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**DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT OF THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LAND
NEXT TO SLEAFORD ROAD,
BRACEBRIDGE HEATH,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
Smith Gore Chartered Surveyors

September 1994



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

CONTENTS

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site Location Plan, with Recorded Archaeological Sites and Finds

1.	Summary	1
2.	Introduction	1
2.1	Background	1
2.2	Topography and Geology	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methods	2
5.	Results	2
5.1	Historical Data	2
5.2	Cartographic Data	3
5.3	Aerial Photograph Data	4
5.4	Archaeological Data	4
5.5	Walk-over Survey	8
6.	Discussion	8
7.	Assessment of Significance	9
7.1	Site Importance	11
8.	Conclusions	11
9.	Acknowledgements	12
10.	References	12
11.	Abbreviations	13

Appendix

- 1 Extract from *Criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments*

List of Figures

Figure 1 General Location Plan

Figure 2 Site Location Plan, with Recorded Archaeological Sites and Finds

Figure 3 Immediate Vicinity of Site, with Archaeological Detail

Figure 4 Copy of Part of 1842 Bracebridge Tithe Map

Past human settlement is indicated by artefacts that are particularly concentrated just southwest of the investigation site. This arrangement is duplicated by the location of Romano-British finds. As a result, it appears probable that these distributions reflect access for archaeological recording, rather than the true extent of prehistoric or Romano-British settlement.

In addition, the extensive extent of pottery, coins and other occupation remains suggest that a Romano-British village was located on the Bracebridge Heath ground, beside the Roman road, Ermine Street. This Roman highway, crossing the area from south to north, passes through the southeast corner of the proposed development site. A Romano-British cemetery is located alongside the road at this point and cremations and a burial have been found immediately adjacent to its southern corner of the site.

The area was probably abandoned by the end of the Roman period and was re-occupied and the settlement was a number of farms were established in the area. The main part was situated immediately east of the investigation site on the opposite side of Skelders Road.

A stone quarry that will have removed all earlier archaeological remains within its limits, provided the field-sites for the western part of the site in the nineteenth

century. Recognised on the site visit, this was located on the southern boundary of the area. Also observed on the site surroundings was a ditch of uncertain date, that ran eastwards towards the allotments.

It is highly probable that the Romano-British cemetery, located immediately south of the proposed development site and assessed as regionally and locally important, will extend into the area of investigation. Of similar significance is the prehistoric settlement which may also reach into the proposed development area. Present ground conditions are appropriate for geological survey, except in the area of allotments.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

A Municipal Property Services were commissioned by South Essex Chartered Surveyors to undertake a desk-top investigation of land west of Skelders Road, Bracebridge Heath, Lincolnshire. This was in order to ascertain the archaeological implications of a proposed housing development at the site, as detailed in planning application N/12440/1991. This archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with the criteria of the Code of Practice for Archaeological Excavation.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Bracebridge Heath lies just south of Lincoln in North Lincolnshire District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Located at a height of c. 70m OD, the proposed development area lies immediately south of the town and is bounded by Grantham Road to the west and Skelders Road to the east. The investigation area is situated in the civil parish of Bracebridge Heath, close to the

1. SUMMARY

A desk-top assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development on land between Grantham Road and Sleaford Road, Bracebridge Heath, Lincolnshire. Several archaeological sites and findspots are located in the vicinity of the proposed development site.

Prehistoric settlement is indicated by artefacts that are particularly concentrated just southwest of the investigation site. This arrangement is duplicated by the location of Romano-British finds. As a result, it appears probable that these distribution patterns reflect access for archaeological recording, rather than the true extents of prehistoric or Romano-British settlement.

Nonetheless, the extensive spread of pottery, coins and other occupation remains suggest that a Romano-British village was located on the Bracebridge Heath plateau, astride the Roman road, Ermine Street. This Roman highway, crossing the area from south to north, passes through the southwest corner of the proposed development site. A Romano-British cemetery is located alongside the road at this point and cremations and a burial have been found immediately adjacent to the southwest corner of the site.

The area was probably abandoned towards the end of the Roman period and not re-occupied until the sixteenth century when a number of farms were established in the area. One such farm was situated immediately east of the investigation site, on the opposite side of Sleaford Road.

A stone quarry, that will have removed all earlier archaeological remains within its limits, provided the field-name for the western part of the site in the nineteenth

century. Recognised on the site visit, this was located on the southern boundary of the area. Also observed on the site reconnaissance was a ditch, of uncertain association to the quarry, that ran eastwards towards the allotments.

It is highly probable that the Romano-British cemetery, located immediately south of the proposed development site and assessed as regionally and locally important, will extend into the area of investigation. Of similar significance is the prehistoric settlement which may also reach into the proposed development area. Present ground conditions are appropriate for geophysical survey, except in the area of allotments.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by Smiths Gore Chartered Surveyors to undertake a desk-top assessment of land west of Sleaford Road, Bracebridge Heath, Lincolnshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of a proposed housing development at the site, as detailed in planning application N/12/480/1993. This archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with a brief set by the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Bracebridge Heath lies 9km south of Lincoln in North Kesteven District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). Located at a height of c. 70m OD, the proposed development area lies immediately south of the town and is bounded by Grantham Road on the west and Sleaford Road to the east. The investigation area is situated in the civil parish of Bracebridge Heath, close to the

boundary with Waddington parish. Centred on National Grid Reference SK983667, the site of the proposed development covers approximately thirteen hectares (Fig. 2).

Sitting alongside the western scarp edge of the Jurassic limestone ridge, above the River Witham, the proposed development area is located on land that declines gently from west to east away from the scarp crest. Local soils are the Elmtun 1 Association brown rendzinas (stony or sandy clay loam), developed on a solid geology of Jurassic limestone (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 179).

3. AIMS

The aims of the desk-top assessment were to locate and, if present, evaluate any archaeological sites in the vicinity of the proposed development area. Such location and assessment of significance would permit the formulation of an appropriate response to integrate the needs of the archaeology with the proposed development programme.

4. METHODS

Compilation of the archaeological and historical data relevant to the area of the proposed development 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
- the County Sites and Monuments Record and aerial photographs

- the files of the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist
- the National Archaeological Record
- archaeological books and journals
- place-name evidence

Information obtained in the literature and cartographic examination was supplemented by a walk-over survey of the proposed construction site. 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. Results of the archival and field examinations were committed to scale plans of the area.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Historical data

In the Domesday Book of 1086, two land holdings are recorded in Bracebridge and Canwick parishes. Within the parishes there were 120 acres of meadow and five fisheries, split between the two holdings. A number of ploughteams imply that some of the land was arable. Domesday also notes a church and a priest (Foster and Longley 1921).

The major place-name Bracebridge derives from the dialect term *brash*, meaning 'small branches, twigs' and the Old Norse *brigg*, a bridge. Norman influence is denoted by the form of the place-name (Ekwall 1974, 57). 'Bracebridge' therefore means 'bridge or causeway made of brushwood', though this may seem unlikely for a bridge carrying the Roman road Ermine Street over the Witham. Bracebridge Heath itself is first referred to in 1329 as *del heth* (Cameron 1985, 191).

In 1535, and subsequently, the *Crosse appon the Clyffe* is mentioned. This

location is identifiable with Cross O'Cliff at the northern end of Bracebridge Heath town. Removal of the cross occurred c. 1618. References, first occurring in 1579, are also made to *St. Johns hethe*, while Red Hall is recorded from as early as 1695 (*ibid.*, 192).

Minor place-names recorded on the 1842 Bracebridge tithe map mostly refer to local topographical aspects or parcel size. However, the western part of the proposed development area was part of a much larger field called 'Stone Pit Close' (such a quarry may have been recognised on the site visit, see below). At the southeast corner of the investigation area was a field called 'Pingle', meaning 'small enclosure'. Two fields called West and East Walk occupied the remainder of the proposed development site. No information is available on the minor place-names of Waddington parish.

In 1466, due to the poverty and desolation of Lincoln, the towns of Bracebridge, Branston, Canwick and Waddington were annexed to the county of the city (Hill 1990, 281). Bracebridge Heath sprang up from 1841. This was in response to the great rise in the population of Lincoln, which increased from 7000 in 1800, to 13800 by 1840 and 27000 in 1870 (Rogers 1985, 117). In 1898 Bracebridge Heath parish was created when Bracebridge itself was detached to become an Urban District (Start 1993, 24).

5.2 Cartographic Data

Stretching between Sleaford Road and Grantham Road, the proposed development site is situated towards the south side of Bracebridge Heath parish, near to the boundary with Waddington parish. Appropriate maps for the vicinity were examined.

Although no map survives with the 1771 Waddington Inclosure Award, a plan of the parish has been reconstructed. At the time of inclosure, the area immediately south of the proposed development site was part of High Field, one of the large parcels of the medieval open field system. There is no available inclosure award for Bracebridge.

Dating from 1824, the first edition of the one-inch Ordnance Survey map shows the area as open land between the present Grantham and Sleaford Roads. Bracebridge Heath was, at that time, a much smaller village than at present and there were few buildings in the vicinity of the proposed development area. A structure was depicted immediately beyond the southwest corner of the investigation area while just beyond the eastern limits of the site was a small complex of buildings. Now known as The Manor House, these structures were, in 1824, called St. John's Heath. Additionally, the map records a sharp S-bend in the Grantham Road at the southwest corner of the investigation area (Harley 1970). This is now a very gradual deviation in the line of the highway.

Bryant's 'Map of the County of Lincoln' (1828) portrays the area of the proposed development as open ground, and is essentially identical to the 1824 Ordnance Survey plan.

Bracebridge tithe award of 1842 records the area of the proposed development as three open fields. The southern limit of the eastern-most field lay further to the south than at present. This boundary ran to the middle of the western edge of a small, near square field located by the southeast corner of the investigation site (Fig. 4). Additionally, at that time, the Bracebridge-Waddington parish boundary followed the line of the southern limit of the investigation area, rather than c. 100m to the south, as it does at present.

A second copy of the Bracebridge tithe map possesses faint pencil additions. These depict subdivisions of the fields along the east side of Grantham Road, and buildings within these plots. Although undated, these supplementary sketches include St. John's Hospital and must, therefore, post-date the 1852 construction of the building. No tithe map for Waddington parish is available.

In 1905 the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map was published. This revealed that the southern boundary on the eastern part of the proposed development site had been brought northwards. In creating the present line, the boundary diversion excluded the small square field at the southeast corner from the area of investigation. Additionally, the map officially recorded the buildings and plots alongside Grantham Road that had been sketched onto the earlier tithe award.

Ordnance Survey maps of 1906, 1953, 1956 and 1985 record the gradual growth of the town. By 1985 the allotment gardens were depicted for the first time. Additionally, the parish boundary had been redrawn approximately 100m to the south of its previous course alongside the investigation area.

5.3 Aerial Photograph Data

Aerial photographs held in the collections of Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, and those stored in the files of Heritage Lincolnshire were examined for evidence of archaeological remains. In addition, other photographs published or transcribed in secondary sources were also examined.

Photographs (identification number 0110; others uncoded) kept in the files of the Lincolnshire County Archaeology Section reveal faint cropmarks approximately 1km southwest of the present investigation site.

These ephemeral traces appear to depict rectilinear enclosures containing smaller rectangular features. More linear cropmarks, generally oriented northwest-southeast, also appear on the photographs but occur further south, beyond the limits of Figure 2. An additional image, photograph 0114, encompasses the western half of the investigation site. However, no archaeological remains are evident in the area. Aerial photographs in the files of Heritage Lincolnshire record the area of St. John's Hospital on the northern side of Bracebridge Heath. These photographs (WO61-WO64) reveal the urban pattern of the northern part of the town but do not extend to cover the proposed development site. Moreover, no archaeological remains are evident on the pictures. Bracebridge Heath town and the general area of proposed development are shown on published aerial photographs (Start 1993, 24, 25, 26). These prints record the present urban fringe nature of the investigation site and the more limited extent of the town in the past. However, no archaeological remains, either in the form of cropmarks or earthworks, are evident on, or in the vicinity of, the proposed development site.

5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist were consulted. Other, secondary, sources were also examined. Details of archaeological and historical remains falling within 1km of the proposed development area are collated here and committed to Figs. 2 and 3.

(Note: 'BH' - Bracebridge Heath parish
'W' - Waddington Parish)

County Sites and Monuments Record	North Kesteven Community Archaeologist's Files	National Grid Reference	Parish	Description
A	NK12.9	SK976677	BH	Roman coin
L	NK12.8	SK977679	BH	Roman coin
O	NK12.13; NK12.2	SK98286725	BH	Roman 1st/2nd century coin hoard in 'small red pot'
Q		SK981656	W	Aerial photograph, showing traces of Ermine Street Roman road
R	NK68.14	SK977663; SK977664	W; BH	Roman settlement on aerial photographs; pottery, coins, quern stone, Romano-Saxon pot
S	NK12.5	SK975665	BH	Cropmarks, rectilinear enclosures, much Romano-British pot and ?daub.
T	NK68.10; ?NK68.2	SK977655; SK973655	W	Romano-British pot, roof and box tile; bronze chain, toilet set gouge, coins; building stone
V	NK12.7	SK977665	BH	Romano-British and Iron Age pot
X	NK12.6	SK976673	BH	Roman pot, roof and box tile. Mesolithic/ Neolithic flintwork - cores, microliths, flakes
Y	NK68.12	SK977662	W	Roman pot, box and roof tile, large limestone block
AD	NK12.3	SK98136791	BH	Roman coin (Vespasian)
AF		unlocated, Hyde Farm, Waddington	W	Saxo-Norman jug - not shown on Figure 2
BA	NK12.4	SK993663	BH	Neolithic stone axe, fire blackened stones

BB	NK68.13	SK97656612	W	Two leaf and one barb and tang arrowheads, scrapers, waste flakes
BO	NK68.9	SK97616622	W	Neolithic flints, Roman and Medieval pot, lead spindle whorl, 18th century wine bottle fragments, Roman coin
BT		Bracebridge Heath, unlocated	BH	Roman coin (Claudius)
BU	NK12.12	SK97466745	BH	Romano-British pottery
BV	NK68.15	SK97816635	W	Roman coin hoard in pot; Roman pot, bronze fragments, lead objects, spoon, brooches; second hoard (7 coins). Medieval seal matrix. Neolithic stone axe fragment. Iron objects, medicinal slab. Tip of Bronze Age spearhead or dirk
BW		SK97726606	W	Fragment of Neolithic stone axe
BX		SK97756585	W	Roman roof and flue tiles, including ?waster; site of tile kiln? Much Romano-British pot, one sherd of medieval pot. Low ridge.
CB	NK68.11	SK97726630	W	Group of 16 Roman coins, 1st/2nd century (?in pot)
CC	NK12.14	unlocated (approx. SK975655)	BH	Roman coin (317-26)
CQ	NK12.1	SK97946652	BH	Skeleton, ?Roman

CR		unlocated, edge of field on Grantham Road, Bracebridge Heath	BH	Neolithic stone axe - not shown on Figure 2
CS		unlocated, Bracebridge Heath	BH	Coin of Henry VI (1422- 61) - not shown on Figure 2
CV		SK976663	W	Roman coin, roof tile and pot; Post-medieval pot
CW		SK976665	BH	Romano-British pot, tile. c. 300 worked flints, Mesolithic - Bronze Age date. Neolithic stone axe fragment
DI		SK982660	W	Roman coin
60371		SK97926648	W	Cremations in Romano- British pots
60450		SK97406710	BH	Roman pottery
60451		SK97806650	BH	Romano-British ceramic figure of ?eagle

Ermine Street, an important Roman highway, passes north-south through the area. The route courses through fields past Grange Farm, Waddington, before rejoining the modern Grantham Road at the southern edge of Bracebridge Heath town (Margary 1973, 228-9).

A Romano-British pottery kiln was discovered during construction work for the North Lincolnshire Area Health Authority Offices at Cross O'Cliff Court (Donel 1992, 12). During preliminary investigations at the site, remains of human burials were also discovered (Ian George, pers comm).

Reference was made in 1535 to a cross. This feature, situated in the Cross O'Cliff area, was removed c. 1618. A windmill,

noted as being 'on the hill next the cross', was mentioned in 1545. This location is probably also identifiable with the Cross O'Cliff area (Cameron 1985, 192; 194).

St. John's Hospital was built as the County Pauper Lunatic Asylum. Completed in 1852, further additions were made in 1884 and through to 1939. Within the hospital grounds is the church of St. John, built in 1869. On Grantham Road, close to the junction with Sleaford Road, is the church of St. John the Evangelist, built in 1908-10 in Gothic style. Located just off London Road is Cross O'Cliff Court. Built in 1907 in a stripped Tudor style, the house possesses gardens that were laid out by Thomas Mawson (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 176-7).

5.5 Site Visit

In mid-September 1994, a visit was made to the proposed development site. Visibility was excellent and most of the area, except the allotments, had recently been ploughed and harrowed.

Running parallel with, and approximately 8m north of, the southern boundary of the eastern field was a slight depression. Filling this linear indentation was a band of stony soil. This is considered to represent the course of a pipeline.

Located centrally on the southern boundary of the western field was a slight eminence. In this area the ploughsoil was extremely stony. Immediately to the west of this rise was a hollow with darker, relatively stone-free soil.

From this depression a linear indentation, provisionally interpreted as a ditch, ran towards the southeast corner of the field. This feature, additionally evident as a band of dark, stone-free soil, coursed parallel to the southern field boundary around the stony elevation (Fig. 3).

Reconnaissance was made from rights of way around the site boundary. Consequently, no artefact concentrations were recognised, though occasional fragments of modern field drain were seen near the field margins. It was considered that the ground conditions at the time were appropriate for geophysical survey.

Conversation with local people established that the proposed development area had not seen the attentions of metal detector users. However, it was indicated that the tenant farmer would not permit such activities on the land.

6. DISCUSSION

Prehistoric remains in the vicinity of the proposed development site are represented by artefacts from Mesolithic through to Bronze Age date. Collections of flintwork have been recovered from several locations close to the cliff edge, on the west side of the investigation area. In addition to worked flints, stone axes of Neolithic date and a fragment of a Bronze Age spear or dirk have also been found in the same vicinity.

Soil and geological conditions in the general area are conducive to cropmark production, as evidenced by records of rectilinear features recorded on aerial photographs. However, ring ditches of Bronze Age barrows, so often the main indicators of prehistoric exploitation of an area, are conspicuous by their absence. This negative evidence, allied to the proliferation of artefacts, strongly suggests that the nature of prehistoric activity in the area is occupation, rather than ceremonial.

A single piece of pottery and a quern stone constitute the evidence for an Iron Age presence in the locality. By contrast, remains of Romano-British activity in the area are considerably more prolific and probably represent the location of a village. Ermine Street, a major Roman highway, traverses the area from south to north on its route towards Lincoln. After passing through the extreme southwestern corner of the proposed development site, the course of Ermine Street northwards is fossilised by the modern Grantham Road.

Much of the evidence for Romano-British activity, represented by artefacts and cropmarks, is located close to the edge of the scarp, west of Ermine Street and the proposed development area.

Such a distribution pattern strongly

suggests that the nature of observations is biased. For occupation or other Romano-British activity to be restricted to one side of a Roman road would be exceedingly unusual, perhaps even unique. Moreover, two concentrations of discoveries are apparent. Separated by approximately 0.5km, these are located by the southwest and northwest corners of Bracebridge town. Significantly, this reflects the pattern of prehistoric finds from the area. Accordingly, the inference to be drawn is that the record of observations largely reflects the nature of recent land use and access, rather than genuine settlement patterns in the past. It is therefore highly probable that both prehistoric and Romano-British activity are more extensive than presently known.

Of particular moment are finds made in the proximity of the proposed development site. Romano-British cremations (two?) and an inhumation burial, undated but considered to be Roman, have been found immediately adjacent to the southwest corner of the investigation area. These remains strongly suggest the location of a cemetery. Such burial grounds were frequently situated alongside roads on the outskirts of settlements, Roman law prohibiting burial within occupation areas.

The area seems to have been vacant in the post-Roman period. Recorded as heathland in the 14th century, the first indications of reoccupation of the cliff top occur in the 16th century. This resettlement appears to have taken the form of scattered farmsteads. One such farm, St. John's Heath, first noted in 1579, was located immediately east of the proposed development area. Reflecting this historic evidence for limited occupation, artefacts of medieval date are isolated and few in number.

A stone quarry, probably already redundant

by 1842, is denoted by a minor place-name. Site reconnaissance apparently located this stone pit, which will have removed all earlier archaeological deposits within its limits, on the southern boundary of the investigation site. Cartographic evidence records a small square field ('Pingle') immediately beyond the southeast corner of the proposed development area. On the basis of size, shape and location (directly opposite the entrance to Bloxholm Lane), this enclosure may have contained farm buildings, though the area was vacant by 1842.

Originating in the mid-19th century, Bracebridge Heath town grew up around the Sleaford Road-Grantham Road junction. Expansion of the town has mainly been in a southerly direction, the flat land of the heath taking preference over the sharp slopes of the cliff.

In addition to the aforementioned stone quarry, a possible ditch and the course of a pipeline were recognised on the site visit. With the exception of the allotments, all of the proposed development site has ground conditions suitable for geophysical survey.

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 1).

Period:

Evidence of Romano-British occupation has been recovered in the vicinity of the proposed development. Apparently a village or similar roadside settlement with associated cemetery, such remains and functions are characteristic of countryside exploitation in the civil zone during the Roman period.

Additionally, evidence of prehistoric occupation has been retrieved. Occurring as artefact scatters, this is characteristically how the period is represented in the upland and elsewhere.

Rarity:

Small Romano-British roadside settlements are not scarce on a national scale, though they may contain rare or unusual elements. Similar sites located elsewhere in the region indicate that such establishments are typical of the pattern of mid-level urban settlement in the rural environment.

Prehistoric settlement is considerably more scarce. Neolithic occupation areas are rare, though this is clearly a measure of site visibility, the number of funerary monuments indicating the incomplete settlement distribution pattern (May 1976, Fig. 21). Similarly, although Bronze Age burials and artefacts occur widely, the actual pattern and location of habitation is poorly understood at present.

Documentation:

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the Bracebridge Heath and Waddington area are kept in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record, the files of the North Kesteven Community Archaeologist and in the National Archaeological Record. A consideration of this evidence, in association with detail from a much larger area, was produced in reference to a proposed road construction. However, no site-specific synopsis or synthesis of this evidence has previously been produced, the present report providing the first such compilation and detailed discussion of the evidence.

There are no appropriate historical surveys of the area.

Group value:

As one of a number of roadside settlements in the region, the group value of the Romano-British village is moderately high. Moreover, this group value is supplemented by virtue of the association with varied sites of contemporary date in the area, including the nearby *colonia* at Lincoln. Evidence of multi-period exploitation of the landscape enhances the group value still further.

Survival/Condition:

Limited post-medieval development has occurred on the site, consequently buried deposits are likely to be well preserved. However, a small quarry will probably have removed all archaeological deposits within the limits of extraction. Artefacts and building material recovered from the area indicate some damage to both the prehistoric and Romano-British settlements by ploughing, though archaeological deposits may survive below the limit of such agricultural disturbance. No previous archaeological intervention has been made into the site to assess the level of deposit survival.

Fragility/Vulnerability:

As the proposed development will impact the investigation area, possibly into natural strata, any and all archaeological deposits present on the site are extremely vulnerable.

Diversity:

Moderately high functional diversity is implied by artefacts previously recovered from the Romano-British settlement. In addition to the general occupation remains and associated cemetery, a major road, representing transportation and trade, passes through the area and industrial activity is indicated by pottery and possible tile kilns.

Period diversity is provided by the

evidence of prehistoric settlement recovered from the vicinity.

Potential:

Potential is very high that the Romano-British cemetery, located immediately to the south, stretches into the investigation site. There is moderately high potential that remains of the Romano-British and prehistoric settlements, identified just to the southwest, extend into the area of the proposed development.

7.1 Site Importance

In summary, the criteria for assessment have established that the Romano-British funerary and associated settlement evidence is regionally significant. Similarly, the prehistoric occupation remains are also of regional importance. As such, archaeological deposits present on site can be expected to enhance not only the archaeological knowledge of the Bracebridge Heath/Waddington area but would also contribute to the wider understanding of the archaeology of Lincolnshire and the East Midlands.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The concentrations of archaeological finds and observations represent occupation and use of this part of Bracebridge Heath and Waddington in the past.

Prehistoric artefacts have been found in profusion in the vicinity of the proposed development site. However, although the area produces cropmarks, there are no records of Bronze Age barrow ditches. Cumulatively, this suggests the area was exploited for occupation, rather than ceremonial, purposes in the prehistoric period.

This evidence for prehistoric occupation is

largely clustered near the cliff edge, particularly a little to the southwest of the proposed development area. However, material and observations of Roman date indicate that the archaeological record is biased. Nearly all of the finds of Romano-British material have been made on the west side of Ermine Street, a Roman road that passes through the area. This incongruous distribution pattern is essentially identical to that for the prehistoric era. Such localised concentrations of finds therefore indicate the intensity of archaeological surveillance, but fail to define the extent of past occupation in the area.

Ermine Street, the major Roman highway, crosses the southwest corner of the proposed development area. A Romano-British site, possibly a village, is located closely adjacent to the investigation area. However, due to the aforementioned partiality of the archaeological record, probably consequent on recent patterns of land use and access, the full extent of this settlement is unknown.

Notwithstanding these limitations, finds indicate that a Romano-British roadside cemetery was located immediately adjacent to, and possibly on, the southwestern part of the proposed development area. Whereas the location of the cemetery effectively precludes the presence of contemporary habitation in the same area, the possibility of Romano-British settlement remains pre- or post-dating the burial ground cannot be excluded.

The area was probably abandoned towards the end of the Roman period and was recorded as heathland in the 14th century. Farms began to re-occupy the plateau in the early post-medieval period. One such holding was located immediately east of the proposed development site, in the area now occupied by The Manor House. A

second complex may have been situated just outside the southeast corner of the investigation area.

A relict quarry pit, which will have removed archaeological deposits within its confines, was identified on the site visit. Located close to the southwest corner of the site, this feature gave rise to the field-name recorded in the mid-19th century, but had already disappeared by that time. An east-west ditch possibly, though not definitely, associated with the quarry, was also recognised. No artefacts, other than modern materials, were observed on the site visit. Most of the proposed construction area has ground conditions appropriate for geophysical examination.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to thank Mr A M Hutton (Smiths Gore Chartered Surveyors) who commissioned this assessment. The work was coordinated by Steve Haynes and this report was edited by Dave Start. Denise Buckley produced the illustrations. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was provided by Julia Wise and Mark Bennet of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Ian George (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section) kindly provided information on the Romano-British kiln and human remains at Cross O'Cliff Court.

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All of the following sources were consulted in the data-gathering exercise. However, as some references duplicated information available in others, not all of them have been specifically referred to in the text.

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

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

'DoE' refers to publications by the Department of the Environment.

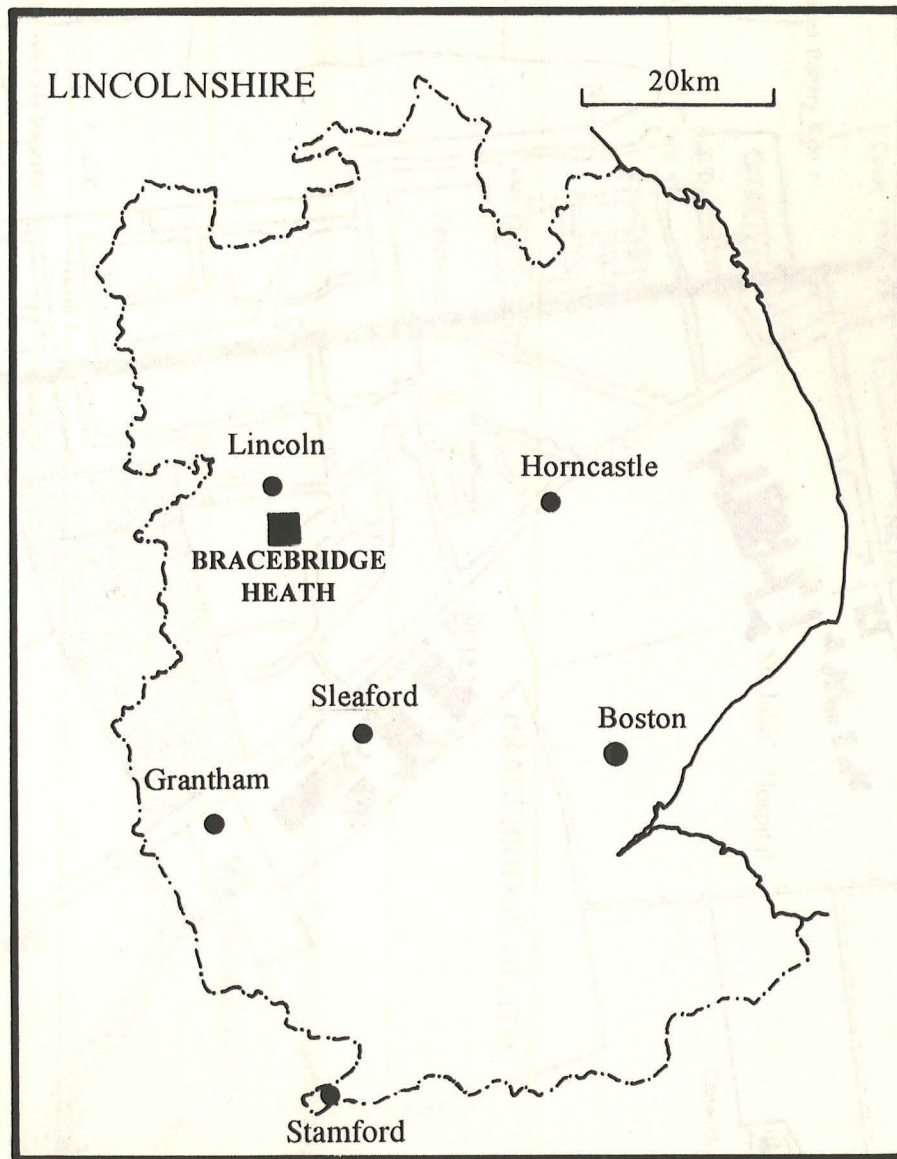
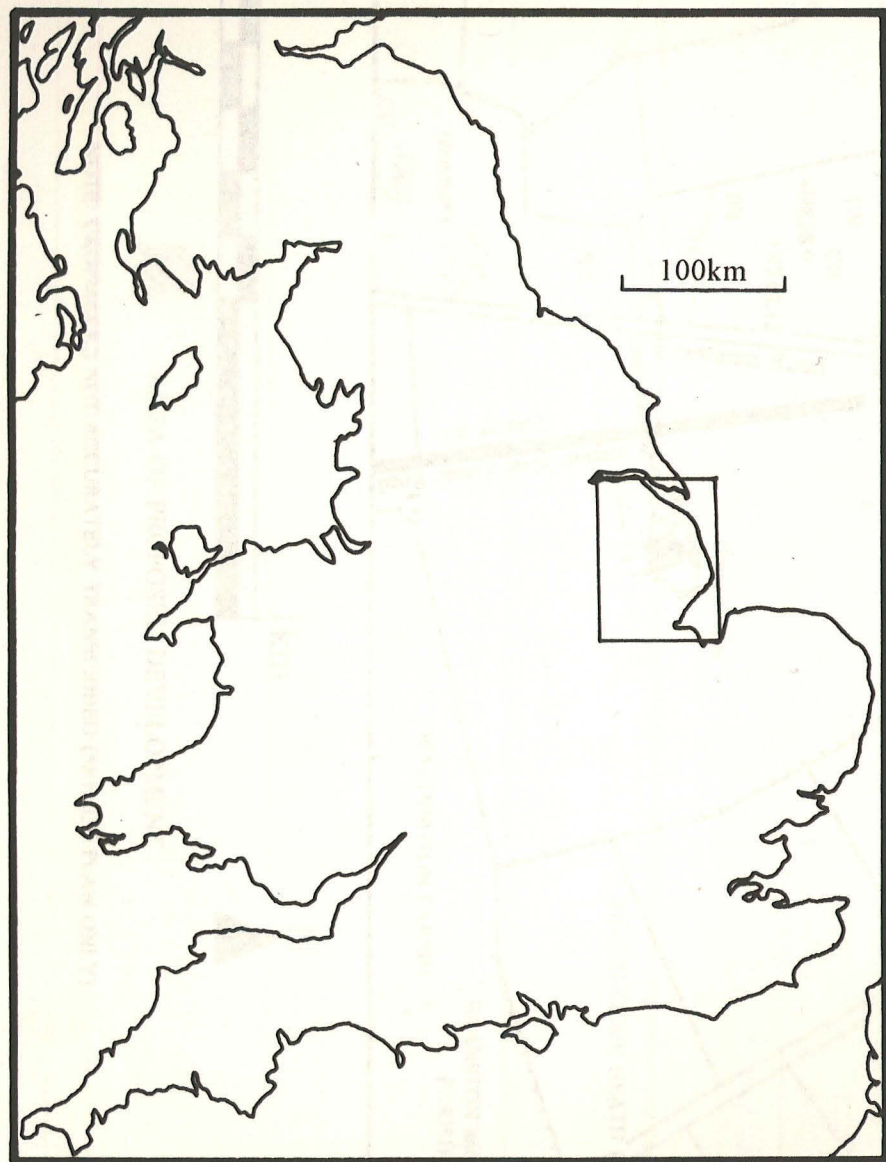
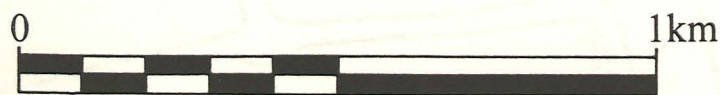


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 3 Immediate Vicinity of Site, with Archaeological Potential



NOTE: CROPMARKS NOT ACCURATELY TRANSCRIBED (SKETCH PLAN ONLY)

Fig. 3 Immediate Vicinity of Site, with Archaeological Detail

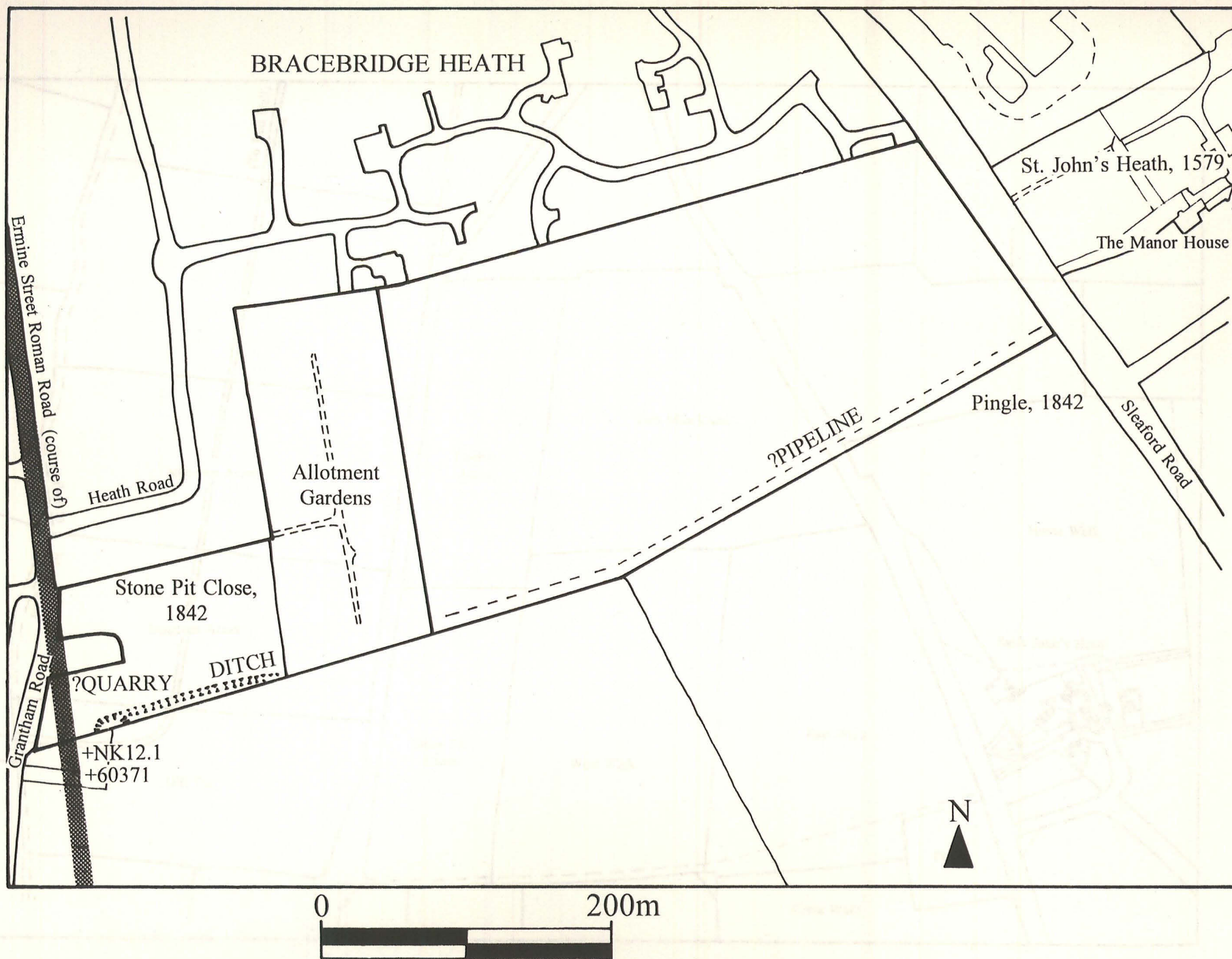
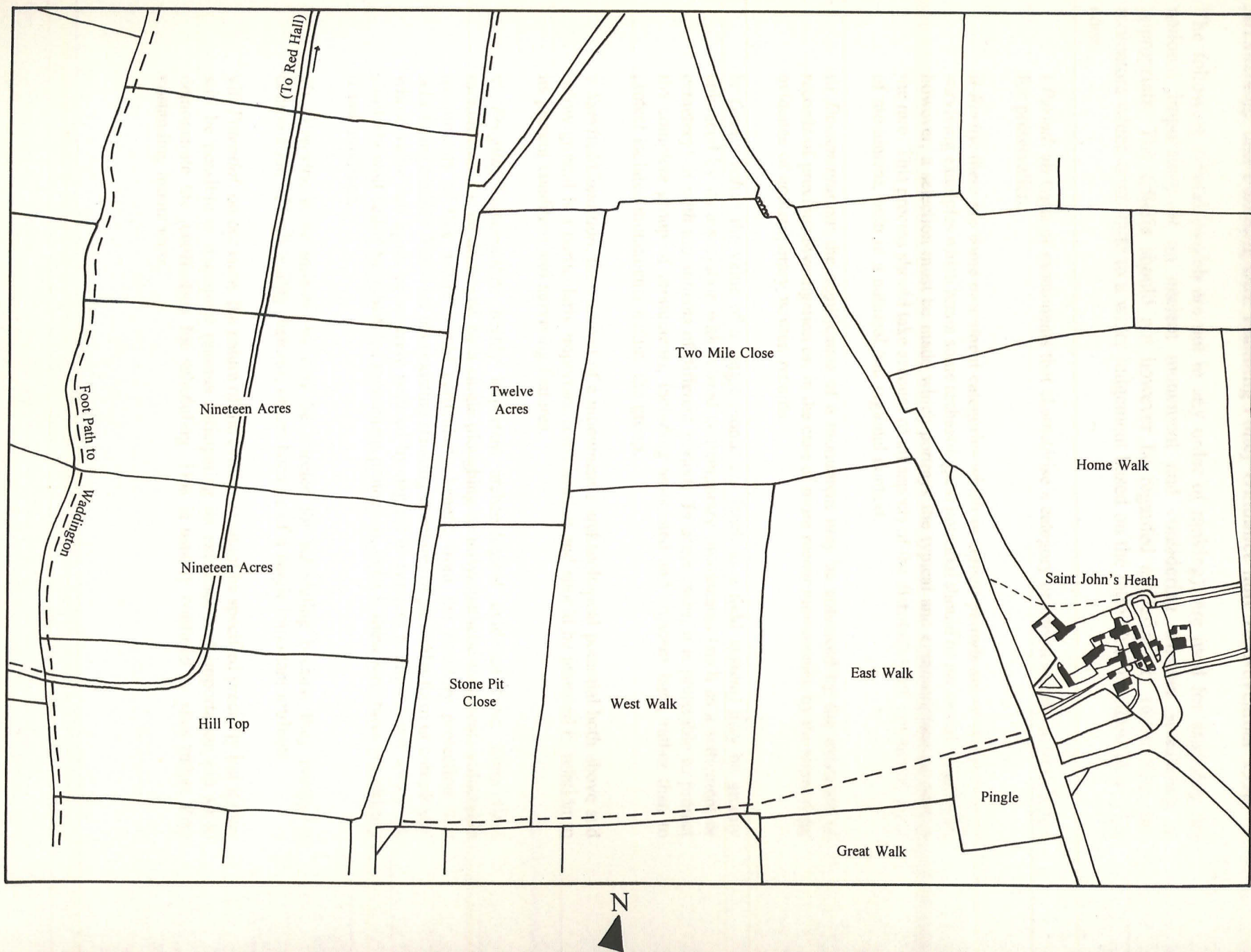


Fig. 4 Copy of Part of 1842 Bracebridge Tithe Map



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.