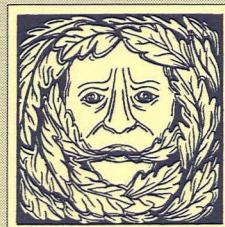


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**DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
OF LAND AT MILL FARM,
KIRKSTEAD AND
TATTERSHALL THORPE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(KSMF 06)**



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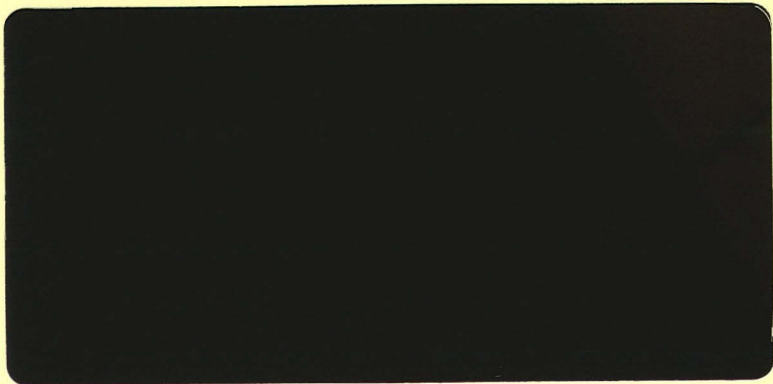
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24 AUG 2006

Highways & Planning
Directorate



**DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
OF LAND AT MILL FARM,
KIRKSTEAD AND
TATTERSHALL THORPE,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(KSMF 06)**

Work Undertaken For
C & G Concrete Limited

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

July 2006

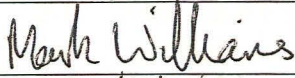

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A.P.S. Report No: **100/06**

Quality Control
Mill Farm,
Kirkstead
KSMF 06

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1. SUMMARY

A desk-based assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of re-opening of a dormant sand and gravel quarry at Mill Farm, Kirkstead and Tattershall Thorpe, Lincolnshire.

Sites dating from the prehistoric period to the present day have been identified within the assessment area. Prehistoric remains include a probable hillfort identified from cropmarks which may date to the Iron Age period (800 BC-AD 43) and is a scheduled ancient monument. A few areas of extensive cropmarks may also be prehistoric or possibly Romano-British (AD 42-410) in date, and one such complex falls within the consented area of the quarry.

Located to the north of the site are the remains of the medieval (AD 1066-1540) Kirkstead Abbey. These survive as earthworks, although cropmarks indicating enclosures around the abbey have been identified, though the closest to the site lies some 800m away. The site perhaps lay in an extensive park associated with Tattershall Castle.

The abbey was dissolved in 1537 and it is possible that a large post-medieval (AD 1540-1900) house was constructed on the site. It was also during this time that pottery was being produced at Kirkstead, perhaps also within the former monastic precinct.

Cartographic sources indicate the site was woodland during the 18th century, though this was gradually replaced by fields during the 19th century. The site has undergone little change since the late 19th century.

The site is currently bare overgrown

ground with long grass. No archaeological features were identified as a result. Some overburden had previously been removed. With removal of the vegetation, the site would be suitable for both geophysical and fieldwalking survey.

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 C & G Concrete Limited to undertake a desk-based assessment of land at Mill Farm, Kirkstead and Tattershall Thorpe, Lincolnshire. This was in order to determine the archaeological implications of re-commencing mineral (sand and gravel) extraction at the site.

2.3 Site Location

Kirkstead is located 11km southwest of Horncastle and 24km southeast of Lincoln in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The quarry is located 1.3km south of the scattered village of Kirkstead at National Grid Reference TF 1945 6045 (Fig. 2) with

part of the quarry area in the parish of Tattershall Thorpe. Situated on a river terrace overlooking the River Witham on generally level ground at a height of c. 5m OD, the site comprises some 32.78 hectares.

The assessment area referred to throughout this report encompasses between 700m and 800m around the quarry and access road, though does not include sites west of the River Witham, and is that depicted on Figure 2.

2.4 Soils and Geology

The site is located on groundwater gley soils of the Blackwood and Quorndon Series (Robson *et al.* 1974, 47, 48). These soils overlie a drift geology of sands and gravels of upper river terrace deposits overlying glacially derived till which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Ampthill Group (BGS 1995).

Geotechnical borehole logs were also provided by the client. These generally show topsoil with a thickness of between 0.2m and 0.35m thick and overburden (subsoils etc.) between 0.6m and 1.8m thick (Fielding 1980).

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 quarry area. 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 Kirkstead 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 Historic Environment Record
- Parish files held by Heritage Lincolnshire
- Aerial photographs
- Secondary sources, in the form of periodical articles and books, held by the Lincolnshire Archives Office, Lincolnshire Library and Heritage Lincolnshire

This research was supplemented 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.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Historical Evidence

Kirkstead is first mentioned as early as 1139. Referred to as *Kirkestede* the name is derived from a partially Scandinavianised form of the Old English *cirice-stede* meaning 'the site of a church'

(Cameron 1998, 75). Tattershall Thorpe is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086 where it is referred to as *Torp* which is sourced from the Old Danish meaning a secondary settlement, in this case to Tattershall (*ibid.* 123).

The Domesday Survey records that Tattershall Thorpe was held by the Bishop of Durham, the Bishop of Bayeux and Eudo, son of Spirewic, and contained a church, 2 mills and 15 fisheries as well as 79 acres of meadow and 518 acres of woodland, mostly for pannage (Foster and Longley 1976). There are no entries for Kirkstead and it is likely that this area was held by Eudo from either his manor in Tattershall or Kirkby-on-Bain.

Hugh, son of Eudo and Lord of Tattershall, gave land for monks of the Cistercian order to build Kirkstead Abbey in 1139 (Page 1988, 135). The first location chosen for the monastery was unsuitable as it lay within a marsh and was not large enough. Leave to move to a suitable location was granted by Robert, the son of Hugh, in 1187. However, a certain amount of controversy surrounds details regarding the move to a new location and the date of the charter, as Robert is thought to have died before 1185 and the architectural styles are thought to predate 1175 (RCHME n.d., 1).

Despite the discrepancies in the early history of the abbey, it is known that Kirkstead prospered in the first one hundred years of its existence. The basis of this wealth relied on the large sheep flocks kept by the abbey at Kirkstead and granges in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. The land they owned in the vicinity included the manor of Woodhall (Page 1988, 137). Up to 40 sacks of wool per year were being produced at Kirkstead and represents, along with Revesby and Spalding, the highest in the county (Owen 1981, 66). Alternative sources of revenue came from

quarries in the Wolds and salterns, salt-producing sites, at Fishtoft (*ibid.* 68). Fishing in the River Witham was also of a prime interest and a grant was given to the Abbot extending its fisheries over the Witham valley between 1239-45 (Hallam 1965, 103).

Much of the medieval history of Tattershall Thorpe is centred around the village. However, Kirkstead Abbey held land in Tattershall Thorpe comprising pasture, arable and meadow which was leased out during the early 16th century (Owen 1989, 43). Much of the parish was part of Tattershall Park, an exclusive hunting ground associated with Tattershall Castle (White 1856, 751).

Kirkstead achieved notoriety in the Lincolnshire Rising of 1536. After the rising the Abbot and three monks were arrested and tried at Lincoln for treason. Following their execution in 1537, it was ordered that the lead roof of Kirkstead was to be removed and '*melted and cast into foddors*' (Hodgett 1975, 51). Following the dissolution, the lands were granted to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, before reverting back to the King and eventually passed to Edward Lord Clinton, later Earl of Lincoln (White 1856, 742).

Not much is known regarding Kirkstead following the dissolution. It is known that a Francis Moody was employed as a potter at Kirkstead in the early 17th century.

During the Second World War an airfield was constructed immediately north of Tattershall Thorpe, though known as RAF Woodhall Spa. This was opened in 1942, closed in 1945 before being used again between 1959 and 1965 (Hancock 1996, 130).

5.2 Cartographic Evidence

The quarry area is located immediately south of the centre of Kirkstead. Appropriate maps of the vicinity were examined.

Dating from 1779, Armstrong's *Map of Lincolnshire* shows the area, though this is unlikely to be an accurate description. South of Kirkstead is a large tract of woodland between the site of the abbey to just north of Tattershall. This is referred to as Birdhay Wood, the meaning of which is not clear but may be a corruption of hag, in which form it appears in later maps, and means a bog or boggy place (Healey 1997, 19).

The 1816 Ordnance Survey 2" drawing shows the quarry as still largely located in woodland, named Birds Hag Wood, although some clearances have occurred at its southern extent (Fig. 3). A path or track follows the parish boundary until it reaches the woodland. The open areas are shown as separate fields, indicating enclosure has already occurred.

Bryant's *Map of the County of Lincoln* of 1828 is too small a scale to depict individual fields though does show the quarry area as both open ground and as wooded area (Fig. 4). The parish boundary is marked by a track running through woodland referred to as Bird Hag.

The 1st edition 1 inch Ordnance Survey plan of 1867 shows the area as largely unchanged since 1828. The woodland is called Birdshag Wood. The 1st edition 6 inch map of 1890 is the first accurate depiction of the site and the layout of surrounding fields. The woodland has been cleared and a footpath follows the line of the parish boundary.

The subsequent 2nd edition Ordnance Survey plan of 1906 is largely unchanged.

However, some division of fields had occurred and the footpath along the parish boundary is no longer evident. Minor field boundary changes occur in later Ordnance Survey editions.

5.3 Aerial Photographic Evidence

Aerial photographs of the area held by the County Historic Environment Record and Heritage Lincolnshire were examined. All archaeological features identified were plotted on to Figure 8.

The County Historic Environment Record holds a number of photographs of the assessment area. Most concentrate on the earthwork remains of Kirkstead Abbey and span a number of years. A few photographs are also concentrated on a presumed Iron Age enclosure or hillfort which lies to the north of the quarry area. One of these photographs (Codes: BT/59, CDK 46) shows cropmarks associated with the hillfort continuing into the quarry area. These cropmarks are mainly linear ditch features, but may form part of a larger enclosure.

Three photographs taken by the RCHME of the southern field of the quarry area show an extensive system of cropmarks (Codes: RCHM TF 1960/16, RCHM TF 1960/17, RCHM TF 2059/6). Again these are mainly linear features, though include a large rectangular enclosure and a number of trackways and other ditches. Some ditches appear to enclose a small area with indistinct cropmarks which would indicate disturbance of some kind and maybe natural in origin.

Other photographs held by the HER depict extensive cropmarks to the southeast of the site.

Heritage Lincolnshire hold only one photograph that partially depicts the

northern part of the site (Code S075). Unfortunately, the more northerly field within the limits of the consented quarry area has recently been ploughed and no soilmarks are evident.

Both soils recorded within the assessment area belong to the Blackwood Association which are generally conducive to cropmark formation (Carter 1998, 100).

5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds are held in the Lincolnshire County Heritage Environment Record. Other, secondary sources were also examined. Details of archaeological and historical remains falling within *c.* 800m of the quarry are collated in Table 1 and located on Figure 8.

Prehistoric Archaeology

Prehistoric remains comprise a single feature identified from cropmarks which appear to define a small multivallate enclosure, perhaps a hillfort (Fig. 8, No. 5). If so, this feature is likely to date to the Iron Age. A similar small multivallate hillfort was examined in Tattershall Thorpe where pottery dating to the early/middle Iron Age was retrieved. Though both these 'hillforts' are low-lying, they command extensive views over the valleys of the Witham and Bain.

A number of undated cropmarks have been identified within the assessment area of which some may be prehistoric in date (Fig. 8, Nos. 2 and 3).

Romano-British Archaeology

No remains of Romano-British date have been identified within the assessment area, although the possibility exists of the undated cropmarks representing field boundaries of this period.

Saxon Archaeology

No Saxon sites have been identified from within the assessment area.

Medieval Archaeology

Extant remains include the 13th century church of St. Leonard (Fig. 8, No. 7), believed to be the '*capella extra portas*' (gate chapel). This is surrounded by two rectilinear cropmark enclosures which are similar to the precinct moat and it has been suggested that these represent the initial monastic court prior to it being moved during the 12th century (RCHME n.d.).

The northern part of the assessment area is dominated by the earthwork remains of the abbey (Fig. 8, No. 8). These comprise an outer precinct moat with a number of features including fishponds, terraces, wall lines and internal drainage ditches. A small part of the fabric of the abbey survives which has been identified as the gable end of the south transept of the monastic church. Some of the earthwork remains are likely to be associated with a post-dissolution house or with pottery kilns. Additional earthworks believed to be connected to the abbey have been recorded to the south of the main complex (Fig. 8, No. 9). Some of the stonework from the abbey buildings has been incorporated into later buildings (Fig. 8, No. 10).

Map Code	HER Ref.	Description	National Grid Reference
1	44749	Undated extraction pits	TF 1856 6077
2	40417	Undated field enclosures identified from cropmarks	TF 1985 6042
3	40432	Undated ditch system and enclosures identified from cropmarks	TF 2054 6013
4	43003	Hogg Wood, ancient woodland	TF 2040 6180
5	40096	Iron Age multivallate hillfort (SAM 29728)	TF 1960 6100
6	44750	Medieval trackway identified from cropmarks	TF 1942 6160
7	40097	St. Leonard's Church, medieval	TF 1902 6138
8	40116/ 43629	Kirkstead Abbey, 12 th century	TF 1888 6165
9	40098	Earthworks of Kirkstead Abbey, medieval and post-medieval	TF 1898 6125
10	40116	Reused medieval stonework	TF 1909 6099
11	40413	Medieval/post-medieval trackways and ditches, identified from cropmarks	TF 189 606
12	40414	Medieval/post-medieval field system	TF 1935 6045
13	40107	Post-medieval pewter plate	TF 1904 6158
14	43746	Post-medieval farm house	TF 1908 6099
15	43397	Modern airfield	TF 215 612

Table 1: Archaeological sites and findspots within the assessment area

Cropmarks of field systems and trackways have been identified in the vicinity and within the quarry area (Fig. 8, Nos. 11 and 12) which may be of medieval or later date. However, the pattern of cropmarks is not comparable with early maps of the area which depict the site lying within woodland until the 18th century. As such, the possibility exists of these being anything from prehistoric to medieval in date.

Post-medieval Archaeology

There are a number of buildings, some of which are listed, that are post-medieval in date. These include Old Abbey Farm (Fig. 8, No. 14) as well as the site of a post-medieval mill and Mill Farm would appear to have its origins during this period.

Modern Archaeology

Only a single modern site is recorded at the Historic Environment Record within the assessment area. This is the former RAF Woodhall Spa airfield to the east of

the site (Fig. 8, No. 15).

Previous Archaeological Intervention

Several previous interventions have occurred within the assessment area. A watching brief was undertaken in 1995 during development at the Old Abbey Farm. Most deposits were associated with the farmhouse although a quantity of reused masonry and 15th century bricks from the abbey were revealed (Mouraille 1995, 1).

Two watching briefs were also undertaken during the construction of an agricultural reservoir 600m to the north. The first monitored geotechnical pits and drainage pipe trenches which revealed an infilled stream and a number of ditches along with demolition material of 14th – 17th century date and a small quantity of medieval pottery (Young 1998, 1). The second watching brief identified further ditches of enclosures, though no finds were retrieved (Snee 2001, 1).

To the southwest of the site, a field containing extensive cropmarks was partially submitted to a geophysical survey. The resulting anomalies were interpreted as part of a Romano-British farmstead with a small number of industrial areas (Browning n.d.).

5.5 Walk-over Survey

The quarry area was visited on 18th July 2006 to assess its potential to contain archaeological features and to note any constraints to further work. Results of the walk-over survey have been committed to Figure 9.

Access to the site is via two tracks leading from Tattershall Road. One gives access to the central portion of the site, along the parish boundary, and the second follows the northwest boundary to Mill Farm.

The area is surrounded by a bank some 3-4m high on the southern and western sides. This bank was constructed in the early 1980's from topsoil and overburden stripped from a part of the consented quarry area. It was a planning requirement that this earth bank be constructed to provide a visual and noise attenuation screen to properties to the west and south of the quarry.

The site is largely under overgrown grass with occasional shrubs and trees, the latter along former boundaries. The overgrown nature of the field did not allow examination of the field for artefacts or any other sign of early habitation. The southern portion of the site has had the overburden removed, to construct the surrounding bank. The site was too dry to allow examination of the sand and gravel for archaeological features.

The fields are traversed by an overhead electric cable which is broadly aligned

east-west. No other indication of services was noted.

Most of the site is suitable for geophysical survey, though this may be hampered by the long grass and overhead power cables. The overgrown nature of the field means that fieldwalking is unsuitable.

6. CONSTRAINTS

6.1 Heritage Constraints

Two Scheduled Ancient Monuments protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979 (HMSO 1979) are located within the assessment area. This comprise the Iron Age hillfort, which lies immediately north of the site, and the earthworks of Kirkstead abbey at the northern limit of the assessment area. The hillfort may be deemed to have its setting compromised by the quarry.

All other archaeological remains within the assessment area are protected only through the implementation of PPG16 (DoE 1990).

Significant historic buildings within the assessment area are listed and consequently protected by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act of 1990. No listed buildings fall within the proposed mineral quarry, though Old Abbey Farm, St. Leonard's church and a surviving fragment of upstanding masonry from the abbey are listed.

6.2 Other Constraints

No checks were carried out to determine the presence of services (gas, water, electricity, *etc.*) across the site. However, a overhead power cable was present on the site.

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.

7. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

The site appears to have once been woodland, part of an extensive tract of such in the vicinity. However, this woodland was largely replaced by open fields during the latter part of the 19th century. Both woodland and ploughing are likely to have had a detrimental affect on buried archaeological remains, though the presence of cropmarks within the site suggest that some features still survive. As such, past impact is moderate.

Quarrying will impact into the underlying geology and, therefore, all archaeological deposits are at risk. The access road may not impact too deeply.

There is potential that, due to the low lying nature of the site, that waterlogged material may survive in good condition. This is likely to increase with depth. Quarrying may also lower water levels in the adjacent Scheduled Ancient Monument, although this is on slightly higher ground and also adjacent to a large drain.

8. OVERVIEW

A number of cropmarks have been identified within the boundaries of the quarry area. These are believed to be medieval, based on their form. However, it is possible they are earlier and could be contemporary with the Iron Age hillfort to the north of the site.

Fieldwalking and geophysical survey are a

logical next step in evaluating the site for archaeological remains.

9. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Mill Farm, Kirkstead and Tattershall Thorpe, Lincolnshire, was undertaken in order to determine the archaeological implications of mineral extraction at the site.

The assessment has identified evidence of prehistoric and later period activity occurring within the assessment area and in close proximity to the site. It is therefore reasonable to suggest that such deposits may also occur within the development area. Aerial photographs indicate that cropmarks of tracks and field boundaries lie within the area of the quarry.

The site is currently overgrown and may not be suitable for geophysical survey in its present condition. Fieldwalking is considered unsuitable as the surface of the field is obscured by vegetation.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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12. ABBREVIATIONS

APS	Archaeological Project Services
BGS	British Geological Survey
DoE	Department of the Environment
HER	Historic Environment Record
HMSO	Her Majesty's Stationery Office
HTL	Heritage Lincolnshire
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists



Figure 1 - General location plan




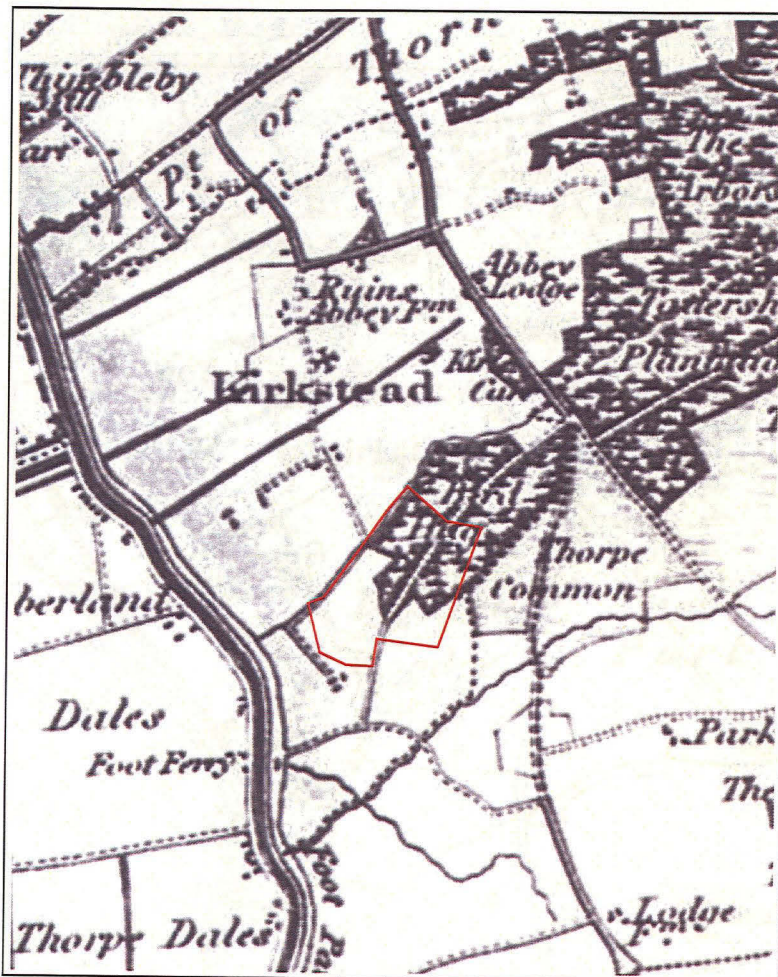
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Project Name: Mill Farm, Kirkstead KSMF06		
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Figure 3 - Extract from the Ordnance Survey 2" drawing. 1816



Archaeological Project Services

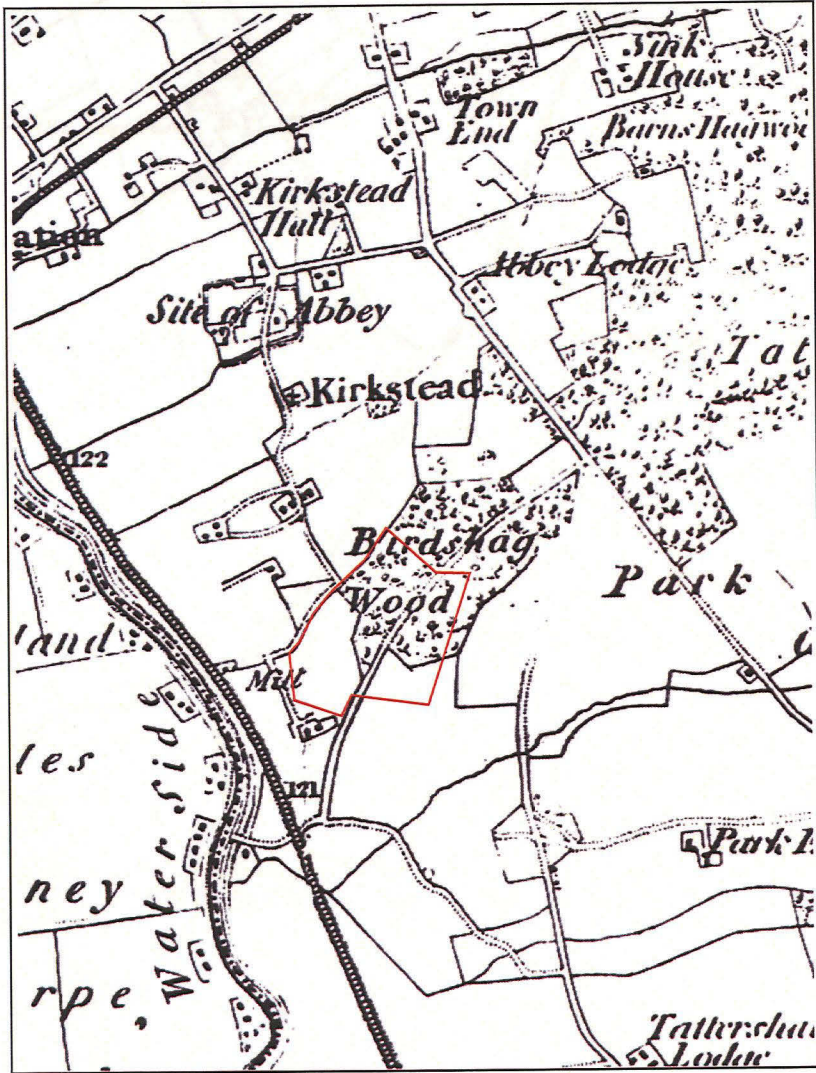
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Drawn by: PCF

Report No: 100/06

Figure 4 - Extract from Bryant's 'Map of the County of Lincoln', 1828




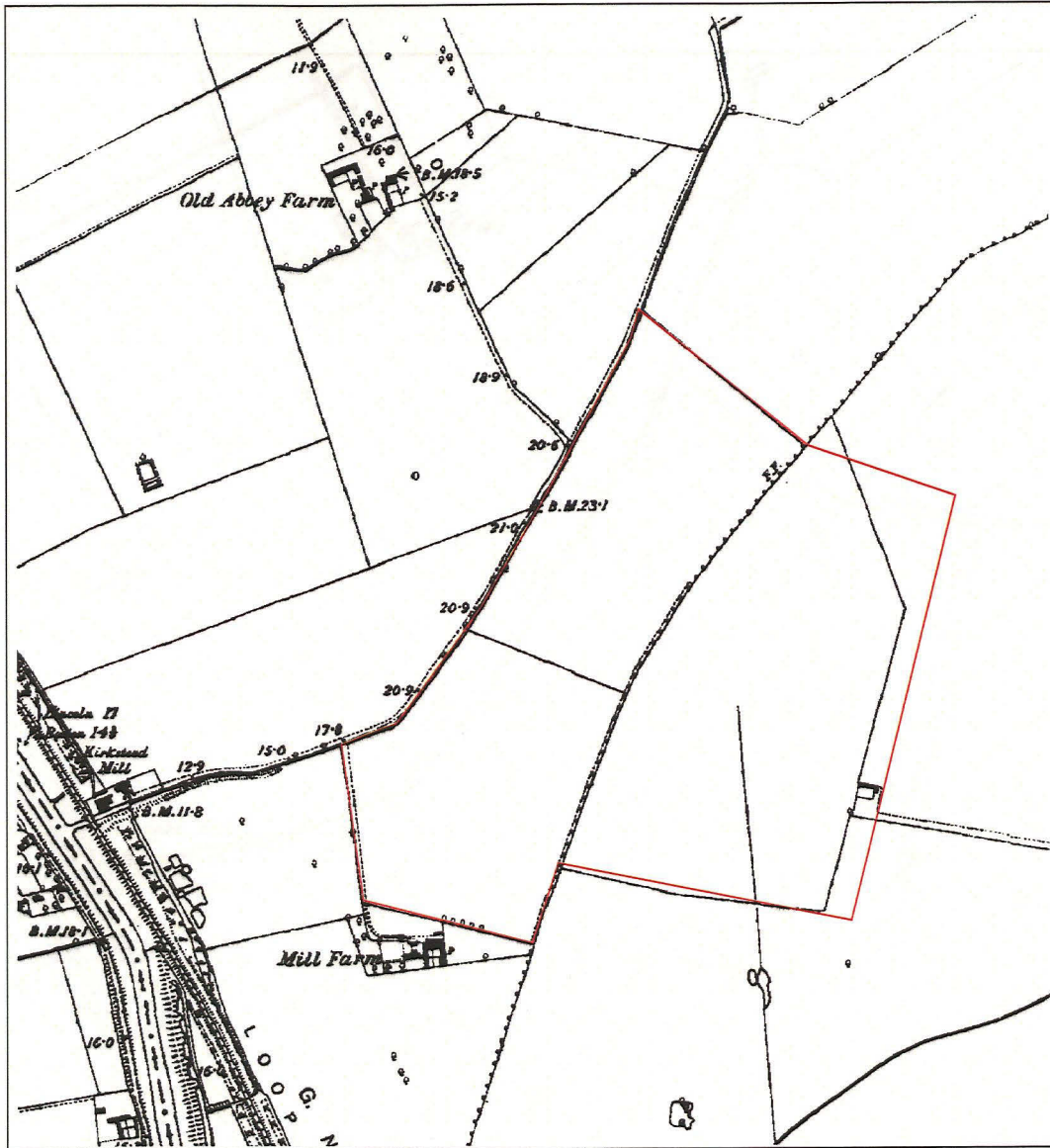
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Project Name: Mill Farm, Kirkstead KSMF06		
Scale n/a	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 100/06

Figure 5 - Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1" map, 1867




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Mill Farm, Kirkstead KSMF06		
Scale n/a	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 100/06

Figure 6 - Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6" map, 1890




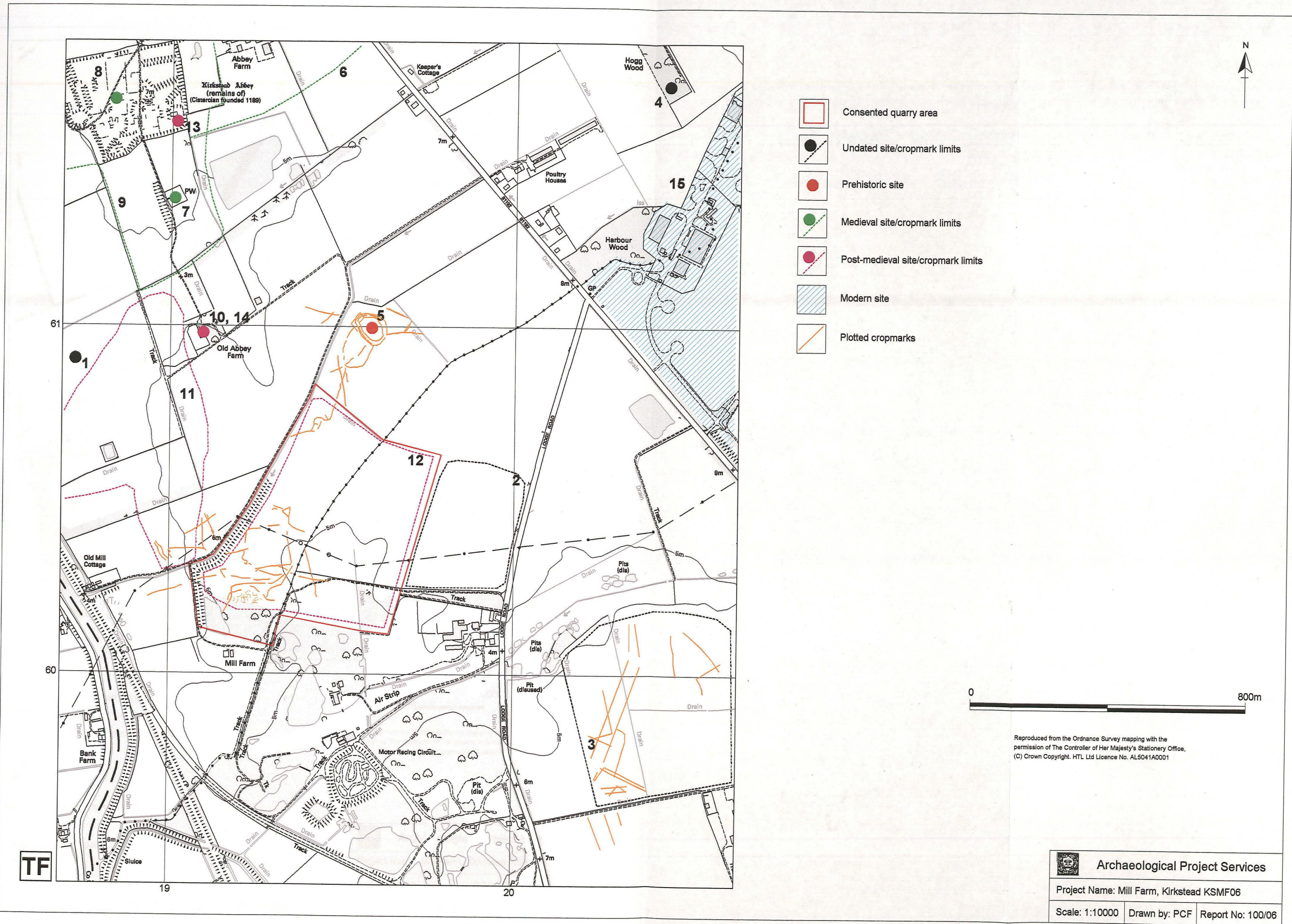
	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Mill Farm, Kirkstead KSMF06		
Scale n/a	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 100/06

Figure 7 - Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 6" map, 1906



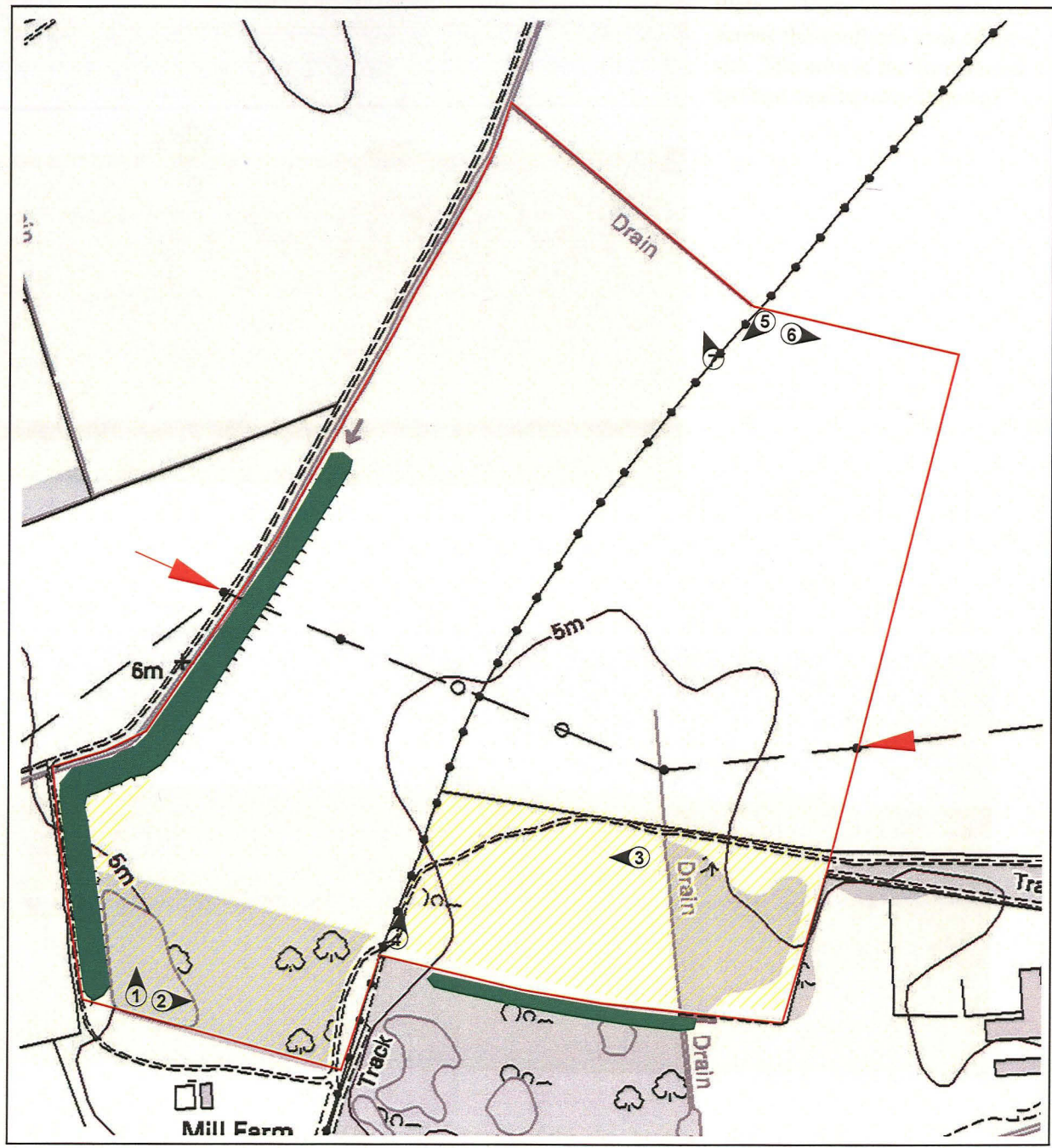
- Consented quarry area
- Undated site/cropmark limits
- Prehistoric site
- Medieval site/cropmark limits
- Post-medieval site/cropmark limits
- Modern site
- Plotted cropmarks






0 800m

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Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Mill Farm, Kirkstead KSMF06		
Scale: 1:10000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 100/06

Figure 8 - Archaeological sites in the assessment area



-  Consented quarry area
-  Area where overburden has been removed
-  Bank
-  Position where electric cable enters the site
-  Camera viewpoint



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 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Mill Farm, Kirkstead KSMF06		
Scale 1:5000	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 100/06

Figure 9 - Results of the walkover survey and constraints



Plate 1 - View looking northeast across the southern area of the site. The area in the foreground has had overburden removed



Plate 2 - The southern area of the site, looking east



Plate 3 - View looking west
across the southern area



Plate 4 - View looking northeast along the parish
boundary. The area on the right has had the
overburden removed giving the impression the
boundary follows a bank



Plate 5 - View looking south
across the proposed quarry site



Plate 6 - View looking east
across the northern area



Plate 7 - Hedgerow to the
northern field boundary, looking
north

Appendix 1

GLOSSARY

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.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Pannage	Right given to the owners of pigs to go into a wood and to allow the pigs to eat the acorns or beech mast which <i>fall to the ground</i> .
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 2

LIST OF SOURCES CONSULTED

Lincolnshire County Heritage Environment Record, parishes of Kirkstead and Tattershall Thorpe

Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire parish files, parishes of Kirkstead and Tattershall Thorpe

Lincolnshire Archives: Cartographic Sources, Secondary Sources (Books and Journals)

Plans and Maps for the parish of Kirkstead and Tattershall Thorpe, held at the Lincolnshire Archives

Lincoln Central Reference Library

Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire Library

Ordnance Survey Maps 1816, 1890, 1906, 1971

Aerial Photographs held by the Lincolnshire County Heritage Environment Record

Aerial Photographs held by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire

Sources Not Consulted

Cursory examination was made of 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.