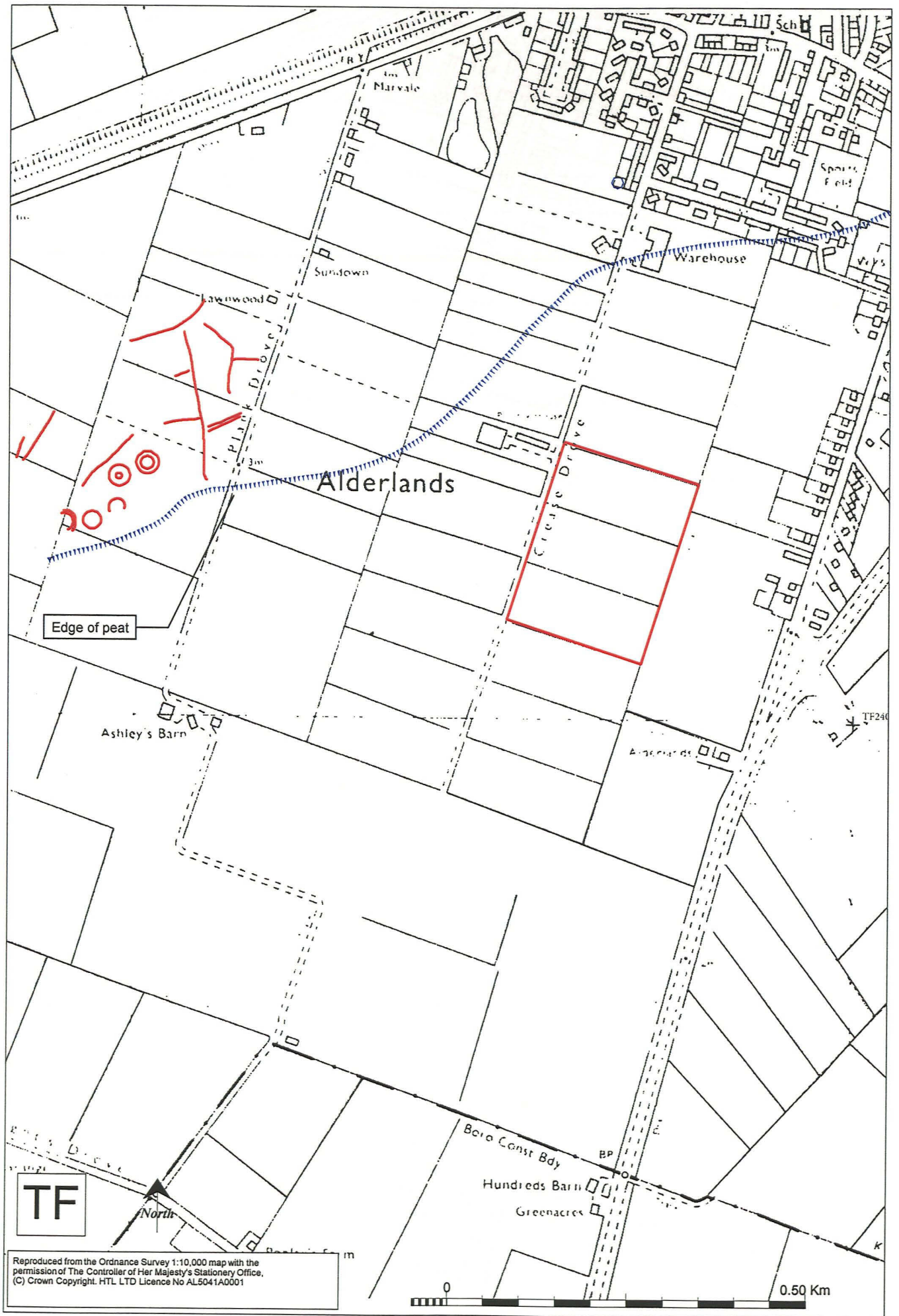
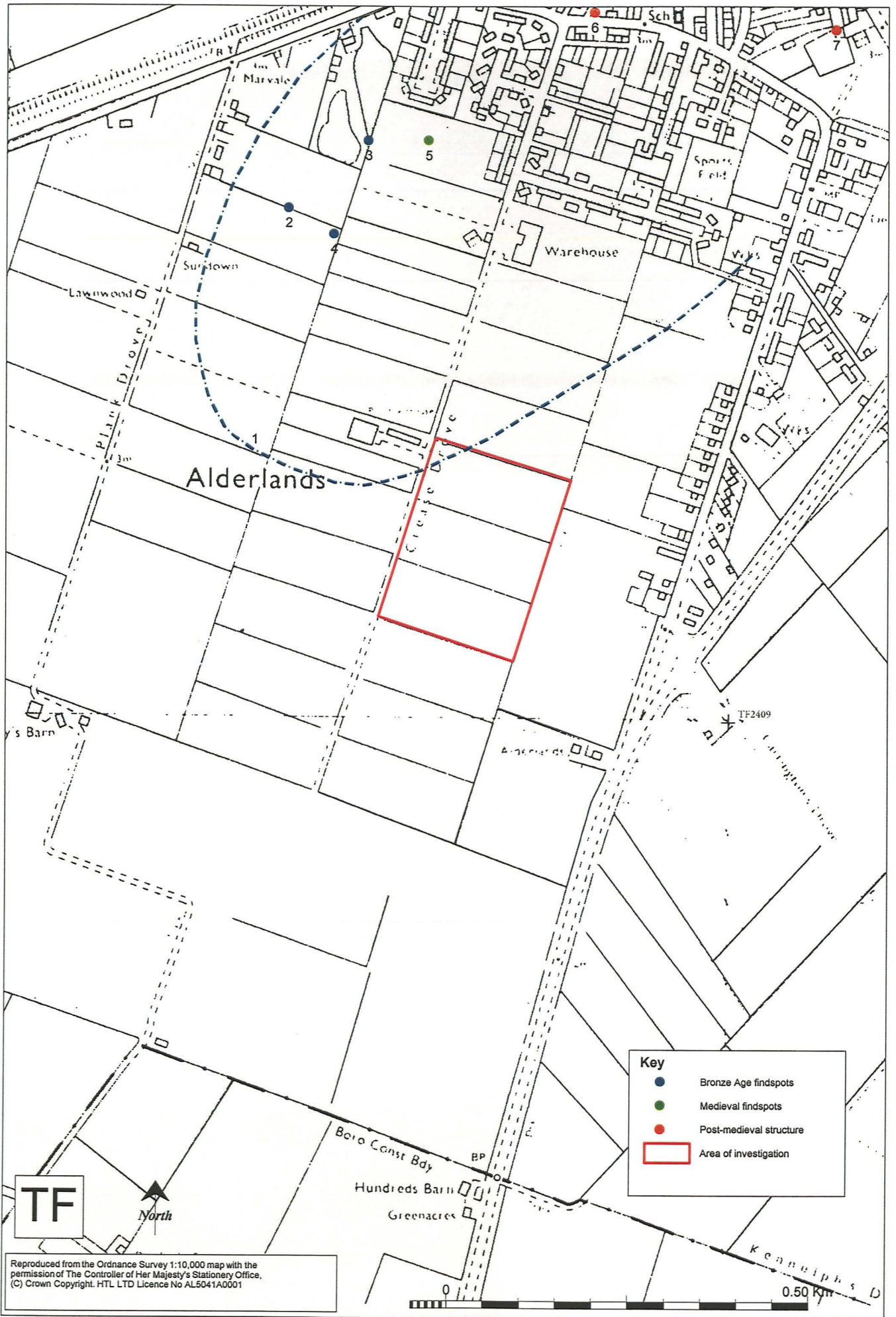


Figure 7 - Cropmarks in the investigation area



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Figure 8 - Archaeological sites in the investigation area



Plate 1 - Aerial view showing cropmarks to the west of the proposed development site (photo: Tom Lane)



Plate 2 - View across the development area, looking northwest



Plate 3 - View across the development area, looking northeast

Appendix 1

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 2

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Geophysical Survey	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.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	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 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.

Appendix 3

LIST OF SOURCES CONSULTED

Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record, parish of Crowland

Aerial Photographs held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record

Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photographs JF9 oblique 30.6.1952

Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photographs NQ42 oblique 25.4.1954

Aerial Photographs held by Tom Lane

5 views of the area south of Crowland, August 2000

Lincoln Central Reference Library

Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire Library

Ordnance Survey Maps 1905, 1951, 1980

Information Held by Archaeological Project Services

Sources Not Consulted

Geotechnical information

Primary historical documentation held at Lincolnshire Archives—experience has shown that the consultation of primary historical documents is extremely time-consuming, and only fortuitously affords information relevant to archaeological inquiries.