
LAND AT EVERTON CARR FARM,
DONCASTER,
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
OSA REPORT No: OSA20DT08(V3).

May 2020.

OSA

ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY LTD

25A Milton Street • York • North Yorkshire • YO10 3EP

telephone • 01904 411673 • fax • 01904 414522

e-mail • mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk

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Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA20DT08

SITE NAME: Everton Carr Farm, Doncaster

COUNTY: Nottinghamshire

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SK 6928 9370

COMMISSIONED BY: Native Chartered Architects

The Granary

Lingcroft Farm

Fulford

York

YO19 4RE

RESEARCH AND TEXT: Kate Langley

GRAPHICS: Kate Langley

TIMING: Research and Report preparation

April - May 2020

ENQUIRIES TO: Nick Pearson

On Site Archaeology

25A Milton Street

York

YO10 3EP

tel (01904) 411673

fax (01904) 414522

mobile (07767) 385766

e-mail mail@onsitearchaeology.co.uk

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1.0 Abstract.

This desk-based assessment was undertaken by On-Site Archaeology to assess the heritage significance of a plot of land at Everton Carr Farm to the north of the village of Everton, Nottinghamshire. The site was assessed using the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER), a map regression exercise, a site walkover, as well as other published and unpublished sources.

Assessing the below ground archaeological potential of the site is difficult to some extent due to the lack of archaeological investigations within the area. However, the available evidence suggests that the site lies within an area of prehistoric and Romano-British rural settlement. Cropmarks have been identified to the west of the site, and potentially extending onto the site itself, but not to the east. On the basis of form these cropmarks have been interpreted as evidence for Romano-British field systems, although to date they have not been tested through excavation. It is likely that the site lay beyond the limits of the medieval settlements of Misson and Everton, most likely within seasonally flooded water meadows.

There is no evidence to suggest that the site contains archaeological remains of such significance that would prevent development taking place. Any decision regarding the need for archaeological investigation in association with the proposed development lies with the local planning authority and their archaeological advisor.

2.0 Introduction.

This desk-based assessment has been undertaken by *On-Site Archaeology* on land at Everton Carr Farm (Figure 1) to provide background information to support a planning application for development of the site.

The historical and archaeological significance of the study area was assessed using a variety of sources, including a site walkover, cartographic evidence, information provided by the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and published archaeological and historical documents.

3.0 Methodology.

The historical and archaeological significance of the site was assessed using a variety of sources. These include cartographic evidence, records held at the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record (HER) office, the online archaeological and historical catalogues held by The Archaeological Data Service and English Heritage and published archaeological and historical reports. The assistance of the staff at these archives is greatly appreciated.

Archaeological and historical data has been collected over an area extending for a distance of approximately 1000m from the centre of the site. The locations of the collected data points are indicated on Figure 2.

A site visit was undertaken to enhance the understanding of the modern landuse of the site, especially with regards to its effect upon the archaeological record. A photographic record was made of the site and the surrounding area during this site visit, especially with regards to designated heritage assets; a selection of these photographs is used to illustrate this report (see Plates 1-7).

Site research notes are currently stored with On Site Archaeology.

4.0. Site Location, Landuse and Geology.

The site considered by this report is located at Everton Carr Farm to the north of the village of Everton, Nottinghamshire. The site was bounded by Clay Bank Lane to the west, Black Bank to the north and agricultural fields to the east and south. The site is centred at National Grid Reference SK 6928 9370.

The site largely comprises short-cropped grass pasture (Plates 1-4). There is also an area of planting beds and poly-tunnels (Plate 5). There are several farm buildings (Plate 7), a concreted area and a wind turbine (Plate 6).

The bedrock geology comprises sandstone and pebbly gravel (Chester Formation). The superficial deposits consist of sand and gravel (River Terrace Deposits) in the northwestern part of the site; clay, silt, sand and gravel alluvium in the southern part of the site; and peat in the eastern part of the site. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>).



Figure 1. Site location (NGR SK 6928 9370)

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5.0 Gazetteer of Sites and Artefacts.

The following sections list the sites and artefacts of archaeological or historical potential that are recorded in the various sources consulted. This includes the data provided by Nottinghamshire HER found within the 1000m search area and relevant designated heritage assets in the vicinity of the site. In addition some selected sites and monuments, located beyond the limits of the 1000m search area have been included and incorporated into the period based summaries presented in section 6 below, where these may enhance understanding of the archaeological potential of the site. Where possible the relevant Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record number is given, together with other bibliographic references where used. The locations of the recorded sites are plotted on Figure 2. The first section deals with designated heritage assets (Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields, Registered Parks and Gardens, and Listed Buildings), whilst the final section includes non-designated assets included within the Nottinghamshire County Council Historic Environment Record.

Scheduled Monuments, Registered Battlefields and Registered Parks & Gardens.

No Scheduled Monuments are located within the 1000m search area. The closest comprise a moated site and fishpond east of the village of Misson 1.25km to the north of the site (List Entry 1008629 and Mattersey Priory Gilbertine monastery 4.2km to the southeast (List Entry 1012495). There are no Registered Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens within the search area.

Listed Buildings.

There are no Listed Buildings within the search area. The nearest Listed Buildings are located in the village of Misson to the north of the site across the River Idle.

Non-Designated Assets in Nottinghamshire HER

The following section includes data on events and monuments obtained through a 1000m search of the Nottinghamshire Historic Environment Record and includes the HER Record Number. Additionally, a single monument recorded in the English Heritage Pastscape database has been included which was not in the data obtained from the HER. The locations of these data points are shown on Figure 3.

Monuments

1 Mesolithic and Neolithic flints from south of Slaynes Lane, Misson (NHER MNT11907/L12034) and Medieval pottery from south of Slaynes Lane, Misson (NHER MNT11906/L12033).

MNT11907: 140 pieces of struck flint (from the entire fieldwalking area - includes L10235) that included 18 retouched pieces and 5 utilised. Tools such as knives, piercers, notched blades serrated edge flakes and saws were recovered. The main cluster, 1 (55 pieces) is early to middle Neolithic in date. Cluster 2 contains 18 pieces and is predominantly of Mesolithic

origin. The remainder of the assemblage is predominantly of later Neolithic character. Grid ref centred on Clusters 1 and 2. General scatter extends around this area and to the NE. See L12035 for later Mes - early Neo Cluster 3 to the SW. See L12032 for Rom pottery, L12033 for medieval pottery, L10236 for Mes flints N of Slaynes Lane.

MNT11906: Fieldwalking - Few sherds were recovered and were spread across 14 of the blocks, predominantly over the sand ridge. Med fabrics appear to be of local production. General characteristics of fabric and glaze suggest that no material earlier than C14 was present. Grid reference for N part of ridge. General scatter continues for c.700m to SW. See L12032 for Ro pottery, L12034,5 for flint scatters, L12023 for pit features.

2 *Bronze axe, River Idle at Misson (NHER MNT5517/L5577)/ Casual Find by the River Idle at Misson (NHER ENT 2778).*

A flanged bronze axe found by the River Idle at Misson, now in Doncaster Museum. On exhibition - as above - no further information. A bronze looped palstave, 6.25in long, 2.5in wide, with a weight of 12.5oz, was found on the bank of the River Idle at Misson in 1864 (probably the above axe). Grid ref approx - not drawn on map. See also L 5074, may be the same find.

3 *Roman pottery near River Idle on Everton Carrs, Misson (NHER MNT5019/L5076)/ Casual Find near River Idle on Everton Carrs, Misson (NHER ENT1957).*

8 sherds of Ro pottery were found on Everton Carrs, on the E bank of the R Idle where the river turns N level with Everton Carrs Farm. The sherds came from a black peaty deposit 1ft 4in below the ground surface, and associated with a layer of pebbles 15ft wide. Mr March found the above sherds during the erection of a telephone pole. The material was passed to NUM, the year of find "c 1962". The pole has now been dropped but Mr March thinks the indicated site "about right". NB grid ref falls on west bank.

4 *Linear features and enclosures at Everton (NHER MNT10622/L10740).*

Morph: 101.10.1 enclosure, 101.10.2 enclosure, 101.11.1 field boundary. From National Mapping Programme.

5 *Linear feature at Everton (NHER MNT10623/L10741).*

Morph: 101.9.1 ditch. From National Mapping Programme.

6 *Linear features, Everton (NHER MNT5016/L5073).*

Dispersed linear features, possibly associated with nearby cropmarks (1). Morph: 101.5.1 Roman field system, 101.5.10, part of group: Roman settlement. 101.6.1 Roman stock enclosure, 101.7.1& 101.8.1 unknown trackway. From National Mapping Programme.

7 Cropmark – Everton Carr Farm (Pastscape No. 1375965)

A linear feature of unknown date can be seen as a cropmark on air photography. (Entry not included within HER data)

Events

8 *Archaeological recording and recording at Newington Quarry, Near Bawtry, Nottinghamshire (NHER ENT4545), Dendrochronological sampling of timber (NHER ENT4546), Shallow undated pit (NHER MNT27238) and 3 linear ditches and 4 undated pits (MNT27237).*

ENT4545: Archaeology monitoring of phases 1-4 of the Newington South Quarry area between 2011 and 2014 by PCA. The stripping revealed a number of linear ditches, undated pits, and preserved timber (which was sent off for dendochronological dating).

ENT4546: Dendrochronological sampling of timber recovered during stripping of land ahead of excavation at Newington South Quarry. A total of 75 natural timbers were selected from the first three phases of monitoring, which were sub-selected to 25 samples. A further five were retained during phase 4 monitoring.

MNT27238: These features are briefly discussed in preliminary report, and precise location is not outlined.

MNT27237: Three linear ditches probably associated with the enclosure period drainage and land division of the area. Two small undated pits had charcoal-rich fills, and two contained head-affected pebbles. These features are briefly discussed in preliminary report, and precise location is not outlined.

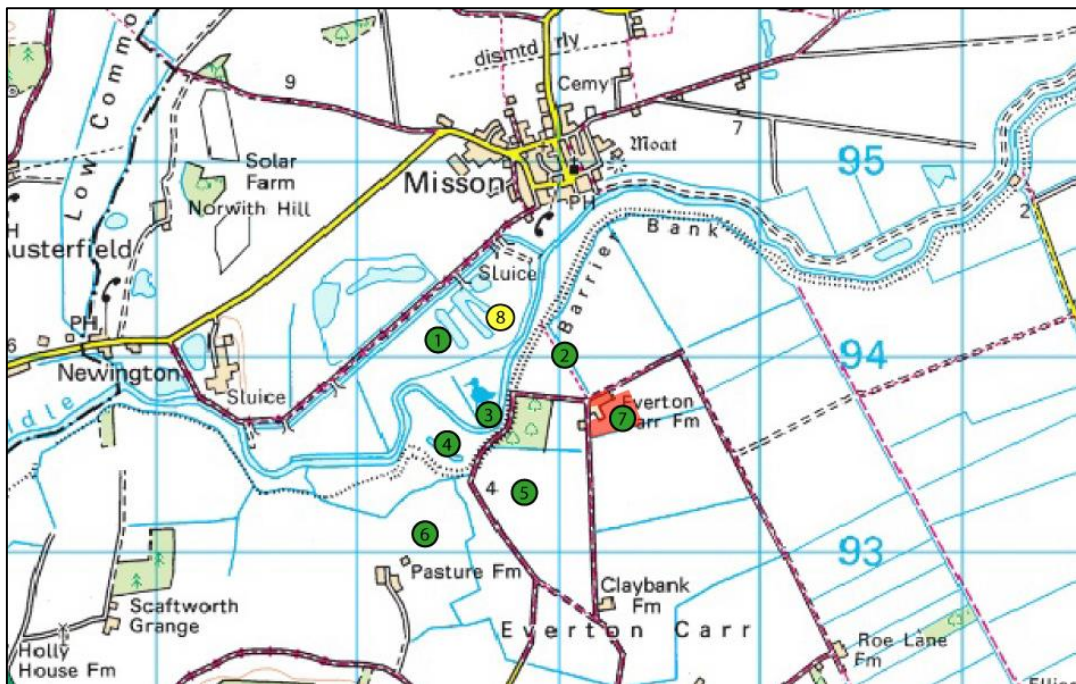


Figure 2. Locations of non-designated monuments and events from Nottinghamshire HER (site in red; monuments in green; events in yellow).

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6.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.

6.1 *The Prehistoric Period (to the 1st Century AD).*

Evidence of archaeological activity from this period within the search area comes from a number of flint finds recovered from a site to the west, across the River Idle, of the study site (1). Various tools and implements were found, as well as retouched flints dated to the Mesolithic through to the Neolithic periods. On the same site during quarry excavations a number of undated pits were found (8). It may be that these also were part of wider prehistoric activity within this area. A find spot of a Bronze Age bronze axe was found within the study area to the northwest of the current site.

6.2 *The Roman Period (1st to the 5th centuries AD).*

Only a single find spot of 8 sherds of Roman pottery were found in the 1960's near the river (3).

Four sets of cropmarks have been identified within the search area. Three to the southwest of the site (4, 5 + 6) and one within the current site (7). These consist of linear cropmarks (5, 6 + 7) and one that suggests probable enclosures (4). Typologically such features are generally attributed to the Iron Age and/or Romano-British periods. It is difficult to be certain about the date of such cropmarks without detailed excavation. The other major difficulty in assigning a single date to such sites is that there is often a tendency for pre-Roman conquest sites to continue into the post-conquest period. Trackway and enclosure cropmarks are a frequent occurrence within lowland England, which has been shown to have been extensively farmed during the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods (see RCHME 1999 for examples within the Trent Valley). However, they do not provide a definitive guide to the distribution of such sites. Variable soil and geological conditions, vegetational cover and landuse can all contribute to cropmark visibility. The absence of cropmark evidence cannot be taken as an indication of the absence of similar sites, which have, as yet not been recognised.

6.3 *Early Medieval periods (5th to 11th centuries AD).*

There are no examples of sites, artefacts or monuments of this date within the search area. Place-name evidence points to early medieval settlement in the area as both Everton and Misson contain pre-Conquest elements in their names. Everton may have had its origins in Anglo-Scandinavian period being called 'Eofer-tun'. The name of Misson may have come from the Old English 'mos' meaning march or bog or old Norse of 'mysim' a water plant.

6.4 *The Medieval Period (11th to the mid-16th centuries AD).*

Both Misson and Everton are named in the Domesday Survey of 1086. Misson referred to as 'Misna' or 'Misne', was held in 1086, by King William and Everton referred to as 'Evretone', was held by the Archbishop of York.

The only entry from this period within the search area refer to a number of sherds of medieval pottery that were found during fieldwalking (1). Not within the search area but 1.25km to the north of the study site on the east side of the village of Misson is a trapezoidal moated site and a single filled-in fishpond.

The site considered by this assessment lies part way between the two medieval villages. This area is likely to have formed undeveloped land at the periphery of the two parishes. The proximity of the site to the river suggests that it would most likely have been used as meadows, subject to seasonal flooding, rather than for arable cultivation.

6.5 The Post-Medieval to Modern Periods (mid 16th to 21st centuries).

The only evidence from this period within the search area were a number of undated boundary ditches that have been assumed to be from this period (8). These ditches were found during investigations at Newington Quarry and appeared to represent boundary ditches associated with the enclosure period land division and drainage of the area.

Cartographic sources also indicate that the site has remained agricultural land through the later 19th and 20th centuries to the present day.

7.0 Cartographic Evidence.

The earliest maps available for the county give no useful detail for the historical development of the site. An early source of one particular aspect of the local topography is provided by the 1770 map of the Chesterfield Canal (Figure 3). This shows the villages of Misson and Everton and the River Idle. There is no detail of the area around the site (approximate location – red dot).

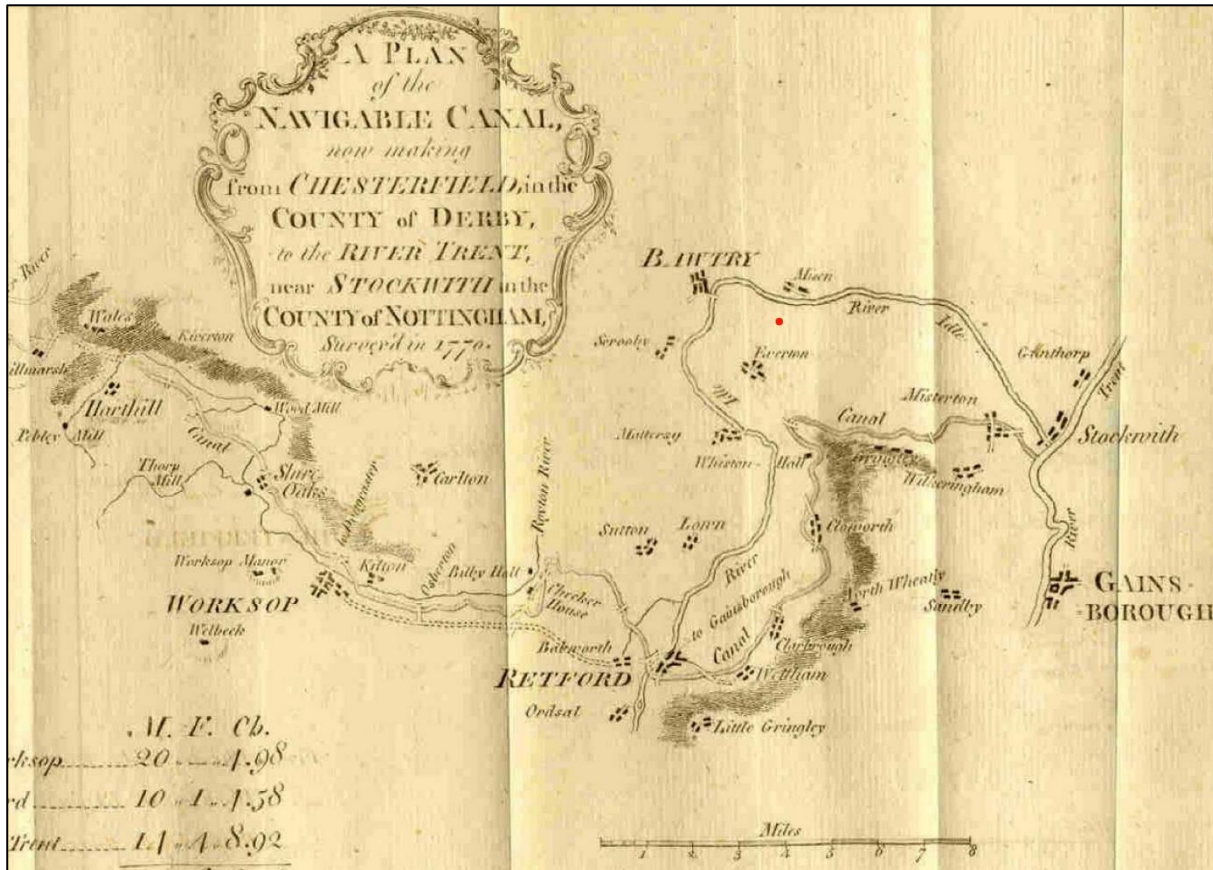


Figure 3. Extract from the 1770 map of the Chesterfield Canal (approximate site location=red dot).

John Cary's map published in 1805 (Figure 4) again shows the villages of Misson and Everton. The location of the site (red dot on map) is located in the area referred to as 'The Car' on this map.

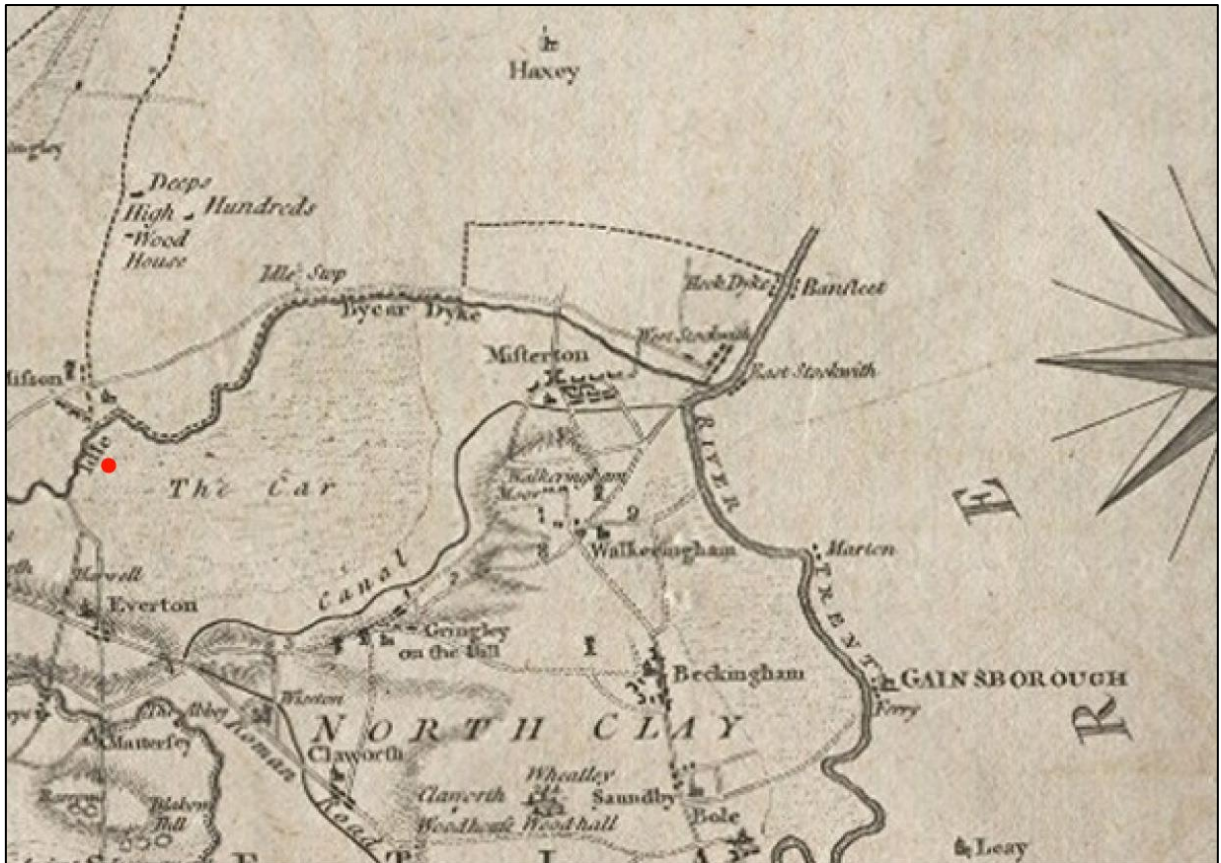


Figure 4. Extract from John Cary's 1805 Map of Nottinghamshire (approximate site location=red dot).

The first edition OS map of 1885 (Figure 5) gives much more detail of the area surrounding the current site. Everton Carr Farm is labelled on the map and the current site sits within a single field. Clearly this area was being heavily farmed during the second half of the 19th century. The OS maps from 1900, 1922 and 1950 (Figure 6) show very little, if any, change to the site or its surroundings during the next 100 years. It remains agricultural land with the continued presence of Everton Carr Farm.

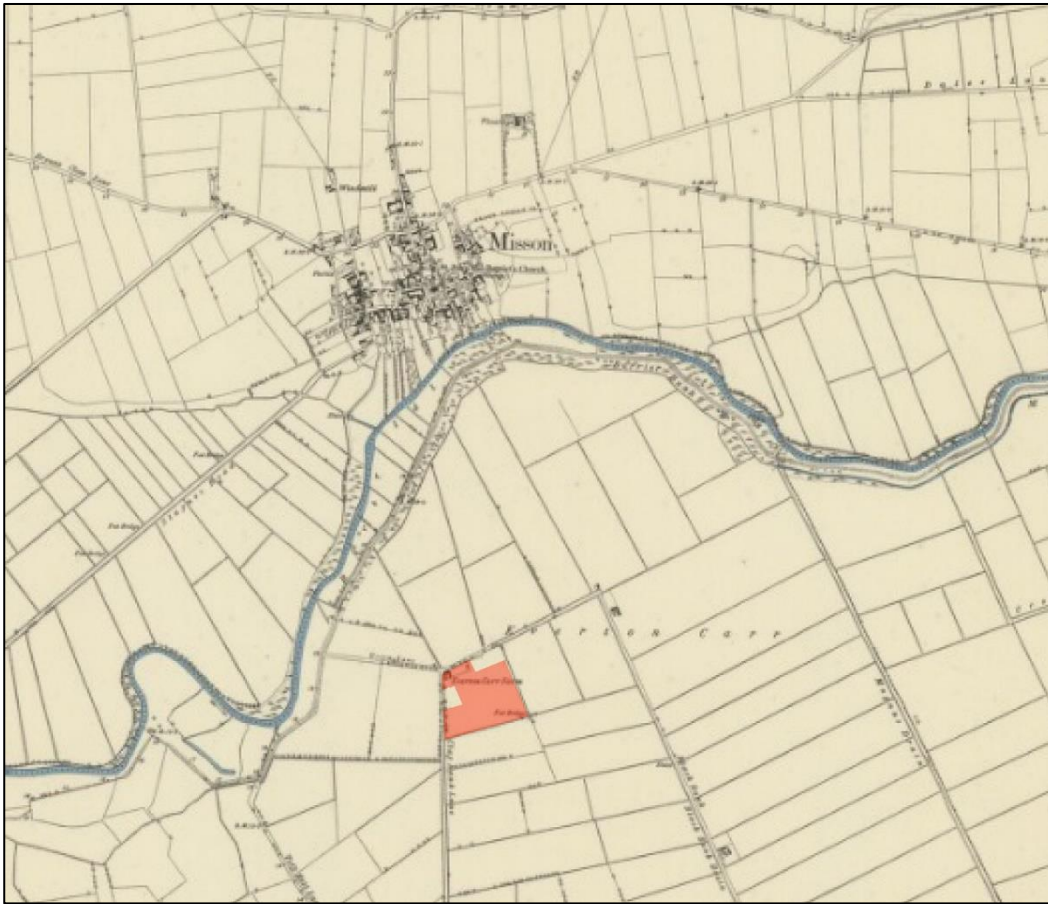


Figure 5. Extract from the 1885 Ordnance survey map (site location in red).

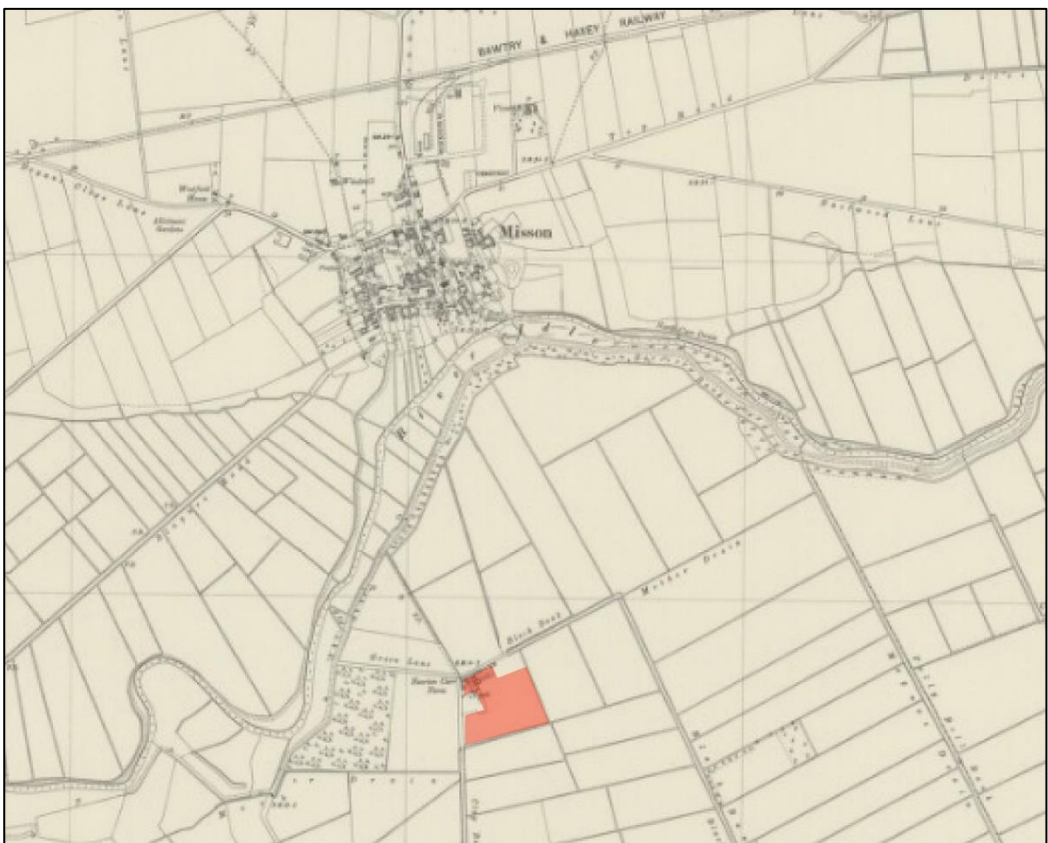


Figure 6. Extract from the 1950 Ordnance survey map (site location in red).

8.0 Discussion, Assessment of Significance and Impact Assessment.

No designated heritage assets are located within the 1000m search area. The proposed development is unlikely to impact the setting of any of the designated assets that are located at a greater distance from the site.

Assessing the below ground archaeological potential of the site is difficult to some extent due to the lack of archaeological investigations within the area.

However, the available evidence suggests that the site lies within an area of prehistoric and Romano-British rural settlement. Cropmarks have been identified to the west of the site, and potentially extending onto the site itself, but not to the east. On the basis of form these cropmarks have been interpreted as evidence for Romano-British field systems, although to date they have not been tested through excavation. The differential distribution of cropmarks may be the result of a number of factors. The concentration of cropmarks to the west of the site may indicate a clear focus of Romano-British settlement and agricultural activity, suggesting that the site lies towards the periphery of this complex. However, the absence of cropmarks may also be due to differences in more recent agricultural land use. Different crops are either more or less amenable to the identification of cropmarks. The relatively low-lying nature of the area (in places at less than 2m AOD) may also have an impact upon the legibility of cropmarks, as areas of alluvium and post-Roman peat formation may have obscured earlier remains.

It is likely that the site lay beyond the limits of the medieval settlements of Misson and Everton, most likely within seasonally flooded water meadows. Below ground archaeological remains are therefore likely to be very limited, with the possibility that occasional field boundaries or drainage ditches dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods may be present.

Any decision regarding the need for archaeological investigation on the site lies with the Local Planning Authority and their archaeological advisors.

9.0 Bibliography

- A. Lane, R. D. Savage and S. A. Savage, 2014, Newington Quarry, near Bawtry, Nottinghamshire. Progress Summary for a Scheme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.
- RCHME (1999). The Nottinghamshire Mapping Project. A report for the National Mapping Programme.

10.0 The Plates.



Plate 1. View of site from site entrance showing area of proposed swimming pool, looking south.



Plate 2. View of site showing area of proposed swimming pool, looking northeast.



Plate 3. View of northeastern part of site, looking northeast.



Plate 4. View of southeastern part of site, looking southeast.



Plate 5. View of plant beds and polytunnels in southeastern part of site, looking south.



Plate 6. View of wind turbine located in the central-eastern part of the site, looking east.



Plate 7. View of farm buildings on site, looking northwest.