

**SOUTH WITHAM QUARRY  
SOUTH WITHAM  
LINCOLNSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED  
ASSESSMENT**

*For*

**HEATON PLANNING LIMITED**

*on behalf of*

**ENNSTONE JOHNSTON LIMITED**

CA REPORT: 07050

JULY 2007

COTSWOLD  
ARCHAEOLOGY



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SOUTH WITHAM QUARRY  
SOUTH WITHAM  
LINCOLNSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY  
CA PROJECT: 2329

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## CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION .....	4
2.	METHODOLOGY .....	4
3.	BASELINE SURVEY .....	5
	<i>Designated Cultural Heritage Sites</i> .....	5
	<i>Geology and the Palaeoenvironment</i> .....	6
	<i>Previous archaeological work</i> .....	6
	<i>Prehistoric</i> .....	6
	<i>Romano-British</i> .....	7
	<i>Medieval</i> .....	7
	<i>Post-medieval</i> .....	8
	<i>Modern</i> .....	8
	<i>Undated</i> .....	8
	<i>Historic Landscape</i> .....	9
4.	CONCLUSIONS .....	9
5.	PROJECT TEAM .....	10
6.	REFERENCES .....	10
	APPENDIX A: GAZETTEER OF RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES .....	12



## **LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS**

Fig. 1 Site location plan (scale 1:25,000)

Fig. 2 Known archaeological sites

Fig. 3 The historic landscape (based on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1904)

## SUMMARY

**Site Name:** South Witham Quarry, South Witham  
**Location:** Lincolnshire  
**NGR:** SK 9070 1864  
**Type:** Desk-Based Assessment

In March 2007 Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by Heaton Planning Limited to carry out an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of land at South Witham Quarry, South Witham, Lincolnshire. The objective of the assessment was to identify the nature and extent of the recorded archaeological resource within both the Site and its immediate environs.

Archaeological works undertaken to the east of Site have located a range of features probably associated with prehistoric settlement. The extent of this activity has not been identified and it may have encroached into the Site. An undated cropmark, visible on aerial photographs, potentially represents an associated feature within the Site. Romano-British evidence, primarily a parallel trackway ditch, has also been identified in this area. It is probable that this trackway extends into Site, towards the Roman road at the western edge of Site.

Medieval and post-medieval activity appears to have been focused away from the Site, to the south-west at the village of Thistleton.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2007, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) was commissioned by Heaton Planning Limited to carry out an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of land at South Witham Quarry, South Witham, Lincolnshire (centred on NGR: SK 9070 1864; Fig. 1). The objective of the assessment was to identify the nature and extent of the recorded archaeological resource within, and in the immediate environs of, the Site. An analysis of the likely nature and extent of any currently unrecorded archaeological deposits within the Site is also offered.

1.2 The report is structured as follows:

Section 2 *Methodology* outlines the data sources accessed for the baseline survey and the guidelines followed during the preparation of the Desk-Based Assessment; Section 3 *Baseline Survey* identifies and describes the extent and character of the known archaeological and historical resource within Site and a 500m study area, as marked on Fig. 2

Section 4 *Conclusions* assesses the survival and importance of any such remains and the potential for previously unknown resources.

1.3 The Site is approximately 28ha in area. It is bounded by the disused Midland and Great Northern Railway to the north and Lincolnshire-Rutland county boundary to the south. Fosse Lane runs down the western edge while the east abuts an active quarry. The ground is generally level, with some gentle undulation in the central area, and is currently under arable cultivation.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 This assessment has been guided by the *Standard and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessments* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001). The baseline survey involved consultation of readily available archaeological and historical information from documentary and cartographic sources. The major repositories of information consulted comprised:

English Heritage (EH)

- County list of Scheduled Monuments for England (SMs)
- Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest



- Register of Historic Battlefields
- List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest

Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (LHER) and Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record

- List of known archaeological sites and findspots within the counties.

Lincolnshire Records Office

- Historic maps and documents

National Monuments Record (English Heritage, Swindon)

- Vertical and oblique aerial photographic records
- Published and unpublished documentary sources
- Database of archaeological sites (NMRAD)

2.2 All points of cultural heritage interest found in the baseline survey are located on Fig. 2. The gazetteer (Appendix A) correlates points of interest with their reference number on the Historic Environment Records (HER), as well as any other relevant statutory designation or status. Points of interest are marked in bold in the body of the text thus, **00**.

2.3 A Site visit was made on 5 April 2007 in order to examine current land use and topography, and to assess the visible cultural heritage resource of the Site.

2.4 The following section, *Baseline Survey*, identifies, in chronological order, the recorded archaeological resource within the Site and its immediate vicinity.

### 3. **BASELINE SURVEY**

#### ***Designated Cultural Heritage Sites***

3.1 Designated Cultural Heritage Sites are as follows:

- *National Designations*: There are no Listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks or Gardens, or Historic Battlefields within the Site. Six Listed buildings are recorded within the study area.



- *Local Designations:* There are eighteen sites within the study area listed on the NMRAD and the Historic Environment Records, all of which lie outside the Site. These are discussed below in the chronological sections where relevant.

### ***Geology and the Palaeoenvironment***

- 3.2 The solid geology of the Site comprises of Lower Lincolnshire Limestone of the Jurassic period. This is overlain by Glacial Boulder Clay of the Pleistocene and Recent period (BGS 1971). A shake hole, a natural depression resulting from the erosion of boulder clay into cracks or fissures in the underlying limestone, is located in the south-east corner of Site. Shake holes are commonly found in groups, a second example has been noted outside the Site, c. 100m to the east (PCG 2000, 6).

### ***Previous archaeological work***

- 3.3 No archaeological work has been undertaken within the Site. There have been two programmes of archaeological work within the study area:
- A programme of works including geophysical survey, trial trenching, and excavation, immediately to the east of Site, in advance of quarrying (Fig. 2, 1; PCG 2000, HAT 2001, Nicholson 2004);
  - A series of excavations at Thistleton Dyer, Quarry No. 6, to the south-east of the Site (Fig. 2, 2; JRS 1957, 1958, 1960, 1961).

### ***Prehistoric***

- 3.4 No prehistoric sites have been identified within the Site. Archaeological works undertaken directly to the east have uncovered evidence of prehistoric activity dating to the Mesolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age periods (Fig. 2, 1a; Nicholson 2004). Mesolithic evidence is limited to two unstratified flint blades recovered during trial trenching (Fig. 2, 1a; HAT 2001). Bronze Age activity was represented by two pits containing Beaker pottery (Fig. 2, 1a; Nicholson 2004). The majority of features excavated were dated to the Iron Age. These included two grain storage pits and part of a field system as well as a number of other pits and post holes. A cluster of Iron Age pits was uncovered adjacent to the eastern edge of Site. Finds included

scored ware and a miniature copper axe blade, thought to be a votive offering. These features have been interpreted as representing settlement activity, the main focus of which has not yet been identified (Fig. 2, 1a; Nicholson 2004).

- 3.5 A series of excavations at Thistleton Dyer Quarry was undertaken in the 1950s and 60s. This focused on Roman activity, discussed below, but also noted evidence of an earlier, Iron Age phase of occupation (Fig. 2, 2; JRS 1958, 137).
- 3.6 The projected line of the prehistoric routeway The Jurassic Way runs along side the western edge of Site. This represents a putative corridor for traffic, rather than a single track (Fig. 2, 3; NMRAD).

### ***Romano-British***

- 3.7 No Roman features are recorded within the Site, although Roman activity has been identified within the study area. Roman settlement evidence was recorded at Thistleton Dyer Quarry, c. 400m to the south-west of Site, where a series of excavations was undertaken in the 1950s and 60s. These identified a villa, with three phases of occupation, dating to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th centuries AD. In addition a 4th-century winged corridor house was uncovered with mosaics and hypocausts, and associated farm buildings (Fig. 2, 2; NMRAD).
- 3.8 Evidence of Romano-British activity was recovered from the area directly east of Site. Two parallel trackway ditches uncovered here have been dated to the 1st century AD. These ditches, aligned east/west, most likely extend into Site (Fig. 2, 1a; Nicholson 2004). Also adjacent to Site is the route of the Roman road, Sewstern Lane (Fig. 2, 4; Margary 1973, 223, road no. 580), which ran along the western edge of Site, joining Ermine Street to the south-east.
- 3.9 A collection of finds were recorded in a location c. 500m to the south of Site. These include two Roman coins and a bow brooch (Fig. 2, 5; LRHER). A late Roman coin was recovered from a garden in Thistleton village (Fig. 2, 6; LRHER).

### ***Medieval***

- 3.10 No Medieval features are recorded within the Site. The excavations to the east of Site recorded a single medieval pit (Fig. 2, 1a; Nicholson 2004, Fig. 4).



- 3.11 Medieval activity in the study area appears to have been focused on the historic settlement core of Thistleton, c. 500m from Site (Fig. 2, 7; LRHER). One medieval Listed building is recorded there; the Church of St. Nicholas. The tower of this building, which is Grade II\* Listed, dates to the 14th century, but the rest of the structure is modern (Fig. 2, 8; EH). Three medieval fishponds are recorded north-west of the church (Fig. 2, 9; LRHER).
- 3.12 An area of medieval settlement earthworks has been recorded to the south-east of the village (Fig. 2 10; LRHER). More extensive remains comprise blocks of ridge and furrow earthworks of probable medieval date. A number of these survive to the north of Thistleton village, c. 200m to the south of Site, as well as a small block c. 400m to the north (Fig. 2, 11, 12; NMRAD).

### ***Post-medieval***

- 3.13 No post-medieval features are recorded within the Site. Five post-medieval Listed buildings are recorded within Thistleton (Fig. 2, 13-17). These are all Grade II Listed and detailed in Appendix A.

### ***Modern***

- 3.14 The northern edge of the Site is bounded by the former line of the Midland and Great Northern Junction Railway. It was disused in 1959, and subsequently dismantled, but its embankment is still present (fig. 2, 18; NMRAD).

### ***Undated***

- 3.15 One undated feature, a circular cropmark, was visible within the Site on a number of aerial photographs (Fig. 2, 19). The mark appears slightly irregular and may represent a geological feature. A report on archaeological work undertaken to the east of Site noted the presence of a linear feature and some faint cropmarks in that area (Fig. 2, 20; Nicholson 2004, Fig. 2).
- 3.16 A geophysical survey identified linear and annular features, c. 300m to the south-east of Site (Fig. 2, 1b; Nicholson 2004, Fig. 2). To the north of this survey linear



features, also initially identified by geophysical survey, proved to be Iron Age and Romano-British when excavated (Fig. 2, 1a; Nicholson 2004).

### ***Historic Landscape***

- 3.17 The earliest readily available cartographic source to depict the Site in detail is the 1794 Enclosure Map of South Witham Parish. This provides information on post-medieval field divisions. Information from the historic maps has been transposed onto Fig. 3, based on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1904. The figure shows that smaller fields have been consolidated since 1794. No other changes were depicted on later cartographic sources.
- 3.18 Where hedgerows survive along boundaries which are depicted on the 1794 map they may be considered of some cultural heritage value by the Local Authority. Where hedgerows are present along the parish boundary, they are considered important under the criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 Prehistoric features including pits and postholes have been uncovered immediately to the east of the Site. The limits of this activity have not yet been defined and associated features may have encroached into the Site. It is possible that an undated cropmark seen within the Site on aerial photographs relates to such related activity.
- 4.2 Romano-British trackway ditches uncovered to the east of the Site may also extend into the Site, toward the Roman road which ran along the western edge. Potential for Roman road-side features may exist in the western area, adjacent to the road.
- 4.3 Medieval and post-medieval activity appears to have been focused to the south-west of the Site at Thistleton. Listed buildings within the settlement may have limited views of the Site.
- 4.4 Use of the Site for arable cultivation may have adversely impacted upon any archaeological remains present, although the extent of this impact is currently

uncertain. Excavations to the east of Site have noted that features have been heavily truncated by ploughing.

## 5. PROJECT TEAM

- 5.1 The project was researched and the report produced by Rosemary Blackwell, and illustrated by Lorna Gray. The project was managed by Neil Holbrook.

## 6. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 1971 *Geological Map 1:50,000*, Sheet **143**
- EH (English Heritage) List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest
- HAT (Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust) 2001 *Land at South Witham, Lincolnshire, an Archaeological Evaluation (Trial Trenching)*, typescript report no. **829**
- JRS 1957 Notes in *Journal of Roman Studies*, Vol. 47, 212
- JRS 1958 Notes in *Journal of Roman Studies*, Vol. 48, 137
- JRS 1960 Notes in *Journal of Roman Studies*, Vol. 50, 224
- JRS 1961 Notes in *Journal of Roman Studies*, Vol. 51, 175
- LHER Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record
- LRHER Leicestershire & Rutland Historic Environment Record
- Margary, I.D. 1973 *Roman Roads in Britain*, Third Edition, London, John Baker
- Nicholson, K. 2004 *Excavations at South Witham Quarry, Lincolnshire*, typescript report produced by AS (Archaeological Solutions Ltd., formerly HAT)
- NMRAD National Monuments Record Archaeological Database

PCG (Pre-Construct Geophysics) 2000 *Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey: Land at South Witham, Lincolnshire, and Thistleton, Rutland*, typescript report, site code SWTH00

***Cartographic sources***

- 1794 *South Witham Parish Enclosure Map* LRO
- 1885 *1st Edition OS 6" series, map sheet CXXXVIII*
- 1904 *2nd Edition OS 6" series, map sheet CXXXVIII*
- 2006 *OS 1:25,000 Explorer series, map sheet 247*

LRO: Lincolnshire Records Office

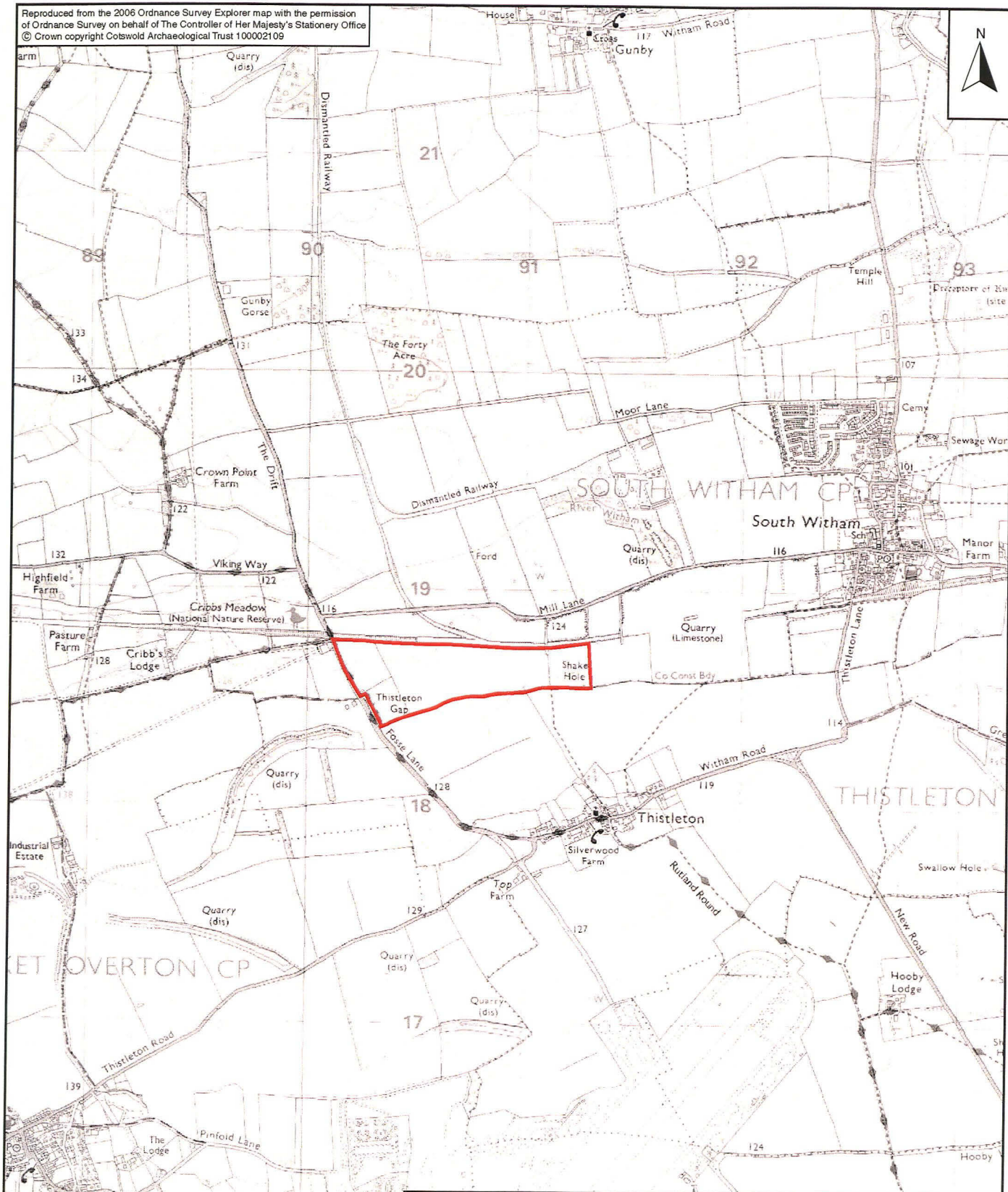


## APPENDIX A: GAZETTEER OF RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

KEY: PH = Prehistoric; Neo = Neolithic; BA = Bronze Age; IA = Iron Age; Rom = Roman; RB = Romano-British; Sax = Saxon; Med = medieval; PM = post-medieval; Mod = modern; U = Undated

No.	Description	Period	Status	NGR (all SK)	LHER LRHER NMR EH	Main Source
1	South Witham Quarry Programme of archaeological works	BA IA RB Med		9137 1880	35236 35433 35434 35436 36784 <b>1349905</b> <b>1362993</b> <b>1362994</b> <b>1429965</b>	PCG 2000 HAT 2001 Nicholson 2004
2	Thistleton Dyer, Quarry No. 6 Programme of archaeological works	IA R		9000 1794	5776 <b>325327</b> <b>632642</b>	JRS 1957, 1958, 1960, 1961
3	Prehistoric routeway: Jurassic Way	PH		9021 1857	<b>1035203</b>	NMRAD
4	Roman road: Sewstern Lane	R		9021 1857	5345 <b>1325932</b>	Margary 1973
5	Findspot	R		9072 1797	8121	LRHER
6	Findspot	R		9136 1800	8120	LRHER
7	Thistleton: historic settlement core	Med PM		9138 1796	16565	LRHER
8	Church of St. Nicholas	Med	II*	9133 1797	5782 186711 <b>3/141</b>	EH
9	Medieval Earthworks: Fishponds	Med		9126 1813	5777	LRHER
10	Medieval Earthworks	Med		9159 1796	5780	LRHER
11	Ridge and Furrow	Med		9115 1822	<b>1036249</b>	NMRAD
12	Ridge and Furrow	Med		9143 1928	36187 <b>1036253</b>	NMRAD
13	The Old Rectory	PM	II	9134 1799	186712 <b>3/142</b>	EH
14	Grange Farmhouse	PM	II	9140 1797	186713 <b>3/143</b>	EH
15	Barn at Grange Farm	PM	II	9140 1800	186714 <b>3/144</b>	EH
16	Cartshed at Grange Farm	PM	II	9143 1802	186715 <b>3/145</b>	EH
17	Barn Close	PM	II	9147 1796	186717 <b>3/147</b>	EH
18	Midland and Great Northern Junction Railway	Mod		9063 1863	16091 <b>1365034</b>	NMRAD
19	Cropmark	U		9062 1861		AP
20	Cropmark	U		9165 1879		AP





0 2.5km



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

South Witham Quarry, South Witham, Lincolnshire

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

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LGV

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PROJECT NO.

2329

FIGURE NO.

1





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PROJECT TITLE

FIGURE TITLE

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FIGURE NO.

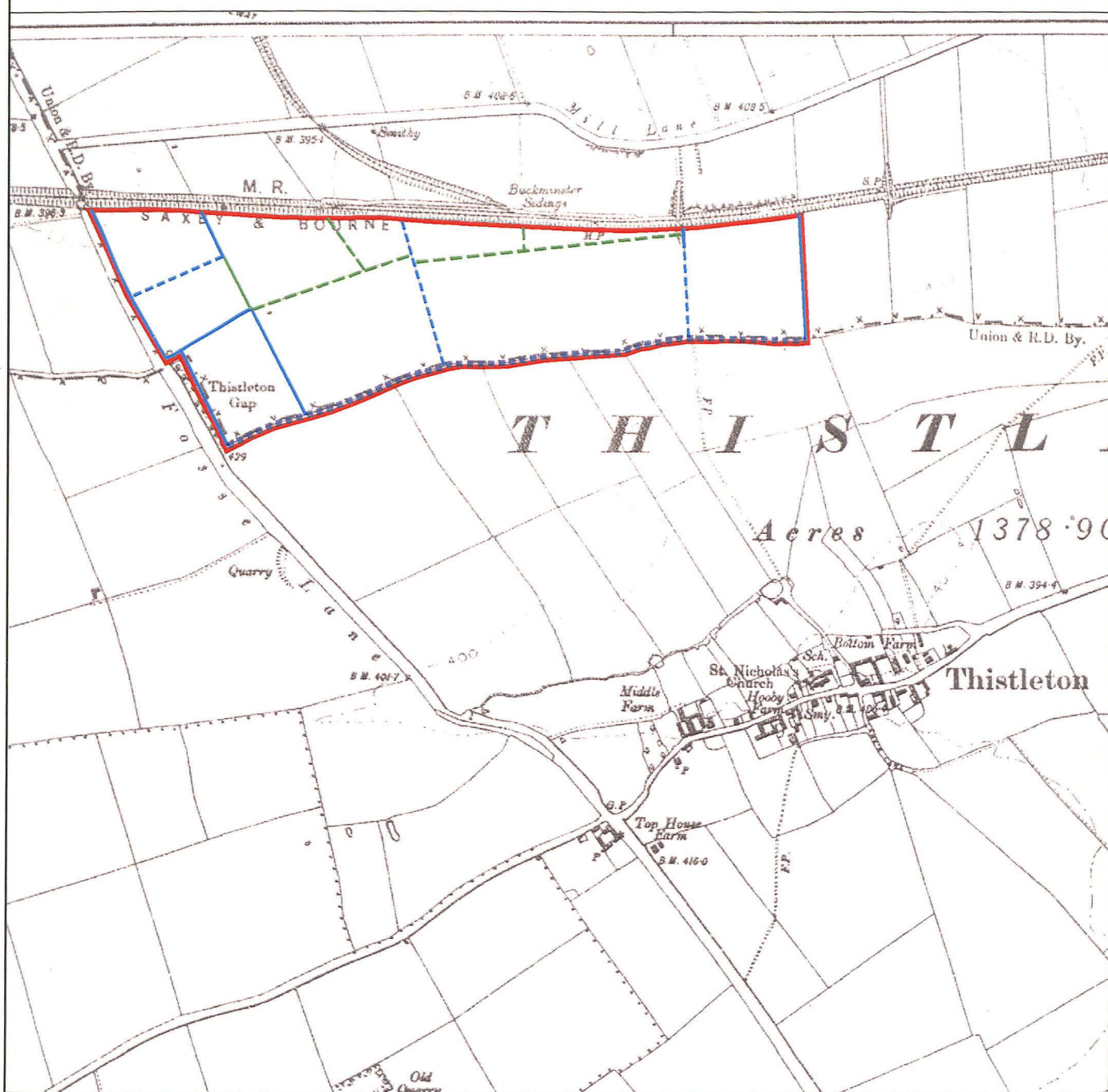
LG

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2329

2





- site
- boundary first depicted on map of 1794 - extant
- boundary first depicted on map of 1794 - removed
- parish boundary first depicted on map of 1794 - extant
- boundary first depicted on map of 1885 - extant
- boundary first depicted on map of 1885 - removed



COTSWOLD ARCHAEOLOGY

PROJECT TITLE

South Witham Quarry, South  
Witham, Lincolnshire

FIGURE TITLE

**The historic landscape**

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FIGURE NO.

**3**