

95/13

**DESK-TOP ASSESSMENT OF THE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF  
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT  
KIRTON DROVE,  
BROTHERTOFT,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(BKD95)**



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(BKD95)**

Work Undertaken For  
Richard R. Grant

November 1995

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## 1. SUMMARY

*A desk-top assessment and fieldwalking survey was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development to the north of Kirton Drove, Brothertoft, Boston District, Lincolnshire. Several archaeological sites and findspots are located in the vicinity of the development.*

*Romano-British (A.D. 50-400) occupation of the region has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the site. Romano-British pottery has been found to the southwest of the site discovered during deep ploughing.*

*Medieval activity is scarce and Brothertoft does not appear in the Domesday survey of A.D. 1086. The parish church of St Gilbert is the only evidence from this period with reused medieval masonry incorporated into a largely 19th century building. Later, Brothertoft became a centre for woad production and processing with Brothertoft Hall being built from the profits.*

*The first maps of Brothertoft dating from 1769, do not show the area of investigation and may indicate that this was still low lying wet land. Later, Kirton Drove was established and fields were enclosed.*

*Aerial photographs indicated the presence of enclosures and boundary ditches suggesting agricultural activity of probable Romano-British date. Fieldwalking recovered pottery of this date including Samian Ware, imported from France.*

*Present ground conditions suggest fair preservation of any surviving archaeological deposits as deep ploughing may not have occurred here. No recent intrusions were recorded.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services were commissioned by Richard Grant of RG Farms, to undertake a desk-top assessment and fieldwalking survey of land to the north of Kirton Drove, Brothertoft, Boston District, Lincolnshire. The work was in order to determine the archaeological implications of construction of a proposed reservoir on the site, as detailed in planning application B07/0521/95. The archaeological assessment and fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with a brief set by the Community Archaeologist for Boston District Council.

### 2.2 Topography and Geology

Brothertoft is situated 7km west of Boston and approximately 20km east of Sleaford, in Boston District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The proposed development is located c. 1.6km southwest of Brothertoft as defined by the parish church of St Gilbert (Fig. 2).

Situated at a height of c. 3m OD on land to the north of Kirton Drove (National Grid Reference TF 263 451), the site lies on the flat terrain of the fens. The proposed reservoir will cover approximately 2 hectares (Fig. 2).

Local soils are of the Wallasea Association, pelo-alluvial gleys that overlie marine silts and clays (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 338).

## 3. AIMS

The aims of the desk-top assessment and the surface recovery of finds were to locate and evaluate 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
- place-name evidence

Information obtained from the documentary and cartographic examination was supplemented by a fieldwalking survey of the proposed development site. The surface collection of artefacts was carried out by walking a 10m by 10m grid across the area of the proposed reservoir.

Results of the archival and field examinations were committed to scale plans of the area.

#### 5. RESULTS

##### 5.1 Historical Data

Brothertoft is derived from the Old

Scandinavian meaning 'toft' or house of Broder. Langrick, to the north of Brothertoft is first mentioned in close rolls of 1243 (Ekwall 1974). No mention of Brothertoft is found in the Domesday survey of 1086, which appears to be typical of the fenland region in general, and may indicate that this region of the country was not intensively surveyed (Foster and Longley 1976).

Holland Fen was drained by the Earl Fitzwilliam in 1720 who cut the North Forty Foot Drain through the parish (Robinson 1993). Later, Major John Cartwright built Brothertoft Hall and set up a woad processing plant somewhere along the North Forty Foot Drain, to which he gave the name *ISATICA* (Lloyd 1983). The site for this woad processing plant is, at present, unknown but may have been at Hedgehog Bridge. A detailed account of the woad processing at Brothertoft is given by Arthur Young (1813).

The enclosing of Holland Fen and the region around Brothertoft was heavily disputed, and a riot ensued (White 1882). White's first directory of 1826 does not mention Brothertoft and his later version indicates that there was a population of 253 people in the parish in 1881, suggesting a small settlement (*ibid*).

##### 5.2 Cartographic Data

The area of proposed development is situated on the northern side of Kirton Drove, 1.3km southwest of Brothertoft village. Appropriate maps of the vicinity were examined.

An enclosure award plan of 1769, indicating the enclosure of Holland Fen (Fig. 3), shows the site to be located within an area devoid of roads or field boundaries, though this may be due to selective mapping and recording. Hubbert's



Bridge is marked and referred to as Hubbards Bridge. The modern Langrick Road is shown as a minor road, connecting Kirton Holme to Langrick Ferry.

Bryant's *Map of the County of Lincoln* (1828) portrays Kirton Drove, though no field boundaries are marked. No buildings are visible in the vicinity of the site. A windmill is indicated at the point where Langrick Road crosses the North Forty Foot Drain and a further mill existed to the southwest of Hedgehog Bridge. Hubbert's Bridge is here referred to as Hobart Bridge (Fig. 4).

Dating from 1867, a map of Holland Fen shows the northern part of Kirton Drove to have been enclosed. Field boundaries are shown and are similar to those of the present day. However, a field boundary depicted in the vicinity of the site, possibly to the east, has since disappeared. The southwest area of the site had been circled and numbered 46, for which no reference exists, though this may indicate the position of a building (Fig. 5).

The first edition six-inch Ordnance Survey map of c. 1905 shows the development area as relatively unchanged with the same field boundaries. Construction of houses along the route of the Kirton Drove had taken place in a few areas by this time.

### 5.3 Aerial Photograph Data

Aerial photographs, including those published or transcribed in secondary sources, were examined for evidence of archaeological remains. No photographs of the site exist in the Community Archaeologist's parish file and none are held by the County Sites and Monuments Record.

Copies of photographs held by the National

Monuments Record in Swindon were examined. A series of four photographs, taken in 1979, cover the area under investigation (Code TF2645/4/41-44) and show both cropmarks and soilmarks. These features were plotted on to a map using the Möbius network method (Scollar 1975) and collated on Fig. 6.

Situated in the centre of the proposed reservoir site is a rectangular enclosure with a possible entrance on the northern corner. From this point a north to south aligned feature, possibly a ditch, was observed. Located to the southwest of the enclosure, and connected to it, is a slightly curving ditch, parallel to Kirton Drove. In the same field, 250m southwest of the enclosure, is a curvilinear feature, also interpreted as a ditch, that appears to join a fossil stream channel.

To the north of the site in the adjacent field are a series of small, semi-circular features that are possible enclosures. To the north of these is a possible north to south aligned driveway with boundary ditches on either side. Further ditches are also observed to the west of the site, on the other side of Kirton Drove. These form enclosures, though the features cross and may indicate several phases of activity. A number of small 'blobs' may indicate the presence of pits.

Soil marks are also visible in a number of the surrounding fields. Though no features are visible, a lighter shade of soil is apparent, centred on the site surrounded by darker soil. This has been interpreted as a sand island.

### 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 1.5km of the proposed development area are collated here and committed to Fig. 7.

County Sites and Monuments Code	Description	Grid Reference	Boston District Community Archaeology Code
12607	Romano-British greyware pottery	TF 270 454	B07/004
12608	St Gilbert's Church, Brothertoft, rebuilt 1847	TF 2702 4627	B07/006
12535	2 <sup>nd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> century pottery	TF 261 449	B07/014
12536	Romano-British greyware pottery	TF 262 444	B07/012
12964	Romano-British pottery, animal bone and ditches	TF 227 442	B02/012
13033	Romano-British pottery	TF 265 438	B07/010
13292	Brothertoft Hall, c.1780	TF 2696 4639	B07/007
	Earthworks	TF 271 464	B07/005
	Romano-British pottery	TF 261 446	B07/011
	Romano-British pottery	TF 260 446	B07/013
	Excavation at Top Farm	TF 260 488	B07/016
	Watching Brief at Hubbert's Bridge	TF 268 438	B07/017
	Watching Brief at Brothertoft	TF 275 458	B07/018

Generally, the proposed development site is located in an area of dense archaeological activity. No prehistoric material has been recovered to date in the vicinity.

During the Romano-British period, the low lying areas of Lincolnshire were considered to be a valuable resource, especially for salt but were generally sparsely inhabited. Brothertoft itself is likely to have been too far inland for salt production and would have consisted of a fen-type environment with a few sand islands. These islands were possibly utilised for small scale

agricultural activities. Such a sand island exists in the vicinity of the site, and the edge was identified during excavations 350m to the southwest (Cope-Faulkner 1994). This island was associated with undated, possibly Roman features, and a single find of a sherd of Samain Ware.

During the medieval period (A.D. 1066 - 1500) Brothertoft was a relatively minor hamlet set within the fens and was probably part of another parish, such as Kirton or Holland Fen. A few fragments of reused medieval masonry exist in the



church and these represent the only remains of this period in Brothertoft. However, a survey of earthworks near Brothertoft Hall dated them to this period (Bonnor 1993), though later fieldwalking in the vicinity found only post-medieval pottery.

Brothertoft was redeveloped in the late 18th century by Major Cartwright who built Brothertoft Hall and possibly the parish church of St Gilbert (Pevsner 1989).

Previous archaeological work has been undertaken in the area. A watching brief at Hubbert's Bridge revealed an extinct watercourse (Trimble 1993) and a watching brief was undertaken at Ivy House Farm (A.P.S. 1994). Archaeological material was absent from both these examinations.

### 5.5 Fieldwalking Results

On the 14th and 15th of November 1995, fieldwalking was carried out on the site of the proposed development. Conditions were not wholly suitable for fieldwalking as ploughing had not taken place since earlier in the year and a large part of the area was still covered by the remnants of last season's crops. Visibility was good. A 10m grid was established and an area of 260m by 50m was examined (Fig. )

Pottery of Romano-British date represents the earliest artefacts recovered (Table 1). Four sherds of abraded greyware were found in squares A24, B14, E10 and E25. A single sherd of Colour Coated pottery was found in grid A17 and a single sherd of Samian Ware, imported from France was uncovered from A24.

Pottery of later date, from the 18th century to modern day, was also uncovered in small amounts from across the field. This is unlikely to indicate occupation of this area from this date but may indicate the

point at which agricultural activities started.

A total of eight fragments of clay pipe were also recovered from the central part of the fieldwalked area (Table 2). Again the distribution is not significant and indicates the time at which activities started here.

Large quantities of tile and brick fragments were also recovered during the fieldwalking, with nearly every grid square producing some of this material (Fig. 9). The largest amounts, in quantity and weight, were recovered from row 1 and line A. This distribution is likely to have resulted from this material being used as a hard core base for the track running along the side of the road. A small amount of slag derived from industrial activities was also recovered in a similar pattern. The fairly even distribution of building material across the rest of the field is marked by peaks of this brick and tile around Grid D8 and E15. The source of this material is unclear, although the cleansing of animal sheds for manuring may include this material.

Other material recovered includes ceramic drainage pipes, often fragmentary due to ploughing, and coal, possibly from early steam tractors or general household residue.

## 6. DISCUSSION

Evidence for early prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the proposed development is non-existent. Romano-British activity is quite dense, with the site located on a sand island that was utilised for possible settlement or agricultural activity. Aerial photographs indicate an assortment of enclosures and land boundaries, possibly indicating stock control. No settlement has



been located, though the surface finds of pottery and the possibility of pits, located in the field to the west, may indicate that this was the centre of occupation.

Evidence for the medieval use of the area is likely to be scarce as this region was probably low lying wetland throughout most of the period. Brothertoft is likely to have been a small medieval settlement, though the impact of the village would be negligible on the proposed development site.

Following the initial drainage of the fens this region may well have been developed for agricultural activities, though this might not have occurred until the end of the 18th century. A woad processing plant was established in this region, along the North Forty Foot Drain, and remains unlocated, but might have existed at Hedgehog Bridge or Toft Tunnel. Consequently, this industrial establishment is unlikely to fall within the area of proposed development.

At present, the site is subject to agricultural activities that permitted a fieldwalking survey. Small amounts of Roman pottery was recovered and indicate activities of this date in the region.

The few finds of Roman pottery and the aerial photograph data suggest that archaeology survives at depths where ploughing has not destroyed or brought the artefacts to the surface.

Surrounding terrain is low, averaging around 3m O.D., and there is a high probability that waterlogged deposits and surviving palaeoenvironmental material does exist.

## 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:**

The pattern of enclosures within field systems is characteristic of Roman rural settlement throughout Europe.

### **Rarity:**

Romano-British rural habitation in enclosures is fairly commonplace, though individual settlements might have rare or unusual features. Moreover, due to topographical factors, Romano-British occupation at Brothertoft may have particular regional characteristics.

### **Documentation:**

Records of archaeological sites and finds made in the Brothertoft area are kept in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Boston District Community Archaeologist. Synopses of the archaeological background have previously been produced in archaeological reports, no historical syntheses of Brothertoft are known.

### **Group value:**

Due to the proximity of possible settlement and/or agricultural enclosures, field systems and a droveway, possibly all of Roman date, the site and environs have moderately high value.

### **Survival/Condition:**

Limited invasive post-medieval activity has occurred on the site, consequently buried deposits are likely to be well preserved. 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, into natural strata, any and all archaeological deposits present on the site are extremely vulnerable. Further, a large reservoir may lower water levels in the vicinity, thus all waterlogged deposits would be at risk.

**Diversity:**

Moderately high functional diversity is provided by the localised grouping of Romano-British settlement and agricultural remains. Some period diversity is provided by the possibility of post-medieval activity in the vicinity.

**Potential:**

Potential for Romano-British remains, associated with settlement and agriculture spreading into the area are considered high. In consideration of the low lying terrain, there is moderate potential that palaeoenvironmental material may survive on the site by virtue of waterlogging

## 8. CONCLUSIONS

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

A possible settlement with associated enclosures for agricultural activities exist on the area of proposed development and in the vicinity. Artefacts recovered from the fieldwalking survey suggest that these may be of Romano-British date.

No artefacts were recognised or recovered dating after the Romano-British period until the late 18th century when agricultural practises claimed the area and trackways were laid. Damage, due to previous excavation, of any archaeological deposits present on site is unlikely to have occurred.

## 9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to thank Richard Grant of RG Farms who commissioned this assessment. The work was coordinated by Steve Haynes and this report was edited by Dave Start. Jim Bonnor, the Community Archaeologist for Boston District Council permitted examination of the relevant files. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was provided by Mark Bennet of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

## 10. PERSONNEL

Project Manager: Steve Haynes  
Supervisor: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Site Assistant: Neil Herbert  
Finds processing: Denise Buckley, Neil Herbert  
Illustration and Report: Paul Cope-Faulkner

## 11. 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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## 12. ABBREVIATIONS

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

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

Council for British Archaeology publications are abbreviated to the initials C.B.A.

we have desktop for this site but no report on trial trench rang APS 15-12-00 and asked about this MBT.

### **Bracebridge Heath, Grantham Road**

A desktop assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development on land at Bracebridge Heath. Prehistoric artefacts and Romano-British finds had been recovered from land to the south-west of the investigation site, near to Ermine Street, although it is probable that these distribution patterns reflect access for archaeological recording, rather than the true extent of prehistoric or Romano British settlement. In consequence, the evidence was taken to indicate that a Romano British village was located on the Bracebridge Heath plateau, astride Ermine Street. Several cremations and a burial had previously been found in this area, suggesting that a Romano British roadside cemetery was located here.

The area was probably abandoned towards the end of the Roman period and not reoccupied until the 16th century when a number of farms were established in the area. A stone quarry, that would have removed all earlier archaeological remains within its limits, provided the fieldname for the western part of the site in the 19th century and was recognised on the site visit.

Subsequently, the eastern part of the proposed development area was subject to a geophysical examination and trial excavation. Various geological features and evidence of previous field boundaries were identified.

Gary Taylor

### **Branston, Whitehouse Farm**

A watching brief was carried out during development at Whitehouse Farm, Branston. Several small Romano British settlements are located nearby, including one immediately south of the investigation site. This may be associated with enclosures located in the field east of Whitehouse Farm. Artefacts of medieval date have previously been recovered, perhaps indicating that the farm had a medieval precursor.

Beneath the modern topsoil, a ditch and a posthole were revealed, probably the remains of a boundary of unknown date. The foundation of a World War 2 searchlight emplacement was also recorded.

Gary Taylor

### **Brothertoft, Kirton Drove**

13349

A programme of investigation was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of constructing an agricultural reservoir to the north of Kirton Drove, Brothertoft.

Several Romano British enclosures, evident as cropmarks and probably representing farms or small settlements, are located on and around the site. Roman pottery has also been found nearby. Medieval activity is scarce and Brothertoft does not appear in the Domesday survey, though there is reused medieval masonry in the parish church of St. Gilbert. Later, the village became a centre for the woad industry, and Brothertoft Hall was built from the profits.

A small amount of Roman pottery was found on the site during fieldwalking. Subsequently, a test trench was positioned across part of the enclosure evident as a cropmark. Marine and freshwater flood deposits were revealed, indicating the presence of a former stream. An undated ditch, responsible for the formation of the cropmark, was also noted. No occupation debris was recovered, suggesting that the enclosure defined by the cropmark was associated with purposes other than settlement.

Paul Cope Faulkner

### **Carlby, High Street**

A desktop assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at 28 High Street, Carlby, near Stamford. Evidence for



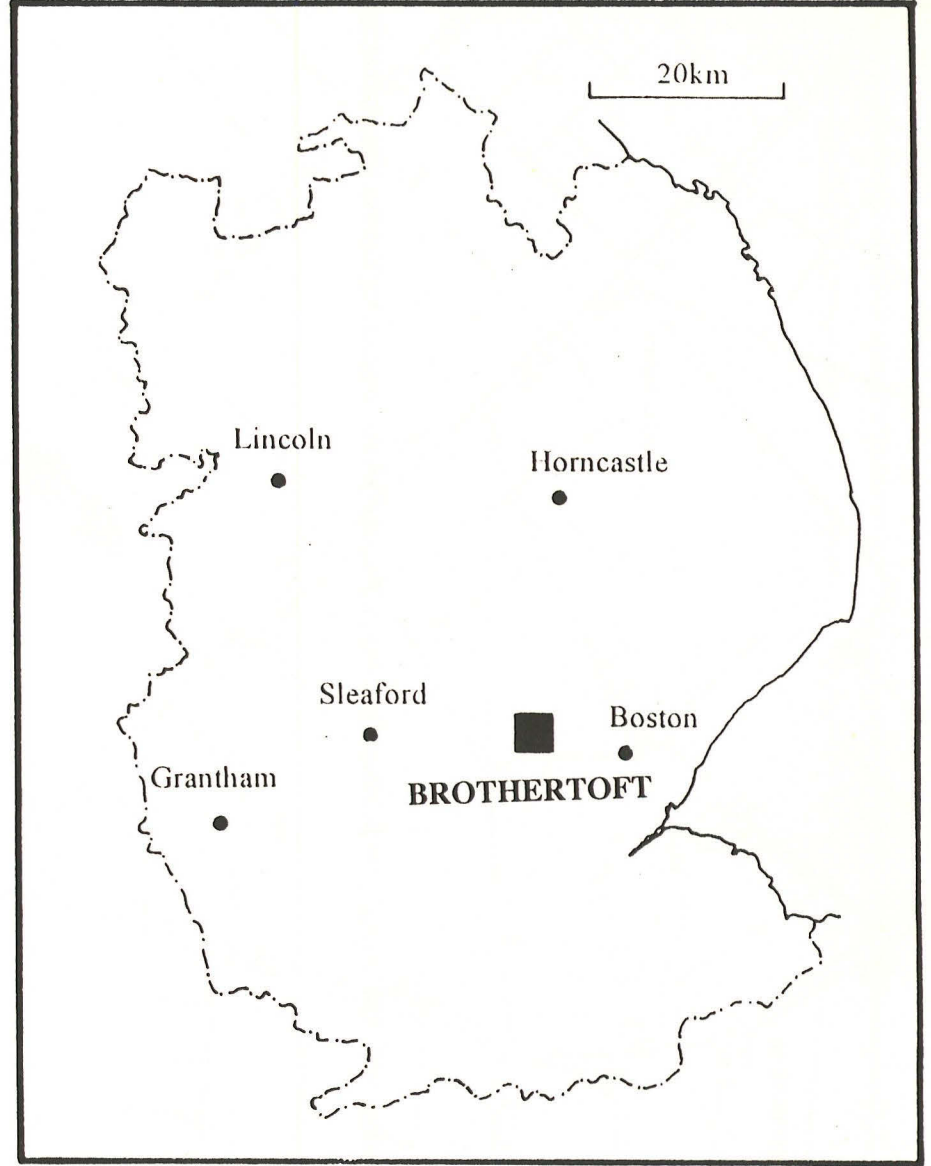
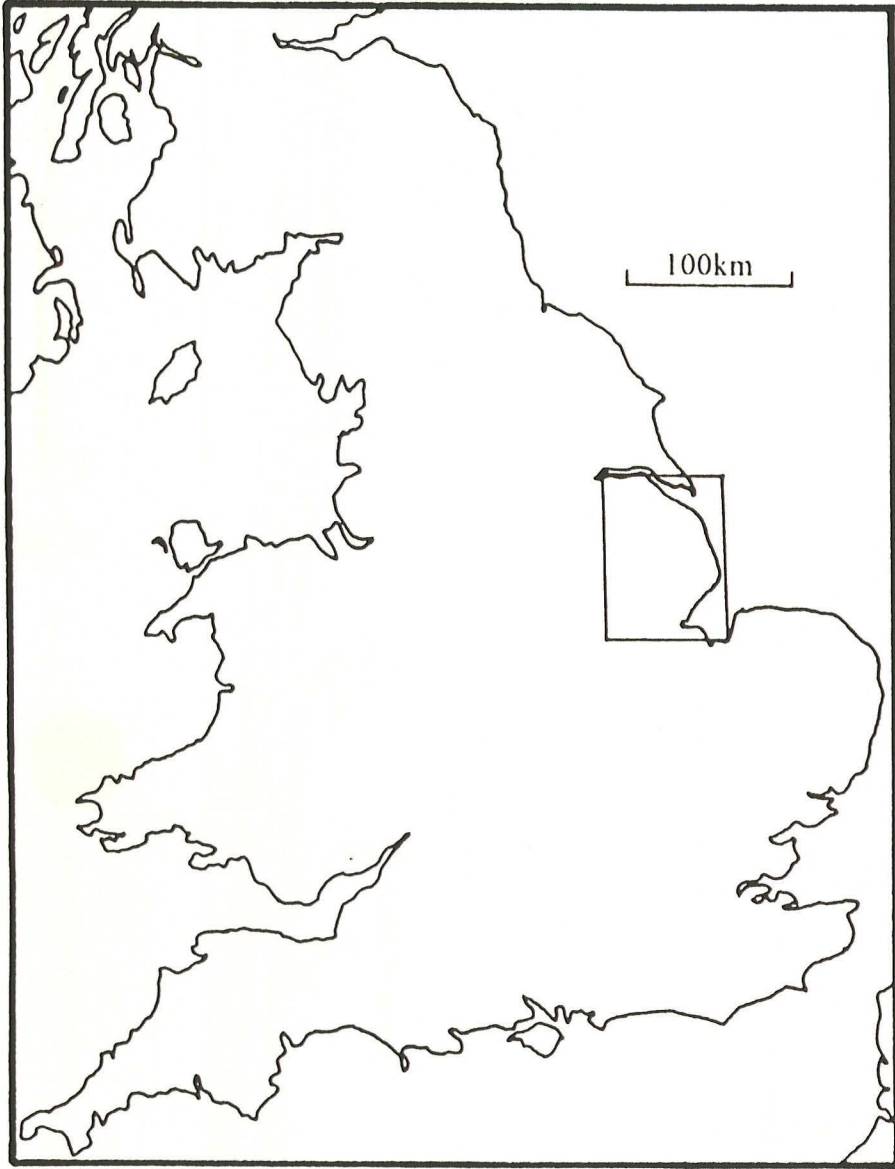
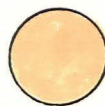


Fig. 1 General Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Location Plan



Area of Development



Fig. 3 Extract from 'A Plan of Haute Huntre or Holland Fen', 1769

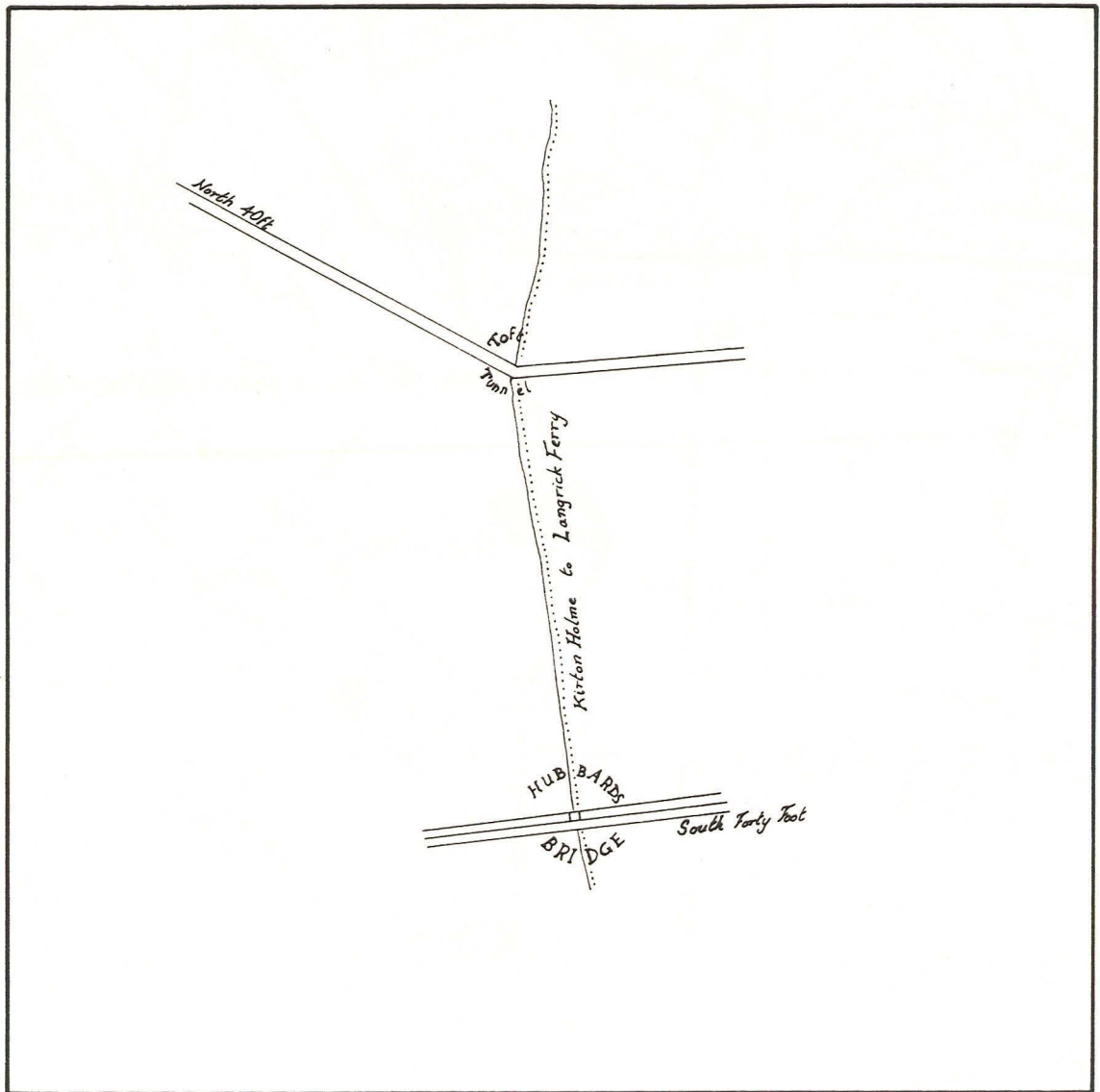


Fig. 4 Extract from Bryant's Map of the County of Lincoln, 1828

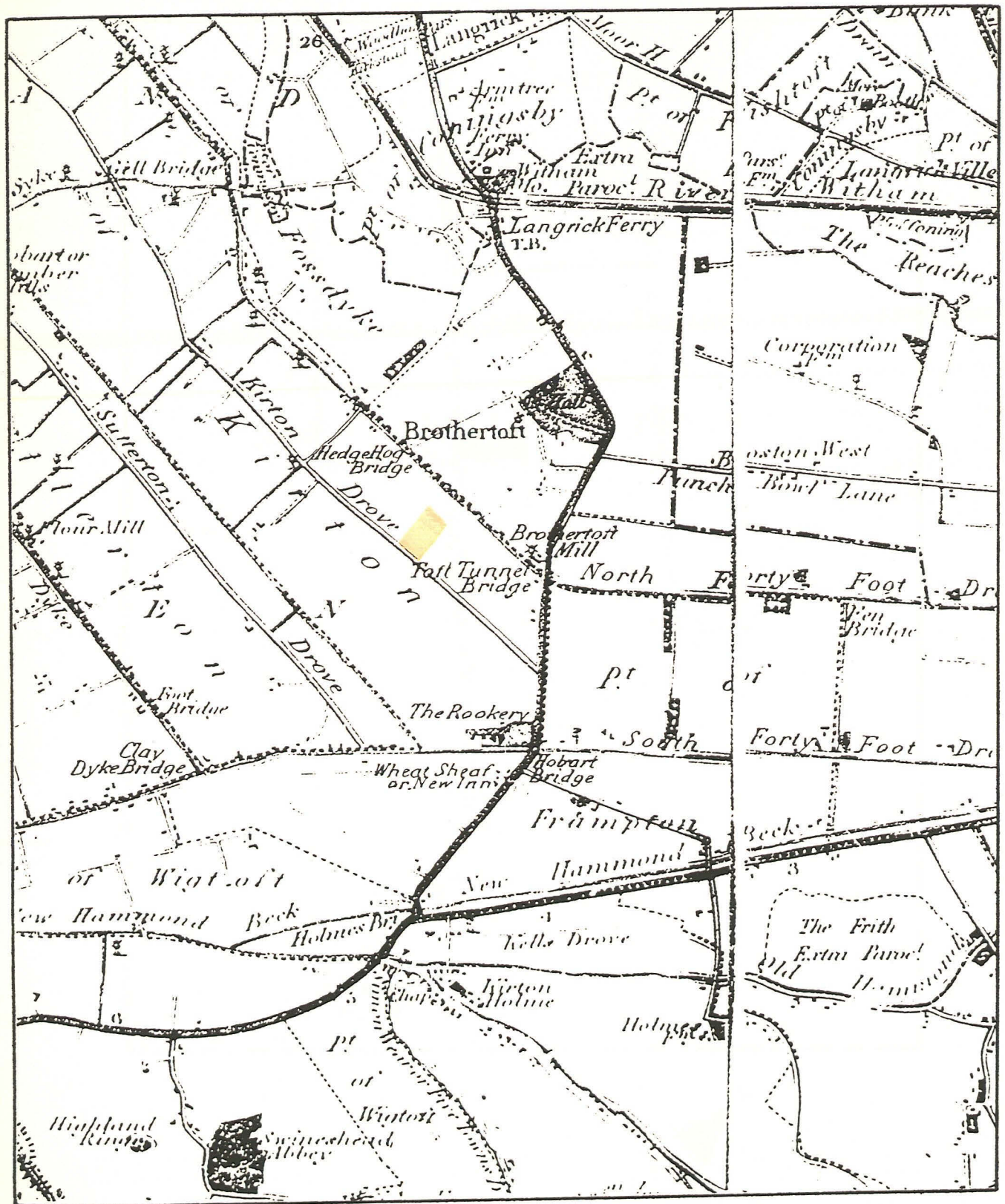
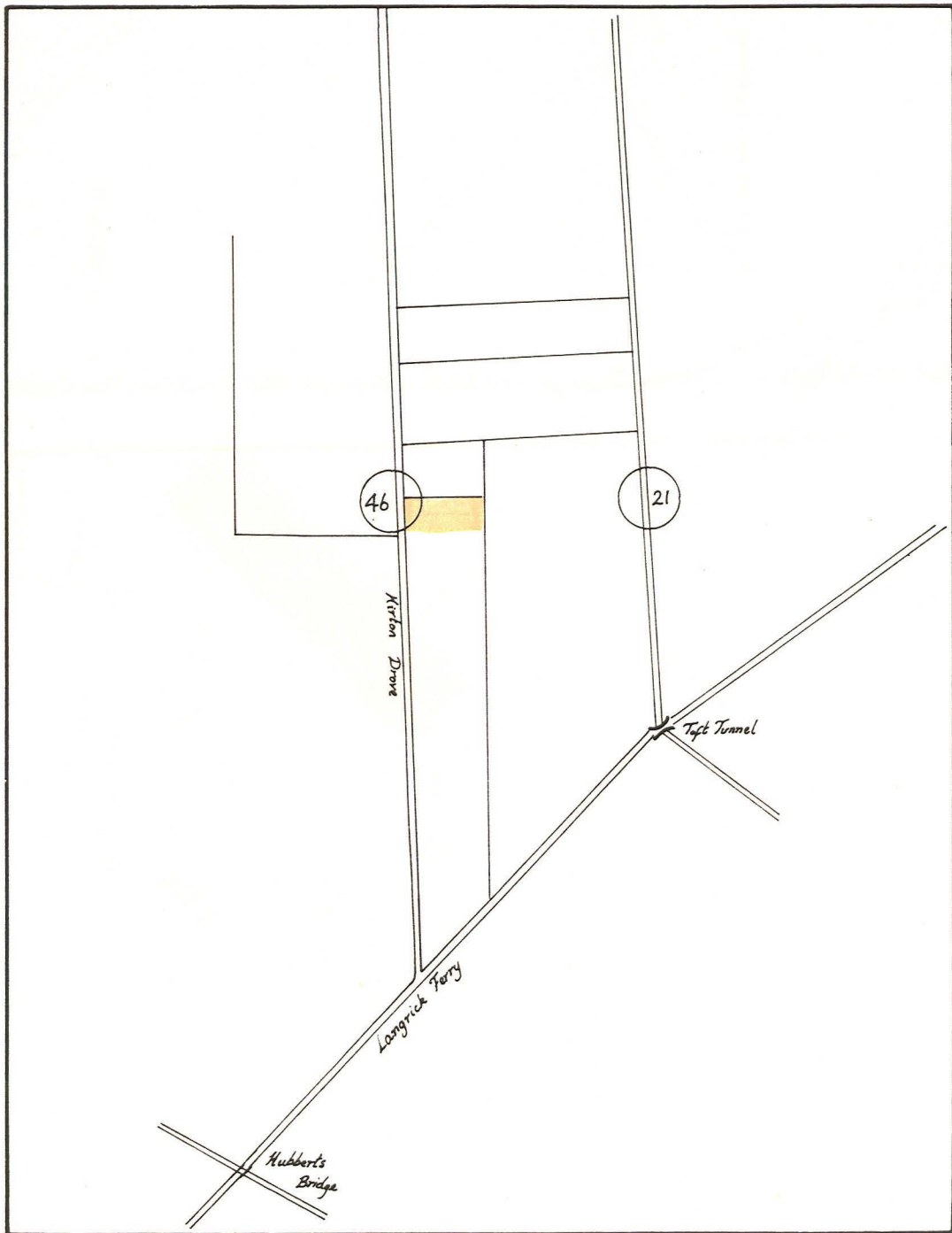
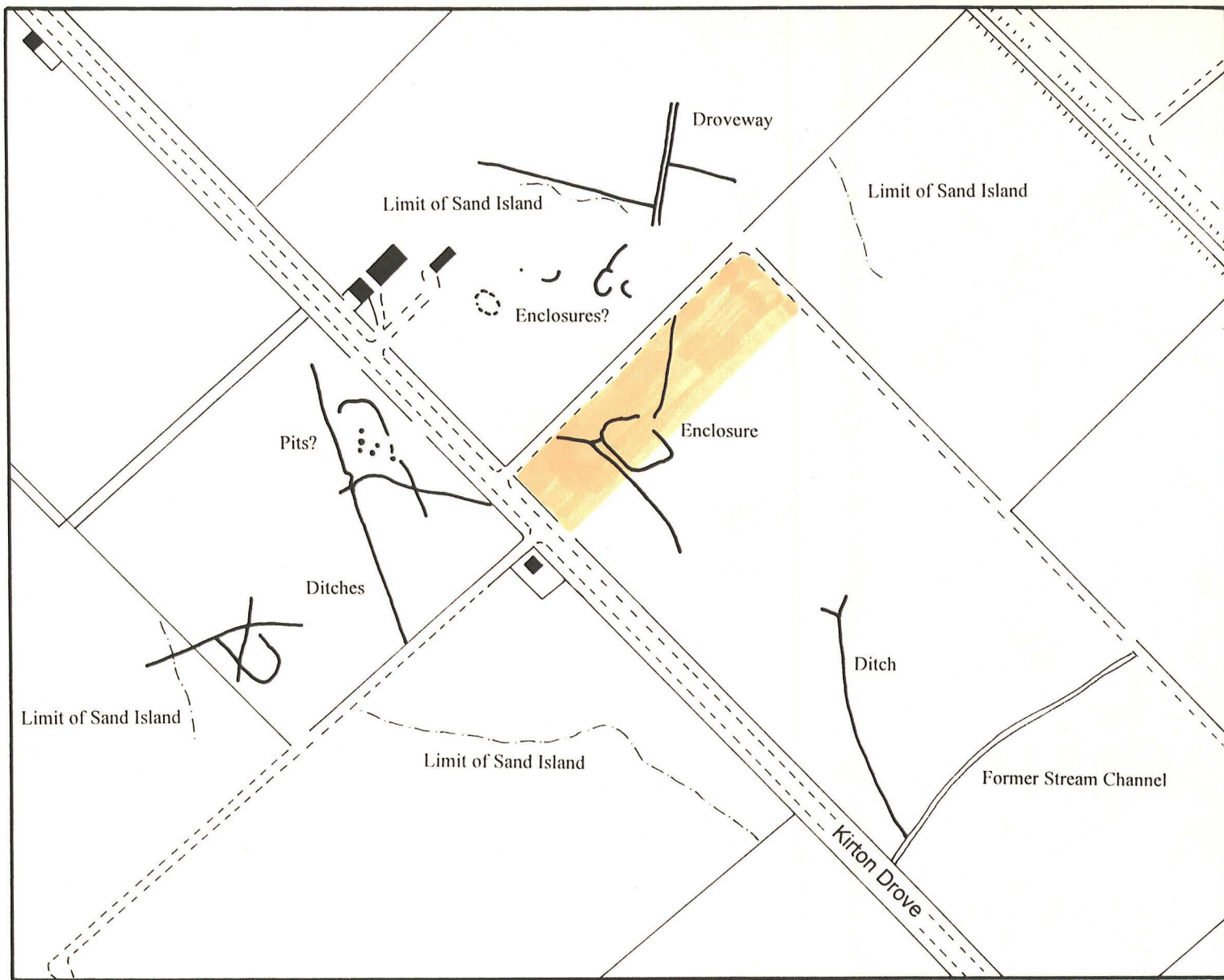




Fig. 5 Extract from Kingston's Holland Fen, 1867



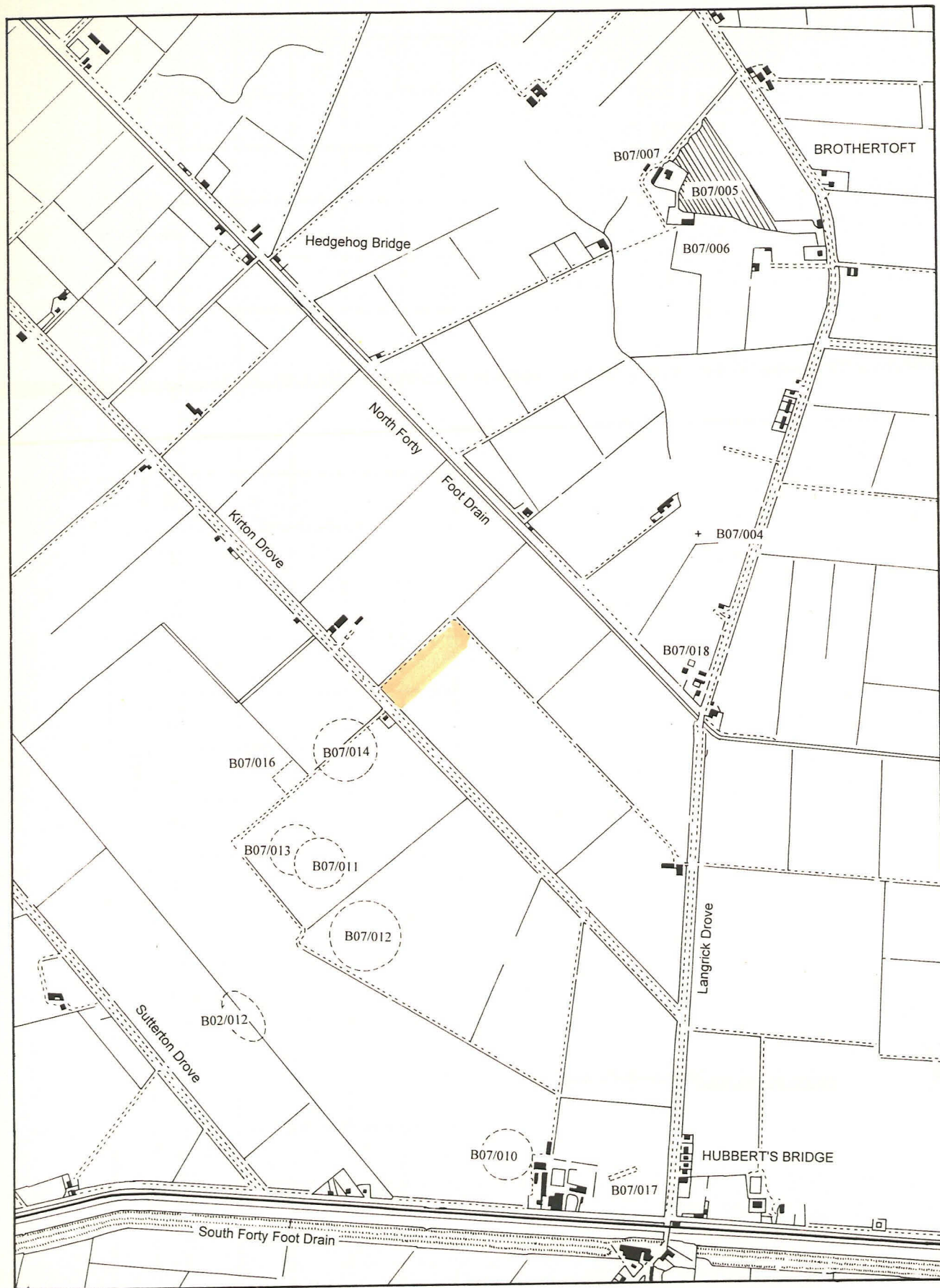


Area of Development

Fig. 6 Cropmarks in the Area of Investigation



Fig. 7 Archaeological Remains in the Area of Investigation



0



1km

N



Area of Development

Fig. 8 Location of Fieldwalking Grid

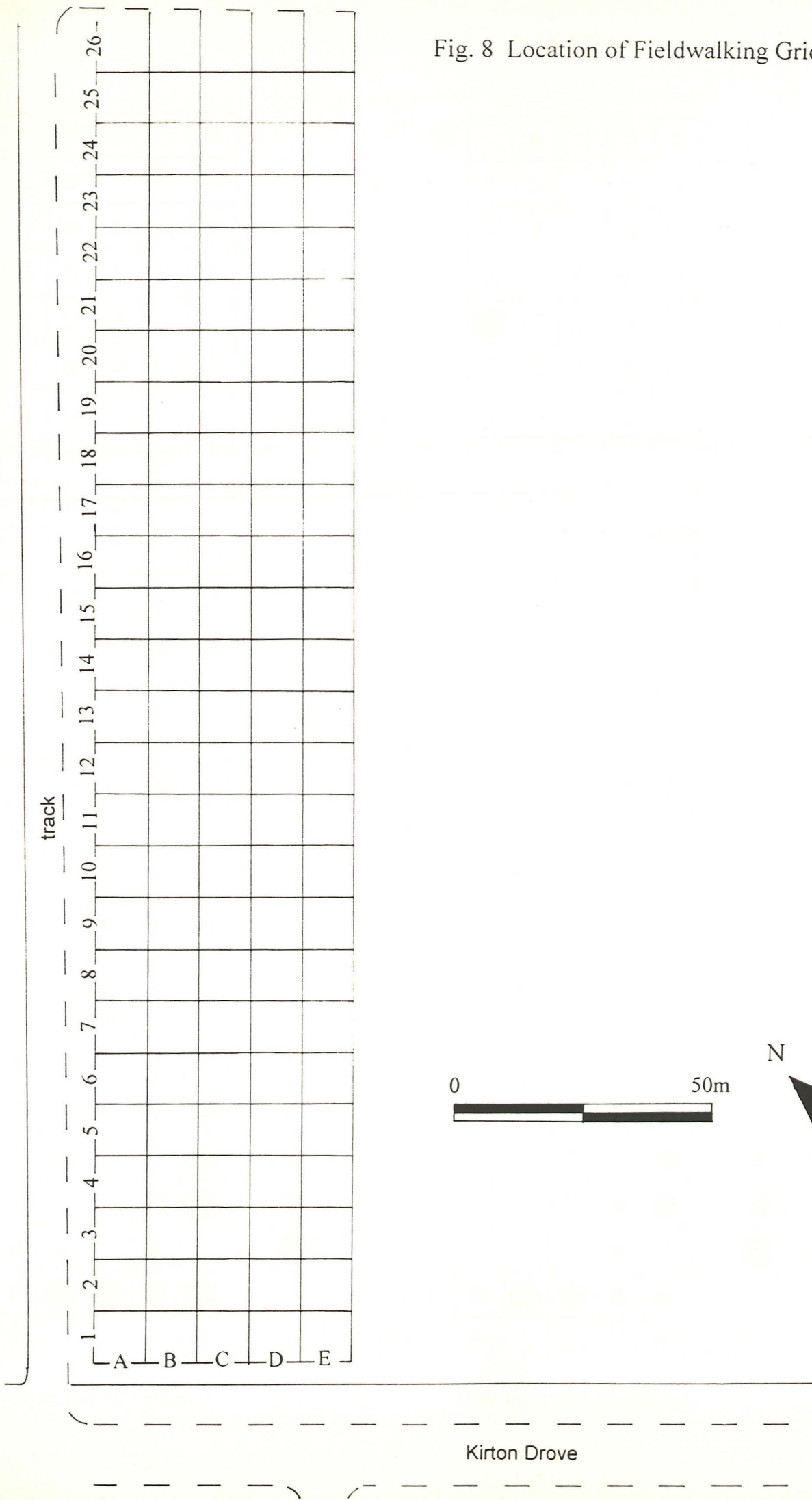






TABLE 1

Distribution of Roman Pottery

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25	.	.	.	.	G
24	G	.	.	.	.
23	.	.	.	.	.
22	.	.	.	.	.
21	S	.	.	.	.
20	.	.	.	.	.
19	.	.	.	.	.
18	.	.	.	.	.
17	CC	.	.	.	.
16	.	.	.	.	.
15	.	.	.	.	.
14	.	G	.	.	.
13	.	.	.	.	.
12	.	.	.	.	.
11	.	.	.	.	.
10	.	.	.	.	G
9	.	.	.	.	.
8	.	.	.	.	.
7	.	.	.	.	.
6	.	.	.	.	.
5	.	.	.	.	.
4	.	.	.	.	.
3	.	.	.	.	.
2	.	.	.	.	.
1	.	.	.	.	.
	A	B	C	D	E

G Greyware  
 CC Colour Coated  
 S Samian



TABLE 2

Distribution of Clay pipe

26	.	.	.	.	.
25	.	.	.	.	.
24	.	.	.	.	.
23	.	.	.	.	.
22	.	.	.	.	.
21	1	.	1	.	.
20	.	.	.	.	.
19	.	.	.	.	.
18	1	.	.	.	.
17	.	.	.	.	.
16	.	.	.	.	.
15	.	.	.	1	.
14	.	.	.	.	.
13	.	.	.	.	.
12	3	.	.	.	.
11	.	1	.	.	.
10	.	.	.	.	.
9	.	.	.	.	.
8	.	.	.	.	.
7	.	.	.	.	.
6	.	.	.	.	.
5	.	.	.	.	.
4	.	.	.	.	.
3	.	.	.	.	.
2	.	.	.	.	.
1	.	.	.	.	.
	A	B	C	D	E

## 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.