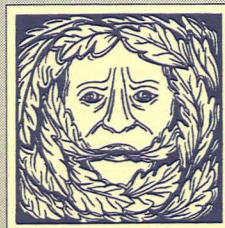


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL
IMPLICATIONS OF HEDGEROW REMOVAL AT
NEWARK ROAD AND BOUNDARY LANE,
SOUTH HYKEHAM,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

(SHN97) *and Thorpe on the Hill*



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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SERVICES

**Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section**

0 7. JUL 97

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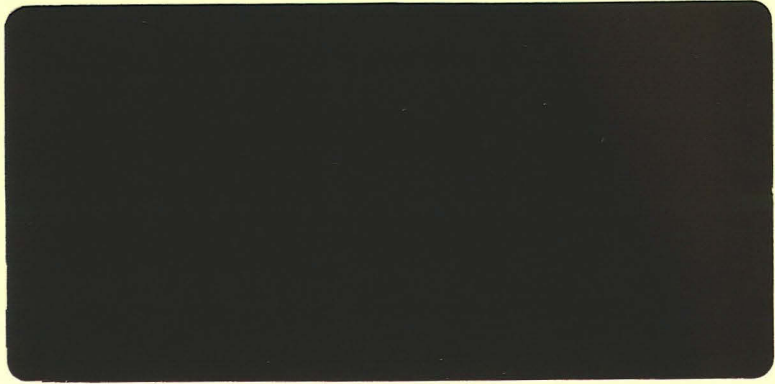
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NEWARK ROAD AND BOUNDARY LANE,
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Work Undertaken For
North Kesteven District Council

Report Compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner

July 1997

A.P.S. Report No: 27/97

1. INTRODUCTION

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by North Kesteven District Council to assess the archaeological and historical importance of hedgerows bordering Newark Road and Boundary Lane, South Hykeham, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The assessment was undertaken using the criteria established in the Hedgerow Regulations Act 1997 (Appendix 1) and in advance of proposed removal by the landowner. The site is centred on National Grid Reference SK 924 654.

2. METHODOLOGY

Compilation of the archaeological and historical data relevant to the areas described above involved examination of the primary and secondary sources available. These included;

- a) the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- b) historical documents, held in the Lincolnshire Archives Office (LAO)
- c) enclosure, tithe, parish and other maps and plans held in the Lincolnshire Archives Office
- d) published books and specialist reports

Information obtained from the above sources was supplemented by a site visit during which a visual assessment of the hedges was made and any archaeological data recorded.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SETTING

The field is situated at the northern end of the parish of Auburn, Haddington and South Hykeham. The northwestern boundary is adjacent to the A46 Newark Road, once the Fosse Way and an important Roman thoroughfare connecting Lincoln to Exeter (Margary 1973, 221). The hedgerow along the Fosse Way is not an element of the Roman road and is not recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record.

With the exception of the possible wood banks described below, no other known archaeological site or findspot is recorded from the field or within 500m.

The earliest map of this area is the Thorpe Enclosure Award plan dating from 1774 (LAO Kesteven Award 76). This demonstrates that the field at this time lay in the parish of Thorpe-on-the-Hill and its northeastern and southeastern edges formed the boundaries of the parish. Later maps indicate the field boundaries as being within South Hykeham parish.

4. SITE VISIT

A site visit was made on the 2nd July 1997 with the purpose of making a visual inspection

of the hedge and its environs in order to determine the presence/absence of any previously unrecorded archaeological or historical features. The hedge surrounding the field has been sub-divided below for easier reference.

Northwest Hedge - This hedge is mostly below the level of the adjacent Newark Road. There is a large ditch, up to 4m wide and 2m deep, on the north side of the hedge. The size of the ditch is probably in part due to the raised nature of the road. The easternmost half of the hedge is on a bank approximately 2m wide and 0.6m high. There is no bank in the western part of the hedge. There are few gaps and a single tree on the hedge line.

Northeast Hedge - The northern half of the hedge contains numerous trees but has many gaps, probably comprising 40% or more of the hedge length. The southern half of the hedge has fewer gaps, probably 25%, and no trees. The hedge has a parallel ditch *c.* 2m wide and 1m deep on its east side. The hedge at the southern end is on a slight bank about 1m wide and 0.3-0.5m high. There is no bank in the central and northern part of the boundary.

Southeast Hedge - The southern boundary is composed of a double hedge, each on slight banks, on either side of a ditch. This ditch is *c.* 2m wide and about 50-70cms deep and is dry. There is a single gap, apparently an access way, through both hedges, though the boundary is otherwise complete. In the southernmost 20m of the boundary the northern of the two hedges has several large gaps, though the parallel southern hedge is full. There appears to be numerous trees, or very large shrubs/bushes, in the southern hedge but very few in the northern.

Southwest Hedge - Alongside and immediately east of this hedge is a large wet ditch, *c.* 2-3m wide and about 1.5m deep. There is no bank. There are few gaps and only a single tree on the hedgeline.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological and Historical investigations undertaken in advance of proposed hedgerow removal in South Hykeham have indicated some significance for three of the four hedges.

The northwest hedgeline follows the south side of the A46 Trunk road. This road, the Fosse Way, originated in the mid 1st century AD as a Roman route linking Exeter and Lincoln (Frere 1974, 91). As such it is one of the country's major Roman roads. Major routes of the Roman period often delimit modern and ancient boundaries (for example, large extents of Ermine Street north of Lincoln serve as parish boundaries [Whitwell 1982, 372]). Indeed, the Fosse Way currently divides the parishes of Thorpe-on-the-Hill to the north and Aubourn, Haddington and South Hykeham.

However, a revision of parish boundaries has occurred some time within the past two centuries for the map accompanying the 1774 Enclosure Award for Thorpe-on-the-Hill indicates that the field south of the Fosse Way belonged then to Thorpe. At that time the parish boundary extended south along Boundary Lane before turning west along the southern edge of the field. The reason for the apparent encroachment of Thorpe into South Hykeham is unknown but the answer may lie in the use of the land in the late medieval period. The

presence of Danker Wood to the south of the field may indicate a once more extensive area of woodland in the vicinity. If so, Thorpe might have negotiated a claim to this economically important resource.

In addition to its significance as a former parish boundary, the southeastern hedge is notable as being of unusual character. It is composed of two separate parallel hedges set on banks. It is probable that these banks are remnant wood banks surrounding Danker Wood (Fig. 1). Such earthworks are common on nearly all woods over 100 years old (Rackham 1976, 115). The notable presence of trees or large shrubs/bushes in the southernmost hedge (and the comparative absence in the northern equivalent) fits with Rackham's (1986, 67) description of woodbanks as 'traditionally set with a hedge to keep out livestock and with pollard trees at intervals to define the legal boundary'. As specially constructed earthworks the banks could be classed as relevant archaeological features although they are not scheduled and, being previously unidentified, are not on the county Sites and Monuments Record.

The Enclosure map of 1774 for Thorpe-on-the-Hill depicts all four boundaries, although no indication is given as to whether these were hedges. It was usually stipulated at Enclosure that those receiving allotments of land were to have them hedged, fenced or walled within twelve months (Hoskins 1970, 199). No date is known for Danker Wood.

It is recommended that if there is any application to remove the southeast boundary (wood bank) then a hedgerow retention order should be served. It is considered that construction of an access through the northeastern hedge, from the Fosse Way, would not significantly compromise the hedgerow.

6. SUMMARY

The hedges surrounding the field at South Hykham relate to the five criteria listed on page 11 (Schedule 1 Part II) of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 thus:-

- 1 The northeast and southeast hedgerows -
do mark the boundary, or part of the boundary of at least one historic parish or township
- 2 The southeast hedgerow -
does incorporate an archaeological feature (the woodbanks), although these are not scheduled and nor do they appear on the Sites and Monuments Record.
- The northwest hedgerow -
The Roman road adjacent to the northwest hedge does appear on the Sites and Monuments Record but not the hedge itself.
- 3 The southeast hedgerow -
is not situated wholly or partly within an archaeological site although it **is** associated with features on the site (the woodbanks)
- 4 All hedgerows -
do not in current knowledge mark the boundary of a pre-1600 estate or manor or is visibly

related to such an estate or manor

5 All hedgerows -

are not part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts or are visibly related to any building or other feature associated with such a system

7. REFERENCES

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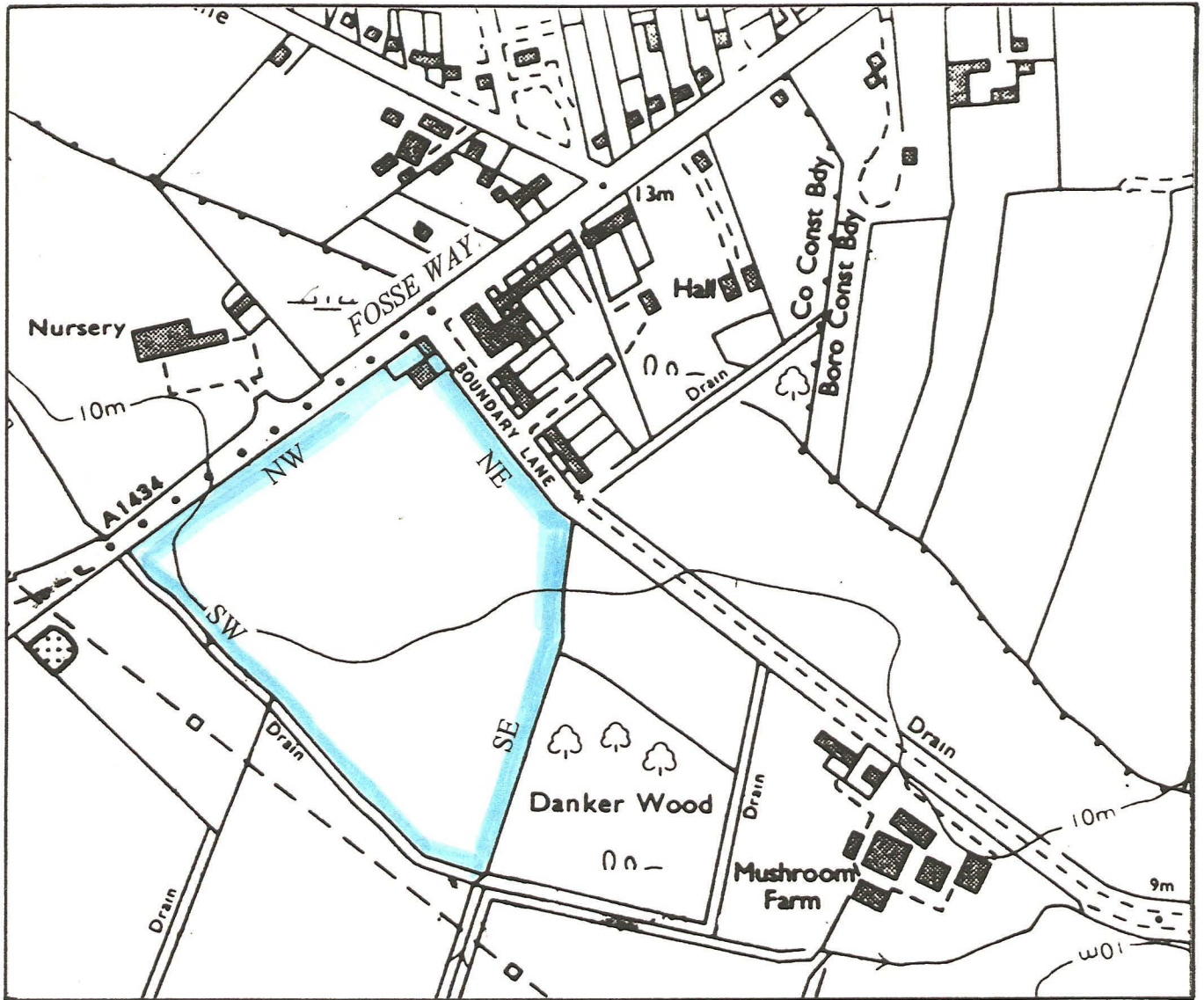
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Figure 1 - Site Location Plan

Appendix 1

EXTRACT FROM 'ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING "IMPORTANT" HEDGEROWS, Part II Criteria

1. The hedgerow marks the boundary, or part of the boundary, of at least one historic parish or township; and for this purpose "historic" means existing before 1850.
2. The hedgerow incorporates an archaeological feature which is-
 - (a) included in the schedule of monuments compiled by the secretary of State under section 1 (schedule of monuments) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979(g); or
 - (b) recorded at the relevant date in a Sites and Monuments Record.
3. The hedgerow-
 - (a) is situated wholly or partly within an archaeological site included or recorded as mentioned in paragraph 2 or on land adjacent to and associated with such a site; and
 - (b) is associated with any monument or feature on that site.
4. The hedgerow-
 - (a) marks the boundary of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor recorded at the relevant date in a Sites and Monuments Record or in a document held at that date at a Record Office; or
 - (b) is visibly related to any building or other feature of such an estate or manor.
5. The hedgerow-
 - (a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts(a); or
 - (b) is part of, or visibly related to, any building or other feature associated with such a system, and that system -
 - (i) is substantially complete; or
 - (ii) is of a pattern which is recorded in a document prepared before the relevant date by a local planning authority, within the meaning of the 1990 Act(b), for the purposes of development control within the authority's area, as a key landscape characteristic.