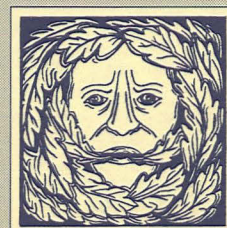


9/4/8

**DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT OF THE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AT
STATION ROAD,
KIRTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
A.M.C. Investments (Lincoln) Ltd

October 1994



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES

LINCOLNSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
17 OCT 1994
CITY AND COUNTY
MUSEUM

Event L11842
Source L16605
negative site visit

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1. SUMMARY

A desk-top assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at The Depot, 16-18 Station Road, Kirton, Boston District, Lincolnshire. Several archaeological sites and findspots are located in the vicinity of the development. Evidence for prehistoric activity in the area is represented by a find of a neolithic polished stone axe and a tumulus within the parish.

Romano-British occupation of the area has been identified to the northwest of the area, numerous finds of pottery and building material being discovered.

Medieval activity is well documented, beginning with a mention in the Domesday survey of 1086AD. The 12th century church is the centre of an important medieval town which has since declined in favour of Boston. Within the parish three sizeable houses existed from this period, and include Bozon Hall, Littlebury Hall and Orme Hall, all now demolished. Finds from the medieval period include pottery, coinage and a Nuremburg token.

Close to the development site the former Old King's Head Inn is early Tudor in date and now is a grade II listed building.

Present ground conditions suggest fair preservation of any surviving archaeological deposits. Recent intrusion into the site is represented by a fuel storage tank and foundations of recent buildings. Ground conditions were considered to be unsuitable for geophysical survey.

Overall, Kirton reflects the market town status it had in the last century and beginning of the present.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by A.M.C. Investments (Lincoln) Ltd, to undertake a desk-top assessment of The Depot, 16-18 Station Road, Kirton, Boston District, Lincolnshire in order to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at the site, as detailed in planning application B14/0439/94. The archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with a brief set by the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Kirton is situated 6km southwest of Boston and approximately 16km north of Spalding, Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

Located on Station Road, northeast of the village centre as defined by the church, the site is centred on National Grid Reference TF30683854, the development site covers approximately 0.18 hectares (Fig. 2).

Local soils are the Tanvats Association typical alluvial gley soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 319) developed in marine alluvium. Beneath this marine alluvium is glacial drift that was deposited in a geological basin between the Lincolnshire Wolds and the East Anglian Heights (Harden 1978, 5). These glacial deposits in turn overlie a solid geology of Jurassic clays.

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 site 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
- the files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist
- aerial photographs
- archaeological books and journals

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 and condition; the extent of hardstanding and other firm surfaces; the presence, or otherwise, of dumped materials; 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

Kirton is first mentioned in the Domesday book of 1086, referred to as 'Chirchtune'

(meaning church village) it would seem to have regional importance dating from the Saxon times as it was the centre of Kirton wapentake. Mentioned as having a church, the parish consisted of land belonging to Guy of Craon and Count Alan.

References to a Goose Fair and a Sessions Court held in Kirton has suggested regional importance during the medieval period (Beecham *et al.* 1990).

5.2 Cartographic Data

Kirton is situated to the south of Boston. Appropriate maps for the vicinity were examined.

Dating from 1675, Ogilby's Itinerary, for the route between London and Boston, presents a schematised view of the area. The church is represented and buildings appear on both sides of the road. No roads are apparent heading east.

Bryant's *Map of the County of Lincoln* (1828) portrays Station Road having been built with a small number of structures on the northern side. Areas to the north and east of the proposed development are shown as open ground (Fig. 3).

A first edition one inch Ordnance Survey map of c. 1845 shows Kirton to be smaller than today with only a few buildings along Station Road and open fields close to the village (Fig. 4). Some of the boundaries are still recognizable today. Later Ordnance Survey maps of 1905 (revised 1955) show the expansion into a small town, with the many new buildings including the Town Hall and school. The site is recognisable and the 19th century building is clearly marked, the boundaries remain unchanged. The same arrangement can be seen in later OS maps from 1977 and 1985.

5.3 Aerial Photograph Data

Aerial photographs published or transcribed in secondary sources were examined for evidence of archaeological remains.

A photograph in the parish files of the Boston Community archaeologist shows the general area of the site. Taken recently, the photograph records the area as it is seen today (*ref*: PF EAV).

A published photograph has the view of Station Road taken from the church tower *c.*1890 (Beecham *et al* 1990) and shows two buildings on the site with open fields to the north and east. The buildings are indistinct but a long narrow cottage may be tentatively identified as the structure still to be seen there today.

5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist were consulted. Other, secondary, sources were also examined. Details of archaeological and historical remains falling within half a kilometre of the proposed development area are collated here and committed to Fig. 2.

County Sites and Monuments Code	Description	Grid Reference	Boston Community Archaeology Code
12527	Medieval pottery	TF315386 not shown on plan	B14/023
12531	Church of SS Peter and Paul, mid 12th century with later additions	TF30503852	B14/043
12534	Remains of cross <i>c.</i> 14th century	TF30503852 not shown on plan	

12541	Littlebury Hall	TF31063855	B14/002
12542	Bozon Hall, site of, built c. 1377	TF312383	B14/018
12555	Possible millstones, found in the garden of 48 Willoughton Road	TF30303860	
	Fieldwalking, produced medieval and post-medieval pottery	TF302388	B14/034
	Earthworks, uncertain age	TF302389	B14/035
	King's Head Inn, early 16th century building	TF307384	B14/042
K	French 15th century and German 16th century jettons found in the centre of the village.	Unlocated, not shown on plan	

5.5 Walk-over Survey

In early-October 1994, a walk-over survey of the proposed development site was undertaken. Visibility was good.

Standing buildings at the site were briefly examined. All of the buildings related to the former use of the site as a depot, although the property at the southeast corner of the site probably had its origins in the 19th century as a small cottage. To the rear of this a workshop/garage area had been added sometime this century. In the open area, now used as a car park, a petrol pump was noted with an associated filling pipe located near the northern edge of the site, indicating the presence of a underground fuel storage tank.

The site would appear to have been terraced at some stage as it lies about 50cm above the playing fields to the north, but is level with the street.

The open area in the centre of the site has largely been covered in gravel, although tarmac was observed along the eastern boundary. Slightly obscured by the gravel an alignment of broken brick may suggest the former presence of a building.

6. DISCUSSION

Evidence for Roman activity is scarce, but is represented by Romano-British finds from along Willoughton Road c. 1km to

the northwest. This spread of artefacts may represent the location of a settlement site.

Saxon occupation has not been recognised in the area but is suggested by the Domesday entry and place name evidence. Kirton is mentioned as having a church in the 11th century, predating the 12th century church in the centre of the village. Also significant is the importance of Kirton as a wapentake, possibly indicating its regional importance over smaller villages nearby.

Significantly greater evidence of use of the area in the medieval period is provided by findspots and structures of this date. Ecclesiastical activity is indicated by the nearby church of SS Peter and Paul. The presence of a Goose Fair and Sessions Court also indicate local importance. Several manors within a kilometre of the village support this suggestion of local wealth.

From the Tudor times onwards the village of Kirton seems to have continued to expand until its heyday in the early 20th century.

Buildings occupy about one-sixth of the proposed development area. Excavation for a fuel storage tank has probably destroyed archaeological deposits and building foundations are also likely to have affected remains. However, landscaping that has raised the surface level may have protected archaeological deposits from any damage.

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:

Medieval religious activity is recorded in the vicinity of the proposed development. Such establishments and features are amongst the major characterisers of the medieval period in Europe.

Rarity:

Medieval village occupation is not rare, though it may possess rare or unusual features.

Documentation:

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the Kirton area are kept in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Boston Borough Community Archaeologist. Synopses or syntheses of the historical and archaeological evidence have previously been produced (Beecham, *et al* 1990).

Group value:

By virtue of the village centre being so close and the location of the church, the Inn and other general habitation, the group value is moderately high.

Survival/Condition:

Limited post-medieval development has occurred on the site, consequently buried deposits are likely to be well preserved. Further, excavation for a storage tank may be restricted in extent. 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 low period and functional diversity is indicated by the lack of known information on Kirton. The possibility of Saxon and Medieval occupation should raise the period diversity.

Some further period diversity is provided by the possible Romano-British site to the northwest.

Potential:

Potential for early and later medieval remains spreading into the area are considered high.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The concentrations of archaeological finds and observations represent occupation and use of this area of Kirton in the past.

Prehistoric activity is virtually unknown in the area. However, artefacts suggest that a Romano-British settlement is located c.1km northwest of the development site. Anglo-Saxon activity is possible although the only evidence is through place name history.

Likely to be within the village confines, the investigation site may produce evidence for burghage plots, rubbish disposal or occupation.

No artefacts were recognised or recovered on the walk-over survey. Damage, due to previous excavation, of any archaeological deposits present on site is likely to be limited in extent.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to thank A.M.C. Investments (Lincoln) Ltd. The work was coordinated by Steve Haynes and this report was edited by Dave

Start. Mr Jackson of Boston Borough Council Housing Department kindly allowed examination of the early Ordnance Survey maps in his charge. Jim Bonnor, the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council permitted examination of the relevant files. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was provided by Julia Wise of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

10. REFERENCES

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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Wright, N R, 1982 *Lincolnshire Towns and Industry 1700-1914*, History of Lincolnshire **XI**

11. ABBREVIATIONS

Numbers prefixed by 'B' are the reference codes used by the Community Archaeologist for Boston Borough Council.

Department of the Environment publications are abbreviated to the initials 'DoE'.

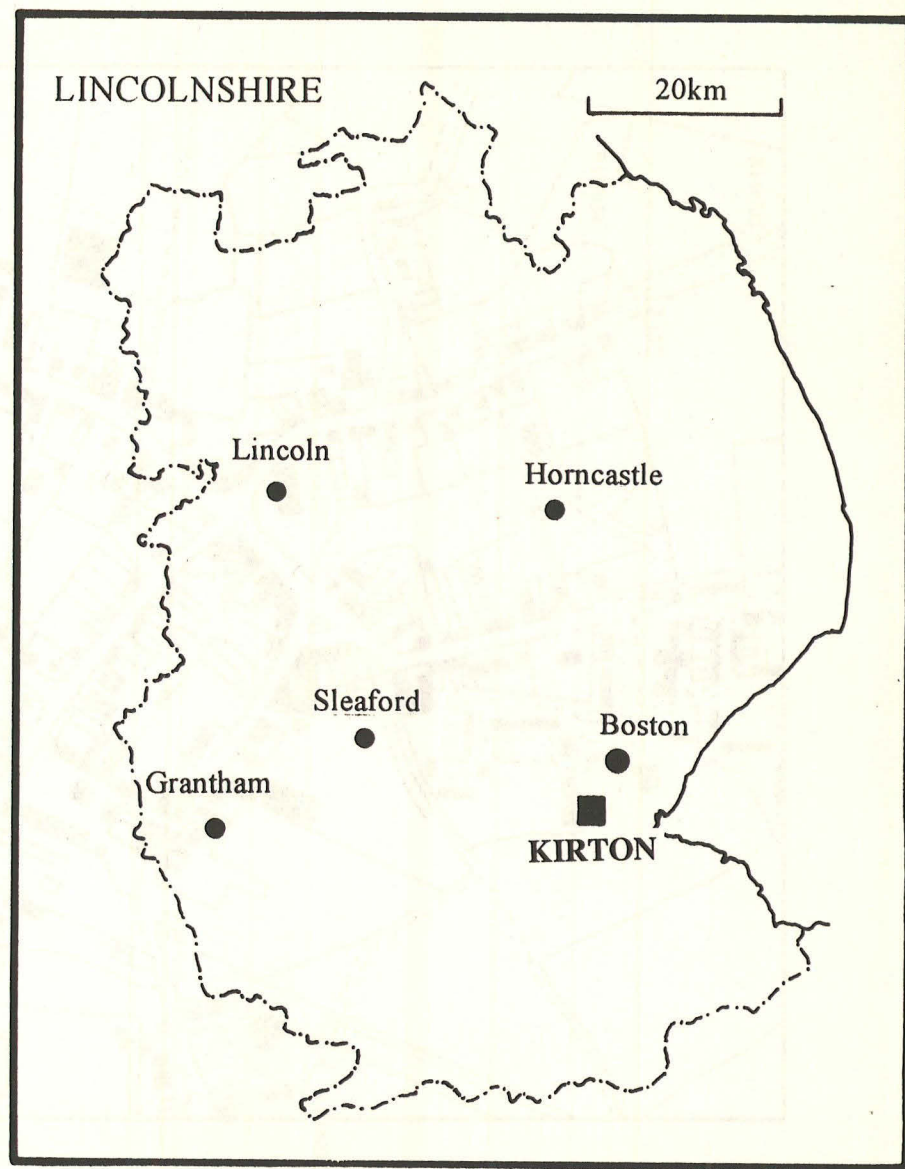
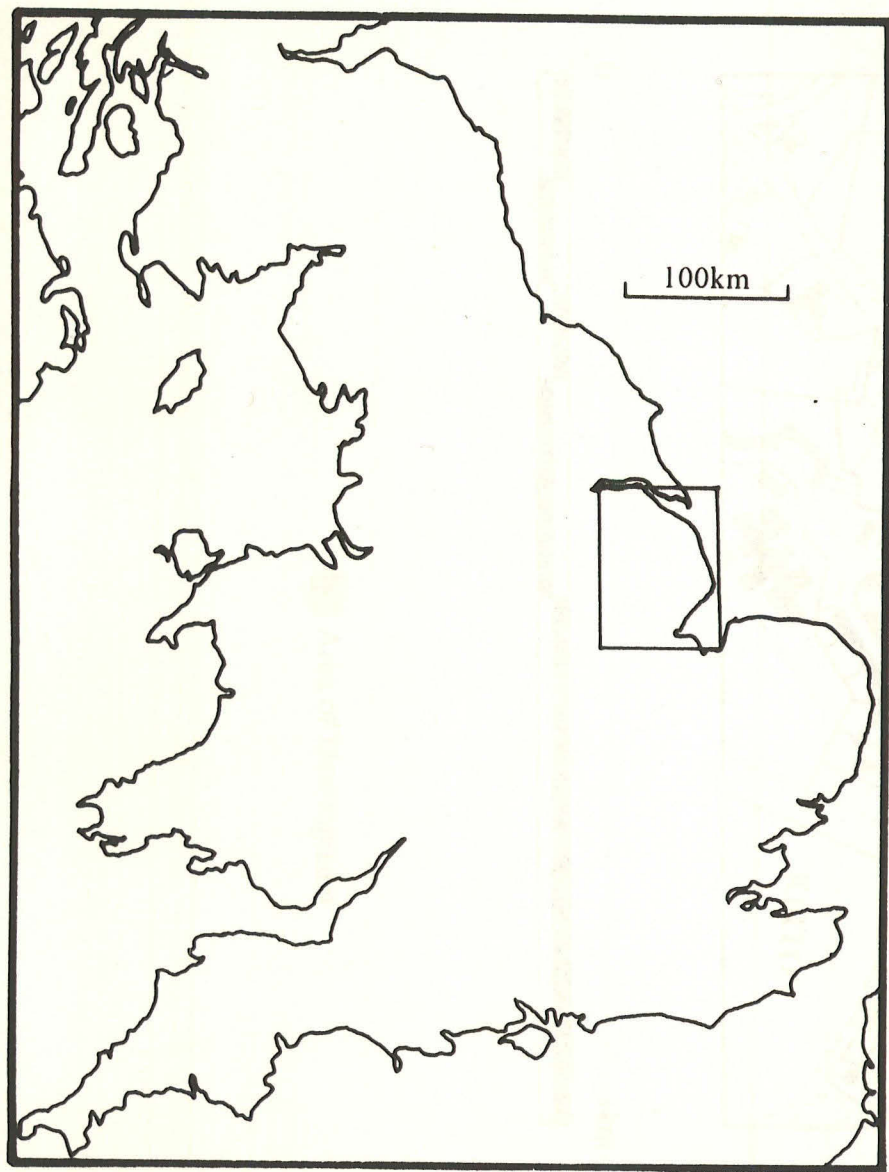


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan

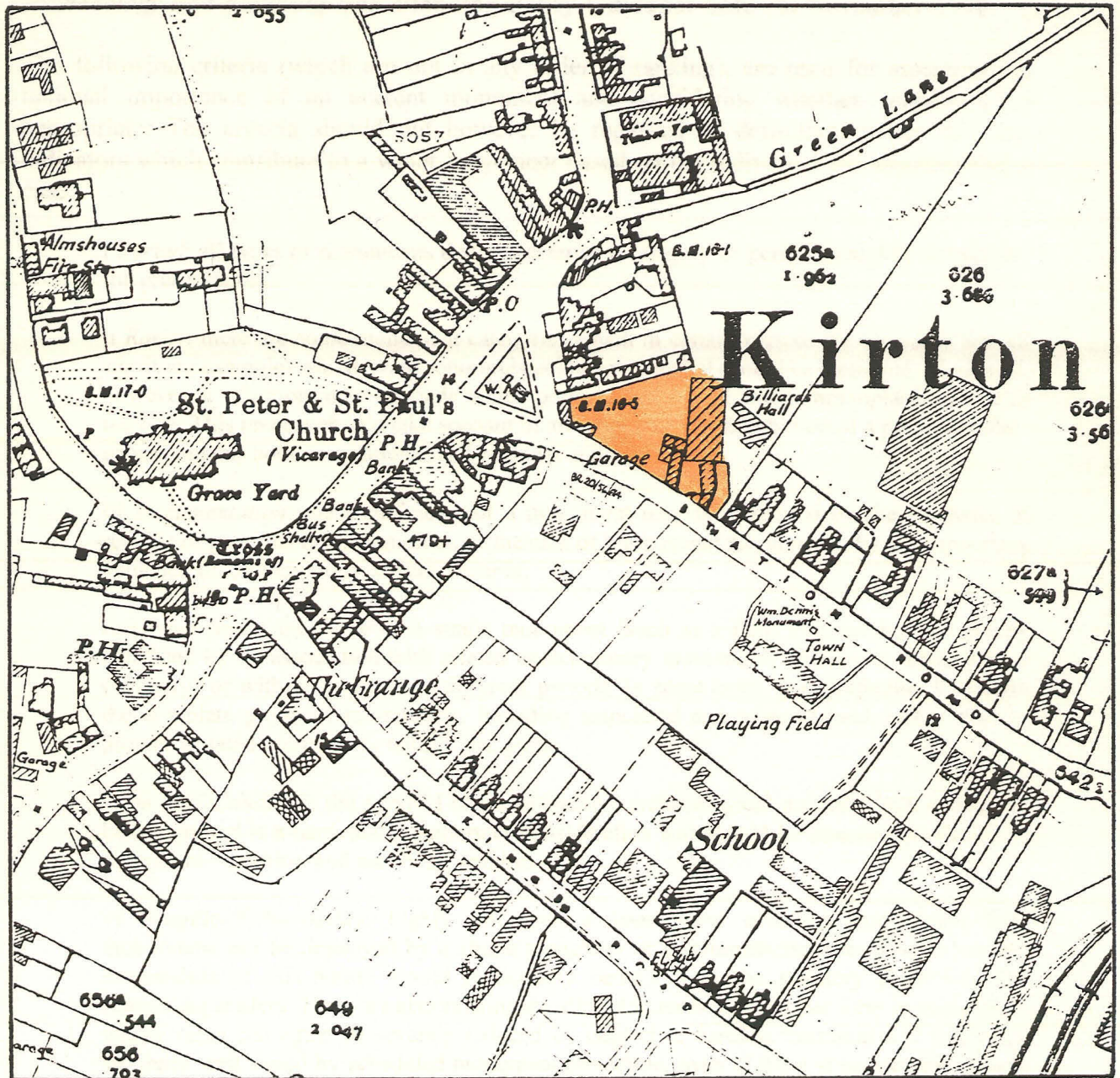


 Area of Development

This is a detailed historical map of the Kirtlington area in Oxfordshire, England. The map shows a network of roads and the River Great Ouse flowing through the center. Key locations include Kirtlington, Kirtlington Manor, and Kirtlington Farm. The map is labeled with 'T' and 'O' in large letters, and 'Kirtlington' in the center. A north arrow is located at the bottom right.



Fig. 4 Extract from 1905 edition OS 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.