

Whisby Quarry (west)
Desk-top Assessment
WRQ94

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**DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED WESTERN EXTENSION OF
WHISBY QUARRY,
EAGLE AND SWINETHORPE,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
Redland Aggregates Ltd

April 1994

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WRQ 94

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1. SUMMARY

A desk-top assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed extension to Whisby Quarry (west), Eagle, Lincolnshire.

No formal records exist for any archaeological sites or find spots made within the bounds of the quarry, which is situated at the eastern boundary of Eagle and Swinethorpe parish and extends eastward into Doddington and Whisby parish. However, half a kilometre northwest of the proposed quarry, in the village of Eagle, are Anglo-Saxon cross fragments and the find spot of an Iron Age quern. The crosses probably represent the location of a Late Saxon church or other ecclesiastical establishment, while the quern may signify the otherwise unrecognised presence of a settlement of Iron Age date.

Evidence recovered on the walk-over survey suggests arable use of the area, associated with land improvement, commenced in the post-medieval period (c. 18th century). No indications of any archaeological sites were recorded on the walk-over survey. Rare finds of prehistoric flint and medieval pottery made in the northeast corner of the proposed extension may denote that sites of these dates are located in the general area, though perhaps outside the confines of the proposed quarry.

Aerial photographs do, however, record a group of faint, circular cropmarks in the southern part of the proposed quarry extension. Forming a closely localised group, these are tentatively identified as ditches surrounding burial mounds and, therefore, representing a possible Bronze Age barrow cemetery. Other cropmarks, of field drains and geological features, suggest that the barrow cemetery (if

correctly identified) is restricted in extent. No other archaeological sites were identified through the use of cropmark evidence.

Subject to the state of crop growth and drainage of surface water, approximately 90% of the proposed quarry extension has ground conditions suitable for geophysical survey.

2. INTRODUCTION

Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by David Walker, acting on behalf of Redland Aggregates Ltd., to undertake a desk-top assessment of the archaeological implications of the proposed western extension to Whisby quarry, Lincolnshire.

3. METHODS

Compilation of the archaeological and historical data relevant to the area of the proposed quarry extension involved examination of all appropriate primary and secondary sources available. These have included:

- historical documents, held in Lincolnshire Archives
- enclosure, tithe, parish and other maps and plans, held in Lincolnshire Archives
- recent and old Ordnance Survey maps
- records of archaeological sites and finds in the parish files of the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist
- the County Sites and Monuments Record and aerial photographs
- archaeological books and journals
- place-name evidence
- geological bore hole data

Information obtained in the literature and cartographic examination has been supplemented by a walk-over survey of the proposed quarry extension. This walk-over survey investigated the present land use, condition and parcelling; the presence, or otherwise, of earthworks and artefact scatters; and the appropriateness for geophysical survey.

4. SITE LOCATION

Whisby quarry proposed western extension is located approximately 10km southwest of Lincoln (Fig. 1). The major part of the proposed quarry area is located in the civil parish of Eagle and Swinethorpe, with an additional section spreading into Doddington and Whisby parish, North Kesteven district, Lincolnshire. Centred on National Grid Reference TF890666, the site covers approximately 60 hectares and is situated in a small east-west trending stream valley at a height of *c.* 13m OD. This stream, the Pike Drain, subsequently flows into the River Witham 7km to the east at Bracebridge, south of Lincoln. The Lincoln to Newark railway line bounds the proposed quarry extension on the south side (Fig. 2).

5. HISTORICAL DATA

Major place-names in the immediate vicinity of the proposed quarry extension signify Scandinavian influence.

Doddington - Old English *Duddingatun* 'the *tun* (enclosure, village) of Dudda's (= personal name) people

Eagle - Old English *ac-leah* 'oak wood', with substitution of Old Scandinavian *eik* for Old English *ac*

Swinethorpe - Old Danish *Sven's*,

or Old Norse *sveinn's*, and Old Danish *thorp* 'Sven's (= personal name) , or young man's/servant's small village; dependent farmstead' Thorpe-on-the-Hill - Old Danish *thorp* 'smaller village, colonised from larger one'; dependent farm Whisby - Old Scandinavian *Hvits byr* 'Hvit's (= personal name) village or homestead' (Ekwall 1974)

With the exception of Swinethorpe, Domesday Book of 1086 refers to each of these areas:

Doddington - had a church and a priest, arable, meadow, woodland and, in South Hykeham, two fisheries

Eagle - had a church and a priest, arable, meadow, woodland

Thorpe-on-the-Hill - said to be a church in the soke of Thorpe-on-the-Hill; arable and meadow

Whisby - arable and meadow (Foster and Longley 1976)

Although rebuilt in 1770-5, the church of St Peter at Doddington possesses an Early English (*c.* 1190 -1250) font as a reminder of the Domesday church.

All Saints' at Eagle probably incorporates remains of the church mentioned in Domesday. Evidence for this is provided by fragments of late 10th or 11th century cross shaft, a composite font, consisting of an Early English shaft and Norman bowl, and further fragments of the font bowl. The tower is Early English (*c.* 1190-1250).

St Michael's at Thorpe-on-the-Hill may contain evidence of the church mentioned in Domesday. Although apparently built in 1722, there is a blocked Norman window and a blocked Early English doorway, both apparently reset.

A church at Whisby burnt down in 1321 (Pevsner and Harris; rev. Antram 1989).

Minor place-name evidence is only available for the eastern limits of the proposed quarry extension. However, several 'Carr' field names are recorded on the Whisby tithe map (1838) and the plan of the Estates of Lady Alwyne Compton Vyner (1918). This minor place-name indicates that the general vicinity of this part of the proposed extension had been boggy or peaty ground. Other field names, such as Rough Close and Hell Hole reflect these poor ground conditions, whilst Ox Pasture relates to previous pastoral use.

6. CARTOGRAPHIC DATA

Whisby quarry western extension is situated towards the eastern limit of Eagle and Swinethorpe parish, and extends into Doddington and Whisby parish. Appropriate maps for the vicinity were examined.

Dating from 1774, 'A Map of the Lordship of Thorpe on the Hill in the County of Lincoln' shows the area immediately adjacent to the southeast corner of the proposed quarry extension. The plan records that a bridle way utilised the boundary of the proposed extraction area, between the Pike Drain and the railway line.

Published in 1824, the first edition one-inch Ordnance Survey map records the area as open ground. A stream, since re-routed or culverted, crossed the southern part of the proposed extension before turning north, to cross Job's Lane, and flow into the Pike Drain. Part of the course of this extinct stream is, apparently, recorded on an aerial photograph (see below). A building presently located on the south side of Job's Lane was also recorded on the

1824 plan.

Bryant's 'Map of the County of Lincoln' (1828) depicts the area of the proposed quarry extension as open ground, faithfully corresponding with the 1824 OS plan.

Surveyed in 1827 and 1828 but published in 1831, the 'Map of the County of Lincoln' by C. and J. Greenwood is small scale but shows the area free of buildings. A stream crossed the area from north to south, providing the boundary between the two adjacent parishes. Called Carr Dyke on this record, the watercourse is identifiable with the Pike Drain shown on both earlier and later maps of the area. The tributary streams that cross the proposed extension area were not depicted on this plan.

Only a small part of the proposed quarry extension is covered by the 1839 tithe map for the parish of Whisby. Recording the area as fields, the most eastern block of the proposed quarry was, in 1839, three separate parcels of land.

Ordnance Survey maps of the twentieth century (1906, 1953, 1965, 1987) record the area as fields crossed by the Pike Drain.

There are no available tithe map or inclosure awards for the parish of Eagle and Swinethorpe.

7. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH DATA

Aerial photographs taken by the RAF in 1947 and 1948 and held by the Archaeology Section, City and County Museum, Lincoln, were examined for evidence of archaeological remains. The identification numbers are the registration codes of the individual photographs. Significant cropmarks evident on the aerial photographs were committed to base maps

using the Mobius network method (Scollar 1975, 52-3).

2223, 2224 - In field C, towards the southern side of the proposed quarry extension, and a little south of Job's Lane, a faint cropmark of an apparently double concentric circle appears on both photographs. This may be a double ring-ditch denoting the location of a Bronze Age round barrow. Passing north-south through this circle is a dark linear cropmark. This feature extends northwards beyond Job's Lane almost to Pike Drain (field C) and bifurcates as it approaches that watercourse. Due to the distinct straightness, this cropmark is considered to be caused by a drain or similar feature. This cropmark also appears on photographs 4172 and 4173.

Aligned northwest-southeast and passing through the full lengths of fields C and K is a faint but extremely straight, dark cropmark. This is also interpreted as being caused by a drain. In field B, and extending westwards outside the proposed quarry extension area, is a prominent dark cropmark. Describing a slightly irregular line oriented approximately east-west, this feature is probably geological in origin. Perhaps representing an extinct watercourse, the cropmark is broadly coincident with the line of stream that was recorded on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1824, but which no longer crosses the area.

Appearing in field D on photograph 2224 only is a faint C - shaped cropmark. Due to the proximity of other circular cropmarks recorded on this and other aerial photographs, the feature may be similarly interpreted as a possible ring ditch of a Bronze Age burial mound.

3170, 3171 - Only the extreme southern section of the proposed quarry extension is

recorded on these photographs. No evidence of any archaeological remains in the area depicted (fields A, B, C, D).

4171 - Only the extreme east and northeast of the proposed extension appears on this photograph. No evidence for any archaeological remains occurs in the area recorded (fields I, J, T, U, V).

4172 - Two faint, dark circular cropmarks are recorded a little south of Job's Lane in the southern part of the proposed quarry extension area. These circular features may, potentially, be ring ditches of Bronze Age burial mounds. Crossing the more northerly circle is a north-south aligned dark, linear cropmark. Extending from Job's Lane south almost to Thorpe Lane, this feature appears to be the same cropmark recorded on photographs 2223, 2224 and 4173.

4173 - A faint circular cropmark occurs just south of Job's Lane; this feature appears to be the same as the more northerly ring-shaped cropmark recorded on aerial photograph 4172. Crossing the circle, the north-south linear cropmark also recorded on photograph 2223, 2224 and 4172 appears.

Cumulatively, these aerial photographs indicate that faint cropmarks exist towards the southern side of the proposed quarry extension area. These cropmarks include a number of circular features which may signify the location of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery, and a possible relict watercourse. Additionally, long linear cropmarks tentatively interpreted as drains cross the area (Fig. 3).

There is no coverage of the development area in the collection of the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography.

8. BORE HOLE DATA (Fig. 4)

A series of geological bore holes on the proposed quarry extension revealed that topsoil was generally 0.4 - 0.5m thick, but extended up to 0.7m deep in places. Beneath this topsoil were subsoil deposits that overlay pebbly sand. This subsoil material was variably clayey or silty and appears to be alluvium. In the northeast part of the proposed extension area, a restricted area of very deep subsoil deposits was identified. These thick layers of clays, silt/sand and silt/clay are considered to infill a geological feature.

Deep subsoil occurred in localised bands across the area. One such band stretches east-west across the southern side of the proposed extension. This band broadly coincides with a cropmark recorded on an aerial photograph and with the location of a stream depicted on the 1824 Ordnance Survey map but no longer evident on the ground. In consequence, these subsoils may potentially be fills of a relict water course. Other areas of deep subsoil may also signify the previous locations of water courses, particularly in the vicinity of Pike Drain, whose angular course betrays a programme of canalisation.

Isolated areas where topsoil lay directly on sandy gravel were recorded. No deposits of obvious archaeological origin were revealed by the bore hole survey.

9. ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

County Sites and Monuments Record	North Kesteven Records
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60407 Two Anglo-Saxon crosses in All Saints' Church	
60418 Iron Age Beehive Quern	27.5

These are the only accurately located archaeological finds from the vicinity of the quarry extension that are recorded in the files of the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist and the County Sites and Monuments Record. Both of the items are registered as occurring in Eagle township, approximately half a kilometre northwest of the proposed quarry extension (Fig. 2). Due to their size and weight, querns generally are not transported far from their point of use. These artefacts, therefore, often signify the location of settlement sites not otherwise evident in the archaeological record (Blaise Vyner, pers comm).

No other archaeological sites or finds are recorded within one kilometre of the boundary of the proposed quarry extension.

10. WALK-OVER SURVEY

To facilitate assessment, the whole of the proposed extension area has been subdivided into twenty-two blocks (Fig. 3).

Areas A, B, C: Young cereal crop; much of the field covered by standing water. No artefact concentrations though land drain fragments plentiful. Appropriateness for geophysical survey dependent on state of crop and drainage of surface water.

Areas D, E, F, G: Crop and weed growth, visibility poor. No artefact concentrations.

Cottage, outbuildings and orchard on west side of Field G. Plant coverage presents inappropriate conditions for geophysical survey.

Area H: Young cereal crop. Few artefacts, no concentrations. Suitability for geophysical survey dependent on crop coverage.

With the exception of Field G, all internal boundaries in the block encompassing Fields A to H have been removed.

Area I: Not accessible for walkover survey, observed from adjacent land. Young cereal crop. Artefacts few and modern, concentrating towards northern boundary of field. Appropriateness for geophysical survey dependent on state of crop.

Area J: Not accessible for walkover survey, observed from adjacent land. Young cereal crop. Artefacts few and modern, concentrating towards southern boundary of field. Appropriateness for geophysical survey dependent on state of crop.

Area K: Stubble covered. Artefacts few and modern, concentrating towards Job's Lane at south side of field. Conditions probably appropriate for geophysical examination.

Area L: Scrub covered, vegetation prevented observation of artefacts. Conditions inappropriate for geophysical survey.

Area M: Young cereal crop. Moderate quantities of modern artefacts, though no concentrations observed. State of crop dictates whether geophysical survey appropriate.

Area N: Ploughed but unweathered. Soil discolourations visible but no clear pattern. Artefacts infrequent and apparently all

post-medieval in date, concentrating towards south and west boundaries. Land rises to a high point in the western boundary. Ground conditions possibly appropriate for geophysical survey.

Area O: Ploughed but unweathered. Infrequent post-medieval artefacts, no concentrations observed. Possibly suitable for geophysical examination. A natural ridge crosses the field from southwest to northeast.

Areas P, Q: Not accessible for walkover survey, observed from adjacent land. Young cereal crop. Infrequent land drain fragments, no concentrations. Topography undulating, land rising to north. Suitability for geophysical survey dependent on crop cover.

Areas R, S: Young cereal crop. Artefacts infrequent and post-medieval in date; no concentrations. Land rises to north. State of crop dictates whether geophysical survey appropriate.

Area T: Mostly ploughed but unweathered; area south of Pike Drain is scrub covered. Very few artefacts, those mostly modern; no concentrations. Land rises gently to north. Area south of Pike Drain unsuitable for geophysical examination; appropriateness for geophysical survey over rest of field is dependent on state of crop.

Area U: Ploughed, not weathered. Infrequent modern artefacts, no concentrations. Possibly suitable for geophysical survey.

Area V: Young cereal crop. Large part of southern side of field obscured by sand from adjacent quarry. Frequent land drain fragments, infrequent post-medieval finds. Two medieval pottery sherds and a fragment of medieval roof tile noted in

extreme northeast corner of field ('x'). Also, two prehistoric flint flakes, including a utilised blade broken in antiquity, were noted in the eastern part of the northern extension of this field ('y'). Land rises gently towards the northeast. Subject to crop coverage, ground conditions suitable for geophysical investigation.

11. 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 1).

Period:

If the faint cropmarks recorded on aerial photographs do represent barrows, then these features provide the most characteristic remains of the Bronze Age in Britain. Otherwise, no period is clearly represented.

Rarity:

If the faint cropmarks are correctly interpreted as a barrow cemetery then they represent a site-type that occurs extensively throughout Britain and is not uncommon.

Documentation:

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the Eagle and Swinethorpe, Thorp-on-the-Hill and Doddington and Whisby vicinity are kept in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the relevant parish files of the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist. However, no synopses or syntheses of this evidence has been produced for the area.

There are no appropriate historical surveys of the area.

Group value:

If correctly identified, the Bronze Age ring

ditches possess high group value as a cemetery. Approximately 2km south of the proposed quarry, an Early Bronze Age food vessel (NK64.4), probably from a burial, and a barbed and tanged arrowhead (NK64.5) of similar date have been recovered; stone axes of probable Neolithic date from locations 2km northwest (SMR60419) and 2km southeast (NK64.1, NK64.2) of the proposed quarry. These finds confer enhanced group value on the cropmark sites.

Survival/Condition:

Archaeological remains, in the form of ring ditches of Bronze Age date, have tentatively been identified. The survival/condition of any associated deposits is unknown. However, the formation of cropmarks, albeit faint ones, necessarily implies the survival of archaeological deposits.

Fragility/Vulnerability:

Due to imminent development which will impact much of the investigation area to a depth well into natural strata, any and all archaeological deposits present on the site are extremely vulnerable.

Diversity:

Only the cropmarks of a possible Bronze Age barrow cemetery have been identified in the area of proposed quarry extension, no other archaeological remains have been identified in the proposed development area, or immediate surrounds. Therefore, both functional and period diversity are restricted, being limited to burial activity of Bronze Age date.

Potential:

Potential is moderate to high that deposits, associated with the cropmark evidence of ring ditches, survive. Such remains may have the potential to provide information on prehistoric ceremonial and funerary practices in this part of Lincolnshire.

Limited archaeological data, together with historical patterns of land use recorded cartographically and in minor place-names, suggests that there is probably low potential for recovery of archaeological remains of medieval and later date.

Palaeoenvironmental material of geological age may survive within the natural alluvial deposits. Further palaeoenvironmental remains, perhaps of archaeological age, may survive in relict watercourses and old stream channels made redundant through canalisation.

12. CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological sites or findspots are formally recorded on, or immediately adjacent to, the proposed quarry extension. Similarly, the walk-over survey did not recognise any earthwork or soilmark evidence that could be clearly interpreted as representing archaeological remains. However, aerial photographs record a number of faint cropmarks in the southern part of the proposed quarry extension. Several of these, occurring in close proximity to each other, are circular. Together they are tentatively interpreted as signifying the location of a possible barrow cemetery of Bronze Age date.

Although major place-name evidence indicates the area to have been settled in the Scandinavian period (9th - 10th centuries AD), field names on the east side of the area indicate that local ground conditions were probably unsuitable for direct settlement, a conclusion supported by the observations of standing water made during the walk-over survey.

Artefacts of post-medieval and modern date occurred with variable frequency across the area. No concentrations were recognised on the walk-over survey and all

of this material could have derived from manuring scatter and the ploughing up of land drains. Small, localised assemblages of prehistoric and medieval material occurred towards the extreme northeast of the proposed quarry extension. Such limited collections necessarily have low significance but may denote the presence of sites of both prehistoric and medieval date. The locations of the observations would, however, suggest that any such sites probably lay outside the area of the proposed quarry extension to the northeast.

Depending on the state of crop coverage and drainage of surface water, approximately 90% of the area has ground conditions appropriate for geophysical examination.

13. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Mr David Walker (Chartered Surveyor acting for Redland Aggregates Ltd.) and John Walker (Trent and Peak Archaeological Trust). The work was coordinated by Steve Haynes and this report was edited by Dave Start. Examination of the relevant parish files was permitted by Nicola Nuttall, the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record and aerial photograph collection was provided by Ian George and Julia Wise of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Staff of Archaeological Project Services assisted with the production of this report, including Denise Buckley, who produced the illustrations; Mark Dymond assisted with the transcription of the aerial photograph; Mike Jarvis undertook the walk-over survey. Information on the relevant aerial photograph coverage in the collection of the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography was supplied by Padraicin Ni Mhurchu .

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Whisby Tithe Map, 1839

15. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed 'SMR' are the primary

reference numbers used by the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record, Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

Numbers prefixed by 'NK' are the reference codes used by the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

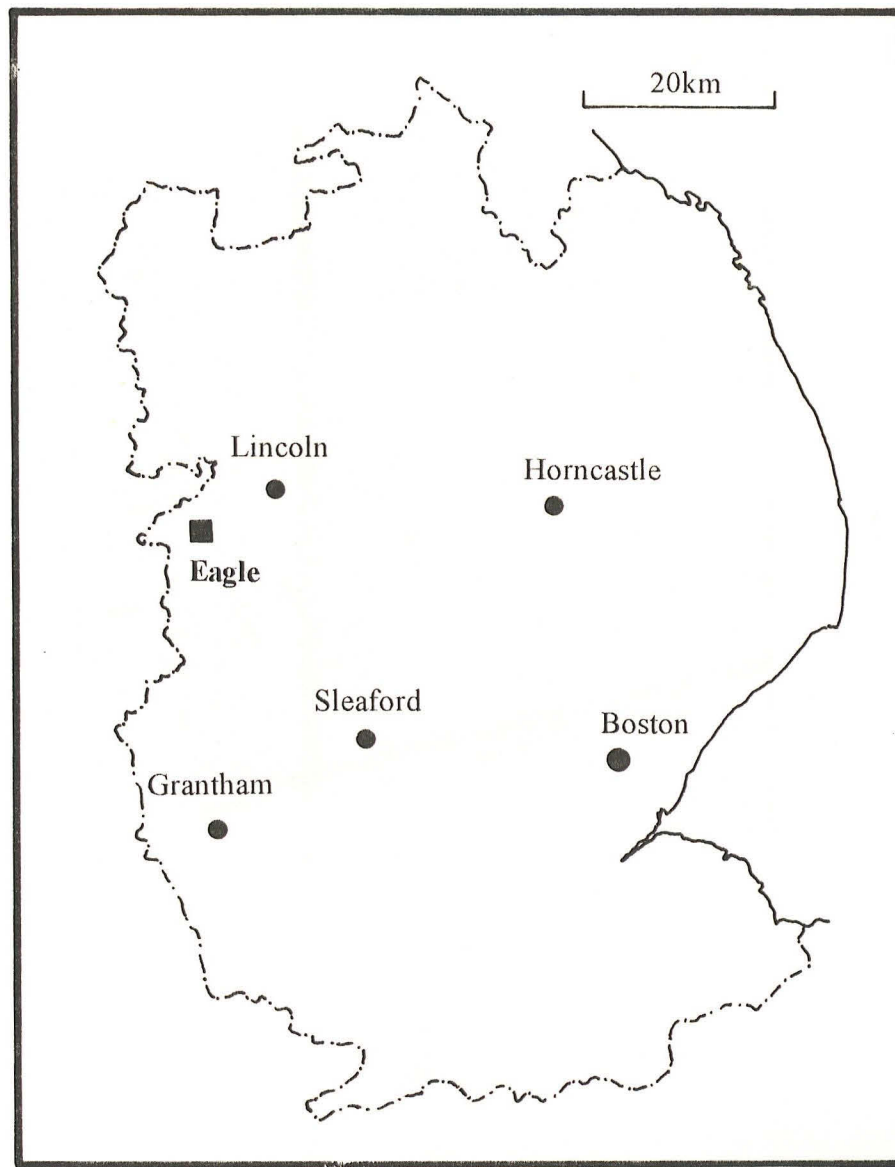
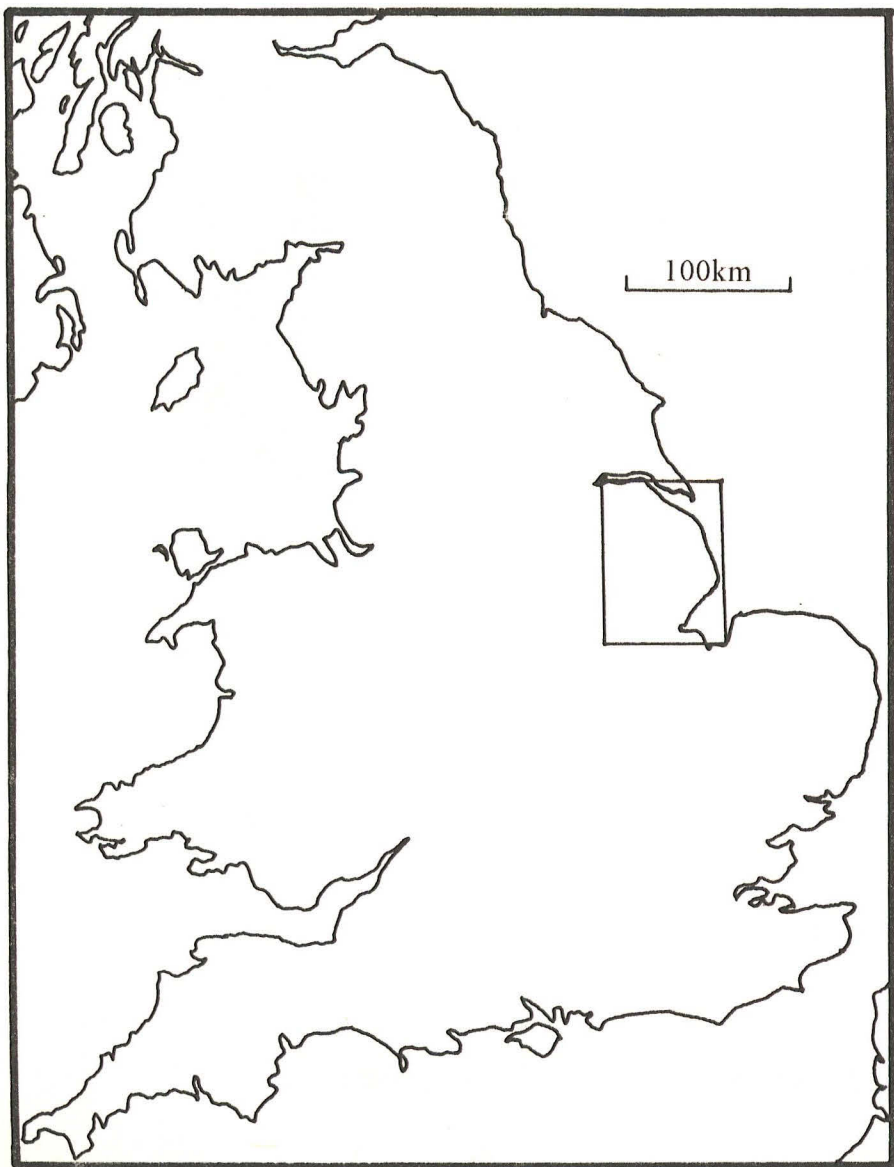
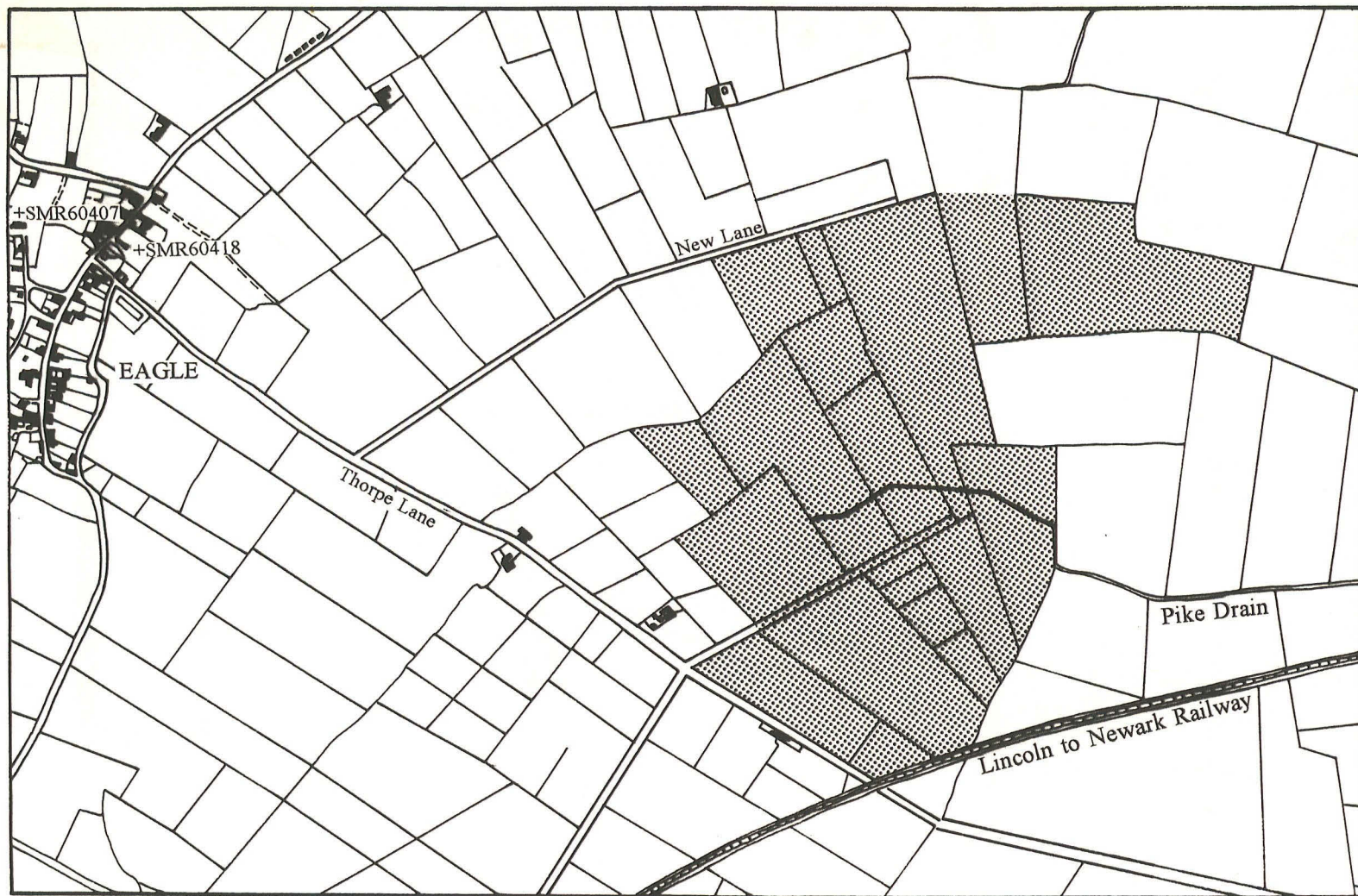


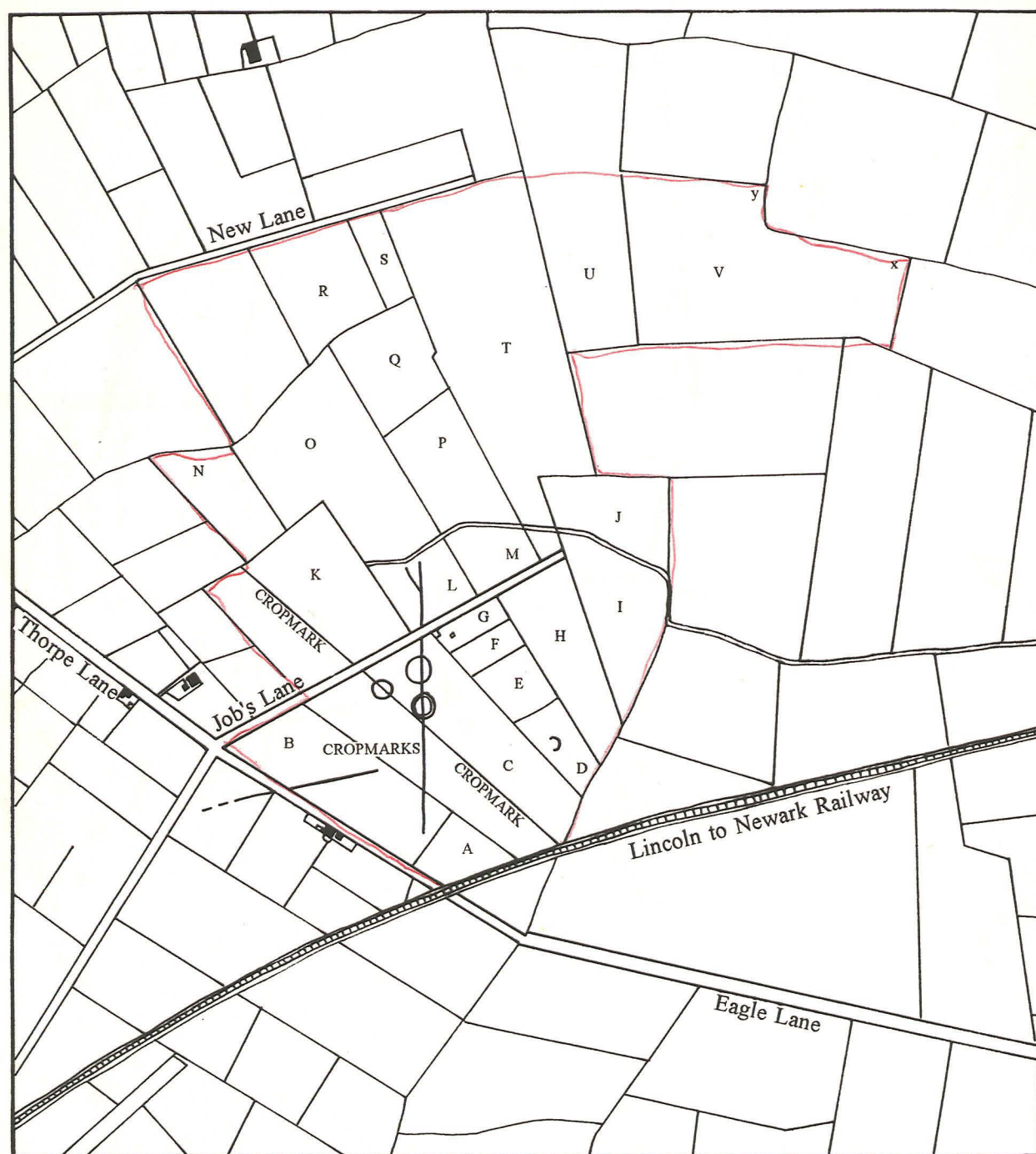
Fig. 1 GENERAL LOCATION PLAN



Area of Proposed Quarry Extension

Fig. 2 SITE LOCATION PLAN

Fig. 3 INVESTIGATION AREA, SHOWING CROPMARKS



T FIELD IDENTIFICATION CODE

x FIND LOCATION



GROUND SURFACE HEIGHT, ABOVE ORDNANCE DATUM

DEPTH OF OVERBURDEN

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.