

Received 21/01/04
NYC 3403 : wbt 8/42/162/PA

NYE 1667
NYS 8596.

NYCC HER	
SNY	8596
ENY	1667
CNY	3403
Parish	8042
Rec'd	21/01/2004

**Whitley Farm
Doncaster Road
Whitley
North Yorkshire**

SE 5605 2205

**Proposed Residential Development
Desk Based Assessment**

**MAP
July 2003**

Whitley Farm
Doncaster Road
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Summary

MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd has assessed the archaeological and historical background of the proposed development area. Existing records have been searched to predict the nature of the archaeological resource in the area around Whitley Farm, Doncaster Road, Whitley.

The Proposed Development Site lies on the northern edge of the village and has been a farm with associated out buildings for at least the past 300 years. From available historical and archaeological information it seems unlikely that redevelopment of the site will require further evaluation.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Desk Based Assessment has been commissioned by Persimmon Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd to assess an area for a proposed housing development situated at Whitley Farm, Doncaster Road, Whitley, North Yorkshire (SE 5605 2205: Fig. 1 : Pis. 1-8).
- 1.2 Archaeological remains are protected by means of Statutory Instruments (including Scheduled Ancient Monument legislation) and by the Selby Local Development Plan.
- 1.3 The Secretary of State's Policy on Archaeological remains, Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG 16), describes them as '*a finite and non-renewable resource, in many cases highly fragile and vulnerable to damage and destruction*' (PPG 16, 1990).
- 1.4 The purpose of desk-based assessments is to determine, from existing records, the nature of the archaeological resource within the proposed development area. All methods and practices utilised comply with the *IFA* Code of Conduct.
- 1.5 This report was funded by Persimmon Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd.

1.6 All maps within this report have been produced from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. License No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

2.1 The proposed development area is currently a working farm (Fig. 2 : Pis. 1 – 8). The site consists of the farm house (Pis. 1-3), a range of farm buildings (Pis. 2-8) constructed of brick, concrete and glass with a small area of open land to the east of the buildings.

2.2 The site is sub rectangular in shape measuring 225m x 150m and stands at an elevation of approximately 25m AOD.

2.3 The site is bordered in the north by a mature hawthorn hedgerow separating the site from recent residential development, in the west by a series of mature trees running parallel to the A19 Selby to Doncaster Road, and areas of open farm land to the east and south.

2.4 The village of Whitley actually stands on two different soil associations (Figure 3), Foggathorpe 1 over a solid geology of glaciolustrine drift and till and Newport 1 over glaciofluvial drift (Mackney et al, 1972).

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1 The objective of the report is to give a brief outline of the archaeological and historical background of the development site including:-

- Archaeological Background including spot finds, previous archaeological work, sites on the Sites and Monuments and National Archaeological Records, and listed buildings;
- Historical Background of the village from Domesday to the Twentieth century, including ownership, Estate maps and Ordnance Survey maps.
- Summary of archaeological potential of the general area around the proposed development site;
- To provide recommendations for further work.

4. Methodology

4.1 The historical and archaeological background of Whitley has been gathered from a variety of sources including The Heritage Unit of North Yorkshire County Council,

the West Yorkshire Archives – Wakefield, North Yorkshire Archives – Northallerton, South Yorkshire Archives – Doncaster, and the Borthwick Institute for Historical Research at the University of York. Surviving documents, cartographic evidence, the Sites and Monument records, aerial photographs and previously published work were consulted.

5. Historical Background

- 5.1 The village of Whitley is mentioned in Domesday where it is recorded as ‘Whitelaie’ (Faull & Stinson 1986 · SMR ref : NYM9834).
- 5.2 The manor of Whitley was given over to the Knights Templars in the mid 13th century and a grange was held by the Templars in Whitley Manor prior to 1248. The Templars were a military monastic order established to protect pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem. Pope Clement V and Philip IV of France imprisoned all members of the order in 1308 for heresy and idolatry. No evidence was brought forward to confirm the charges and they were released, but the Order was suppressed by papal decree in 1312.
- 5.3 Documentary sources record a preceptor, one Robert de Langton (leader of the house) at Whitley in 1308 when the manor was also valued at £130. With the suppression of the Order in 1312 many of the Templar sites became the property of a rival order, the Knights Hospitallers, but this does not appear to be the case at Whitley Thorpe and the site subsequently fell into disuse. A Hospitallers report of 1338 describes the site as a messuage (i.e. a dwelling house).
- 5.4 The village of Whitley has a very quiet history. Composed of a few houses and farms aligned along the main road from Doncaster to Selby it was a agricultural village, which also benefited from passing commercial traffic.
- 5.5 The church of All Saints (SMR ref ; NYM9836), a late 19th century construction stands to the north-west of the site.
- 5.6 Cartographic evidence (see below) clearly illustrates how the village and Whitley Farm have remained little changed until the introduction of new residential developments.

5.7 Cartographic Evidence

- 5.7.1 Jeffreys map for this part of Yorkshire dated 1772 (not illustrated) shows the village as horse shoe-shaped curving around Camoline Hill. The scale is very small but it is just possible to make out Whitley Farm.
- 5.7.2 Whitley is currently in the county of North Yorkshire but it is very close to the South Yorkshire border and was prior to 1972 part of the West Riding of Yorkshire. As a result of these government boundary changes maps relating to Whitley are not that easy to access. There is no Tithe Award available for the village and no Enclosure Award map survives.
- 5.7.3 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 4) shows a rectangular farmhouse with a northern extension and further structures at the north and north-east of the site. A wooded area is depicted along the south-western boundary. A footpath is shown running along the southern boundary of the site and extending out in to the fields to the east. A small square structure is shown in the south-eastern corner of the proposed development site..
- 5.7.4 The 1895 Ordnance Survey Edition map (Fig. 5) shows a re-organisation of the south-western corner of the site and the appearance of a small rectangular enclosure in the south-eastern corner which replaces the structure shown on the 1850 map. Further small square/rectangular buildings are shown to the north of the farmhouse. The building to the north of the farmhouse shown previously is now more regular in shape suggesting reconstruction and there is an extension to this building to the south-east.
- 5.7.5 By 1907 (Fig. 6) the complex of buildings immediately to the north of the farmhouse has been enlarged and a new build is shown to the north of this range. There is little change to the land blocks immediately to the north, south and east of the site.
- 5.7.6 The only documented cartographic change to the site layout by 1956 is the addition of a long rectangular unit along the northern boundary of the site (Fig. 7 : Pis. 4 & 6).
- 5.7.7 The 1972 Ordnance Survey data (Fig. 8) shows a number of alterations to the building east of the farm and the addition of a square unit in the north-eastern corner of the site (Pl. 8).
- 5.7.8 The current site layout (Fig. 2) shows the redefinition of the farm buildings to the east of the farm (Pl. 2) and a new single rectangular unit – a portakabin (Pl. 2). Two small

square units have been built in the north of the site with a small rectangular structure to their south (Pl. 7).

6. Archaeological Background

6.1 The development site lies on the northern edge of the village.

6.2 No archaeological evaluation has been undertaken within Whitley, and although aerial photographs exist for the village and surrounding area there is no current evidence for any cropmark features immediately adjacent to the village.

6.3 The only site of note is situated to the south-west of the village at Whitley Thorpe (1.4 km to the south-west of Whitley Farn : Fig. 9) where the remains of the Knights Templars Grange survives as an earthwork (SAM 30111). This small moated site has a well defined platform encircled by a ditch with access via a causeway and associated earthworks relating to a series of fish ponds (Le Patourel 1973).

7. Assessment of Impact on Archaeological Remains

7.1 The potential for the preservation of archaeological, palaeo-environmental and geoarchaeological remains is considered below as set out by the Secretary of States criteria for the Scheduling of Sites in Annex 4 of Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG 16) issued by the Department of the Environment. An indication of importance is also given. The categories used are explained in Appendix 1.

7.2 Period

7.2.1 The village of Whitley is recorded in Domesday and the farm appears to be Post-medieval in date.

7.3 Rarity

7.3.1 No archaeological remains have been recorded on the site nor within the village.

7.4 Group Value

7.4.1 There are a number of farms of similar type within the village.

7.5 Documentation

7.5.1 Archaeological crop marks and features are noted on the County Sites and Monuments Records but these are some distance from the site. There is limited cartographic information for the village

7.6. **Survival/Condition**

7.6.1 The survival of archaeological remains, if present, may have been effected by centuries of agricultural activity in the farm yard.

7.7 **Fragility/Vulnerability**

7.7.1 Any features within the proposed development area have the potential to be destroyed.

7.8 **Diversity**

7.8.1 Diversity of remains is low.

7.9 **Potential**

7.9.1 The scale, extent and importance of archaeological features are currently assessed as low.

8. **Discussion**

8.1 The map regression has shown that the site has been used as an agricultural holding since the 18th century. Land to the north and south has been open farm land until relatively recently.

8.2 No archaeological work has been undertaken in the immediate vicinity of the site and although the village is mentioned in **Domesday** the following history of Whitley is very quiet.

8.3 Proposed residential development of the site and associated ground disturbance has the possibility of revealing archaeological features, however there is no evidence to suggest that the site is archaeologically sensitive, this may be accounted for by the nature of the subsoils and the quiet history of the village. Thus it is considered that no further archaeological work at the site is required.

9. Bibliography

9.1 Primary Sources

Heritage Unit, North Yorkshire County Council : Sites and Monuments Record

West Yorkshire Archives : Wakefield

South Yorkshire Archives : Doncaster

West Yorkshire Archives : Wakefield

Ordnance Survey Maps

1850 Sheet 250. NE (First Edition) Scale 6 inch to 1 mile

1895 Sheet 250 NE. Scale 6 inch to 1 mile

1907 Sheet CLXXIV.6 Scale 6 inch to 1 mile

1956 Sheet 52 SE Scale 1:10560

1972 Sheet 52 SE Scale 1:10000

9.2 Secondary Sources

Jeffreys 1772 Map of Yorkshire

Faull M. & Stinson M 1986 Domesday Book of Yorkshire

Le Patourel H. E. 1973 The Moated Sites of Yorkshire.

Makney et al, 1972 Soil Survey of England and Wales.

APPENDIX 1

Criteria for the Assessment of Archaeological Sites

Period: All types of monument that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation, in order that a representative sample may be preserved for posterity.

Rarity: There are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which still 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 a regional context.

Documentation: The significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigations or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.

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 and 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 protect isolated monuments within the group.

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.

Fragility/Vulnerability: Highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or by other unsympathetic treatment, and such monuments would particularly benefit from the protection which scheduling confers.

Diversity: Some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, rather than a single important attribute: for example, a Roman town with associated field systems.

Potential: The nature of evidence cannot always be specified precisely, but it may be possible to demonstrate the potential value of a monument as a result of evaluation work.

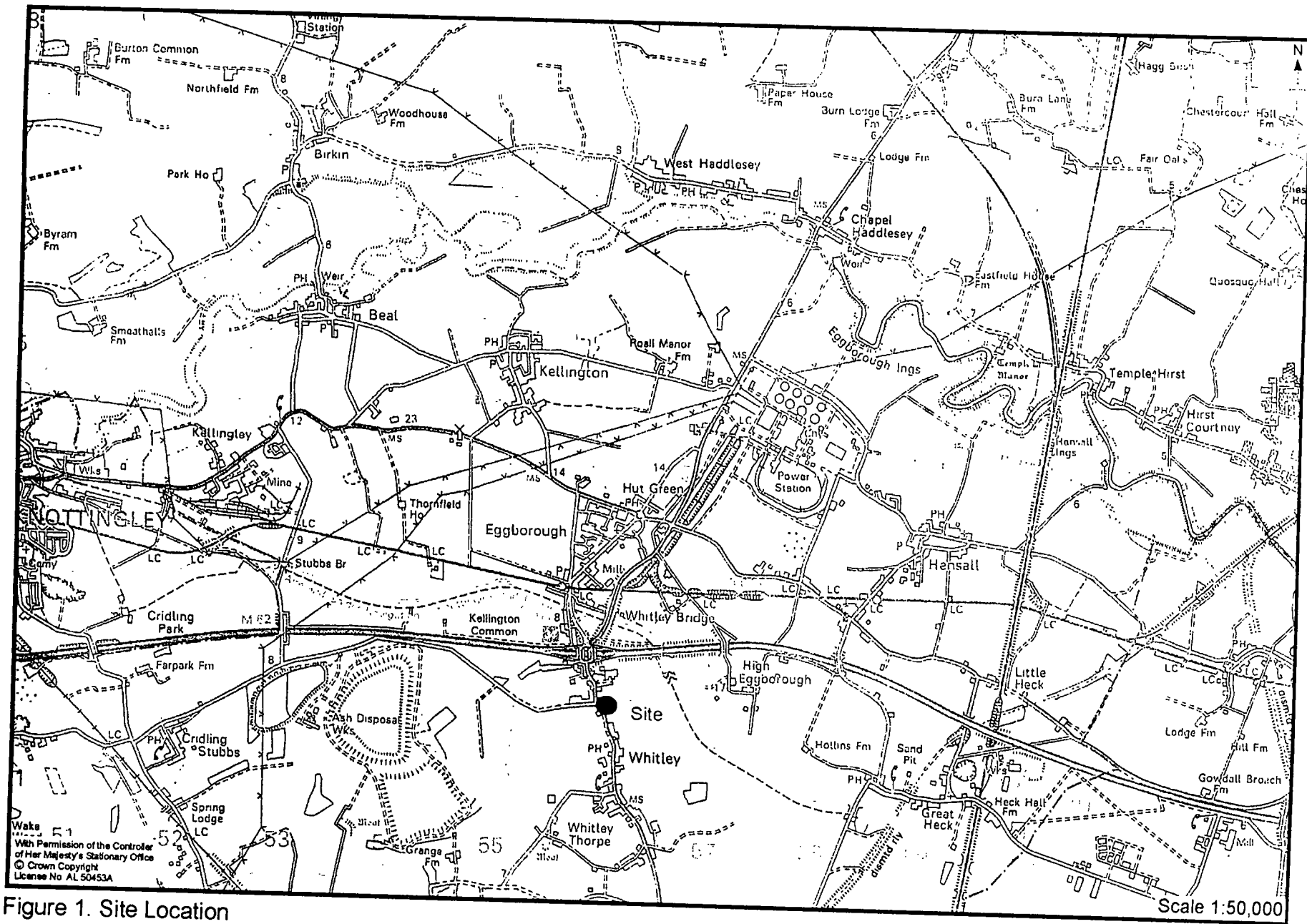


Figure 1. Site Location

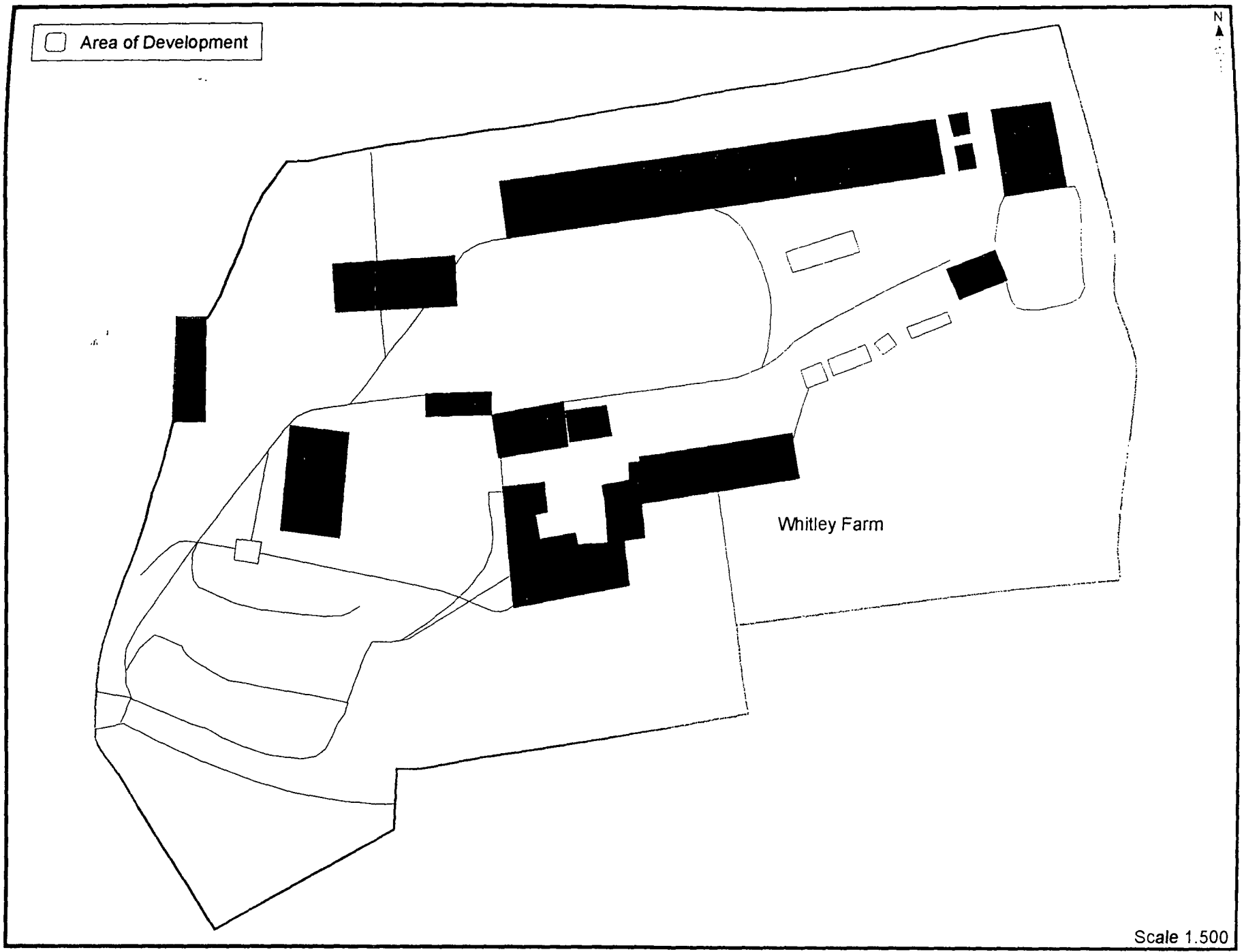


Figure 2. Development Area

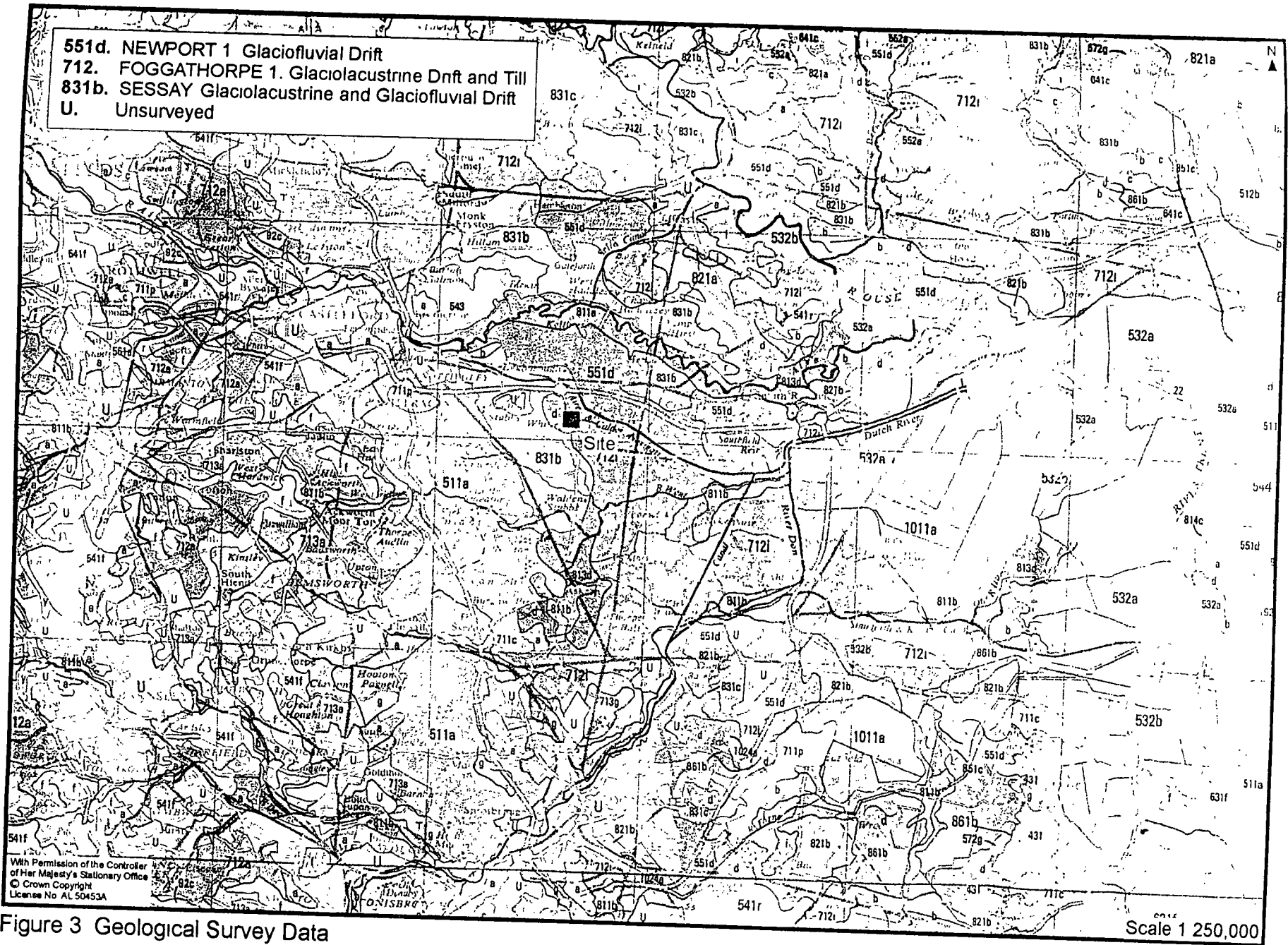


Figure 3 Geological Survey Data

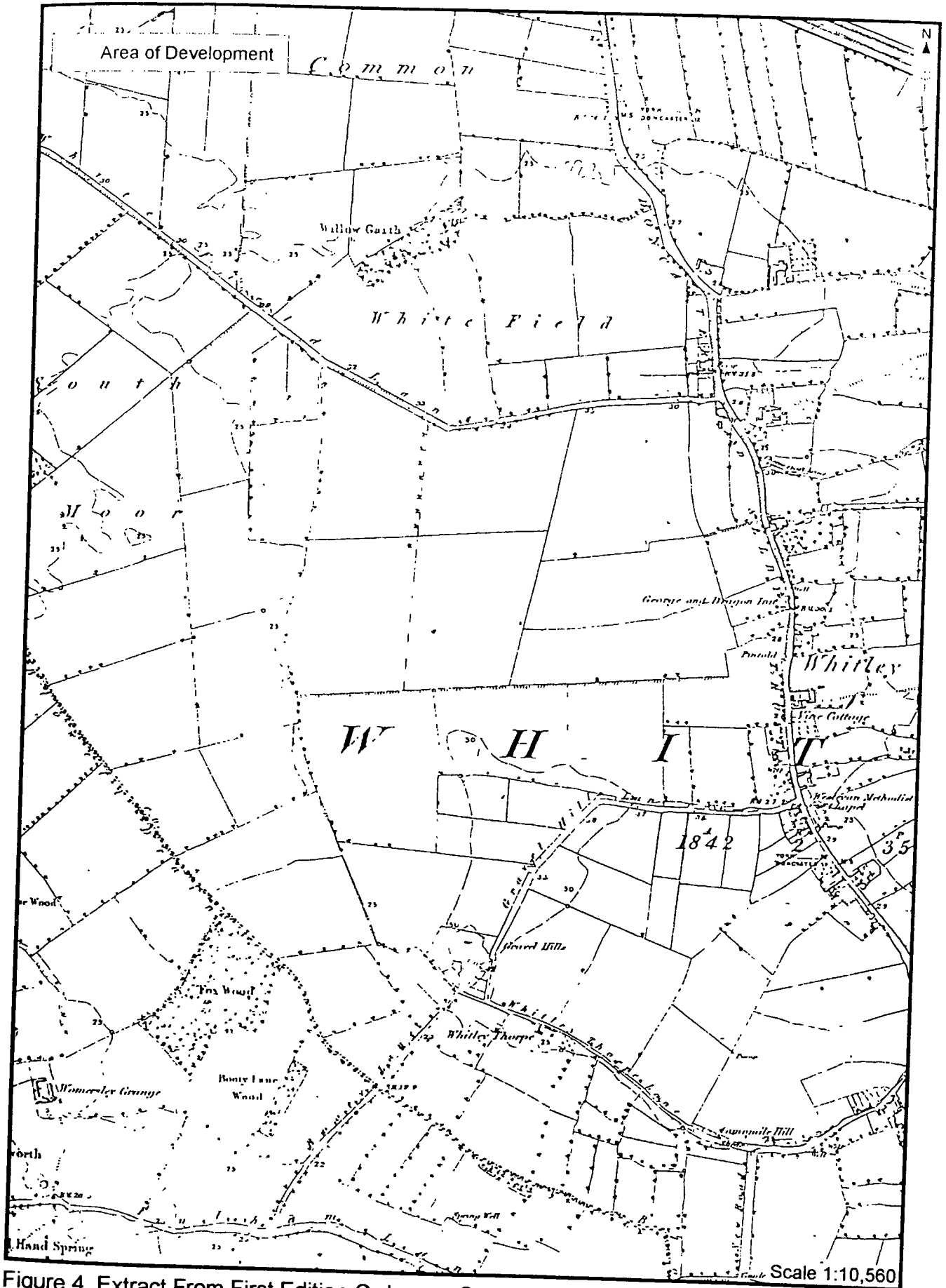


Figure 4. Extract From First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1850

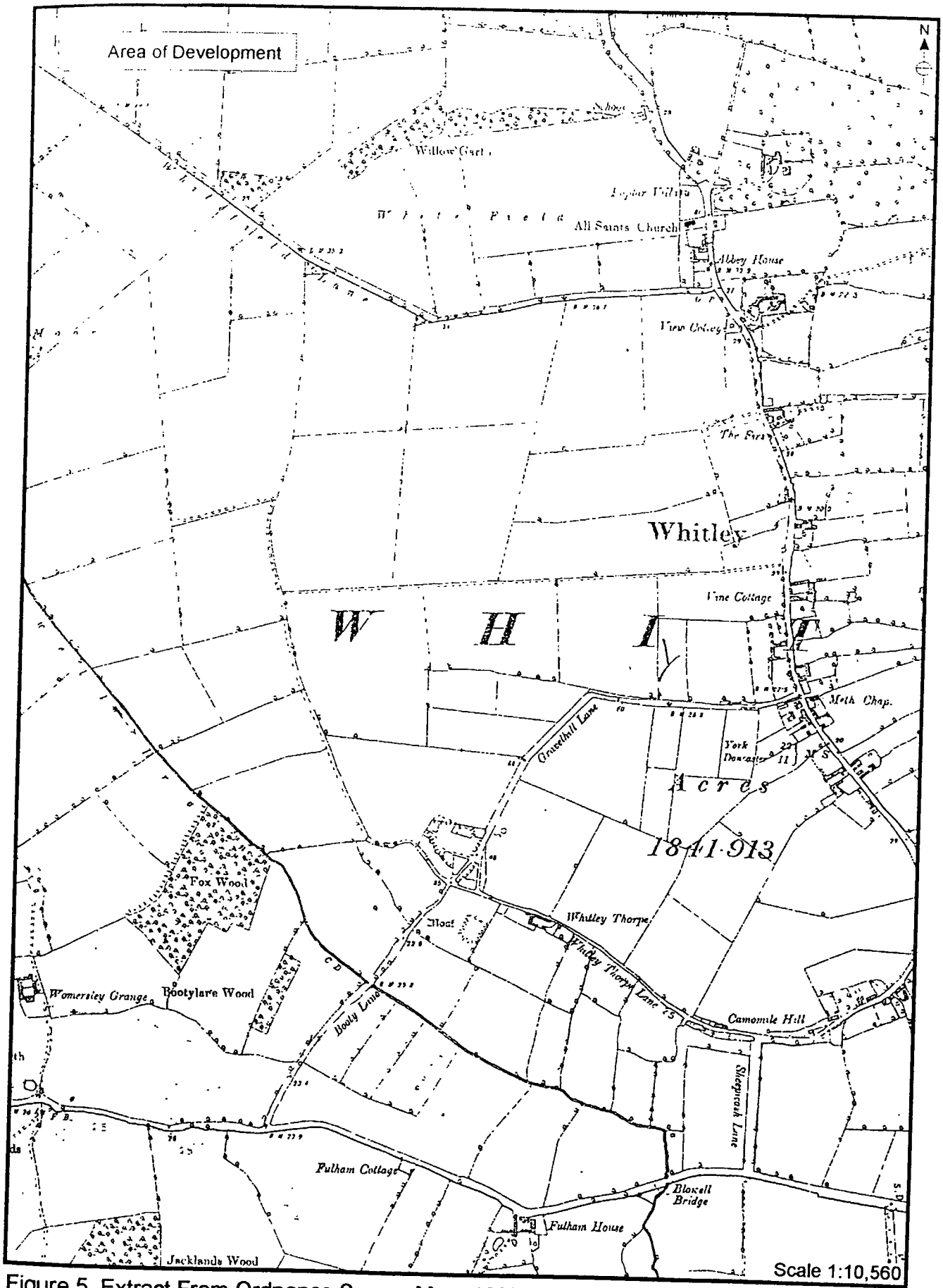


Figure 5. Extract From Ordnance Survey Map, 1895

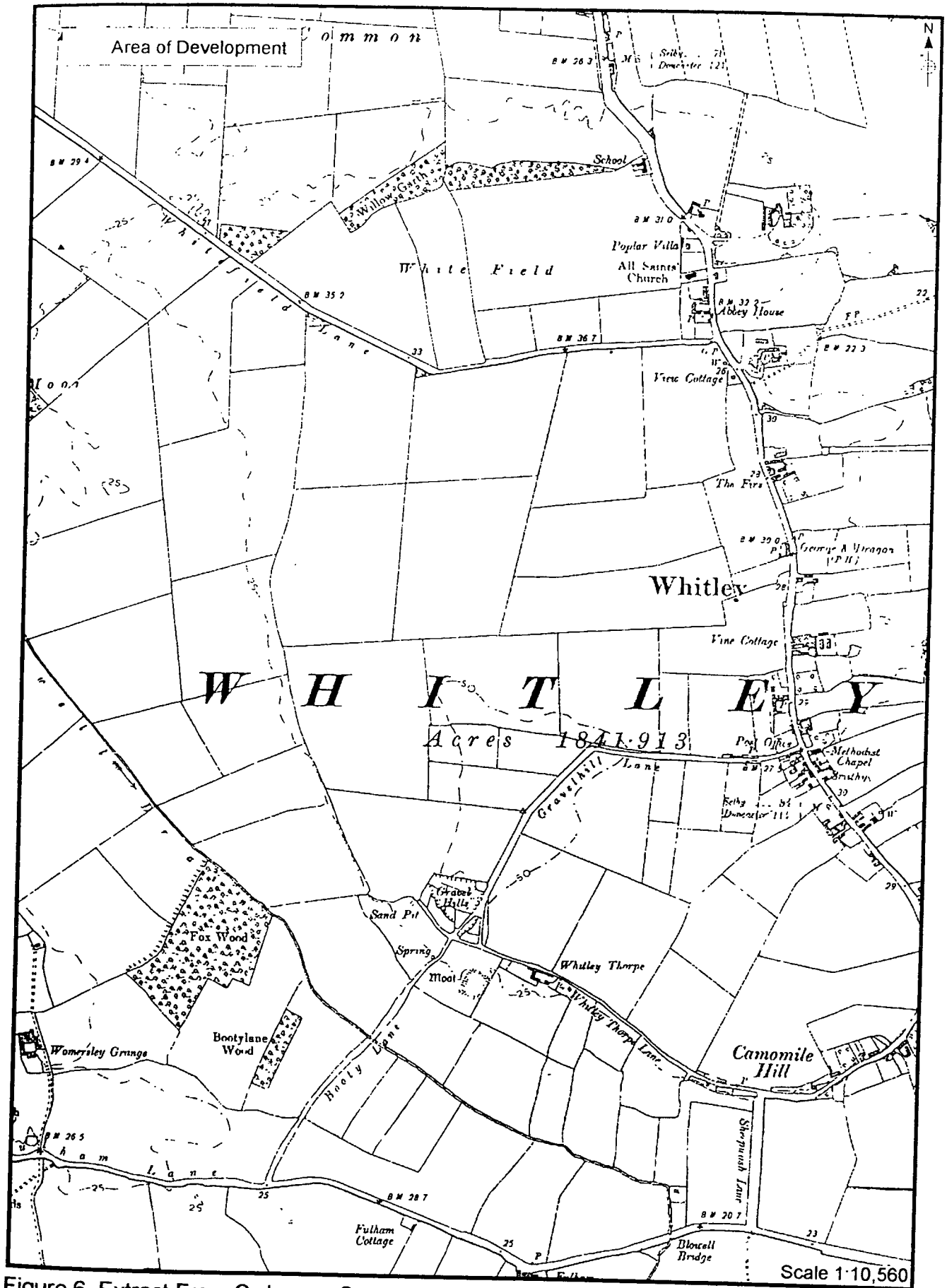


Figure 6. Extract From Ordnance Survey Map, 1907

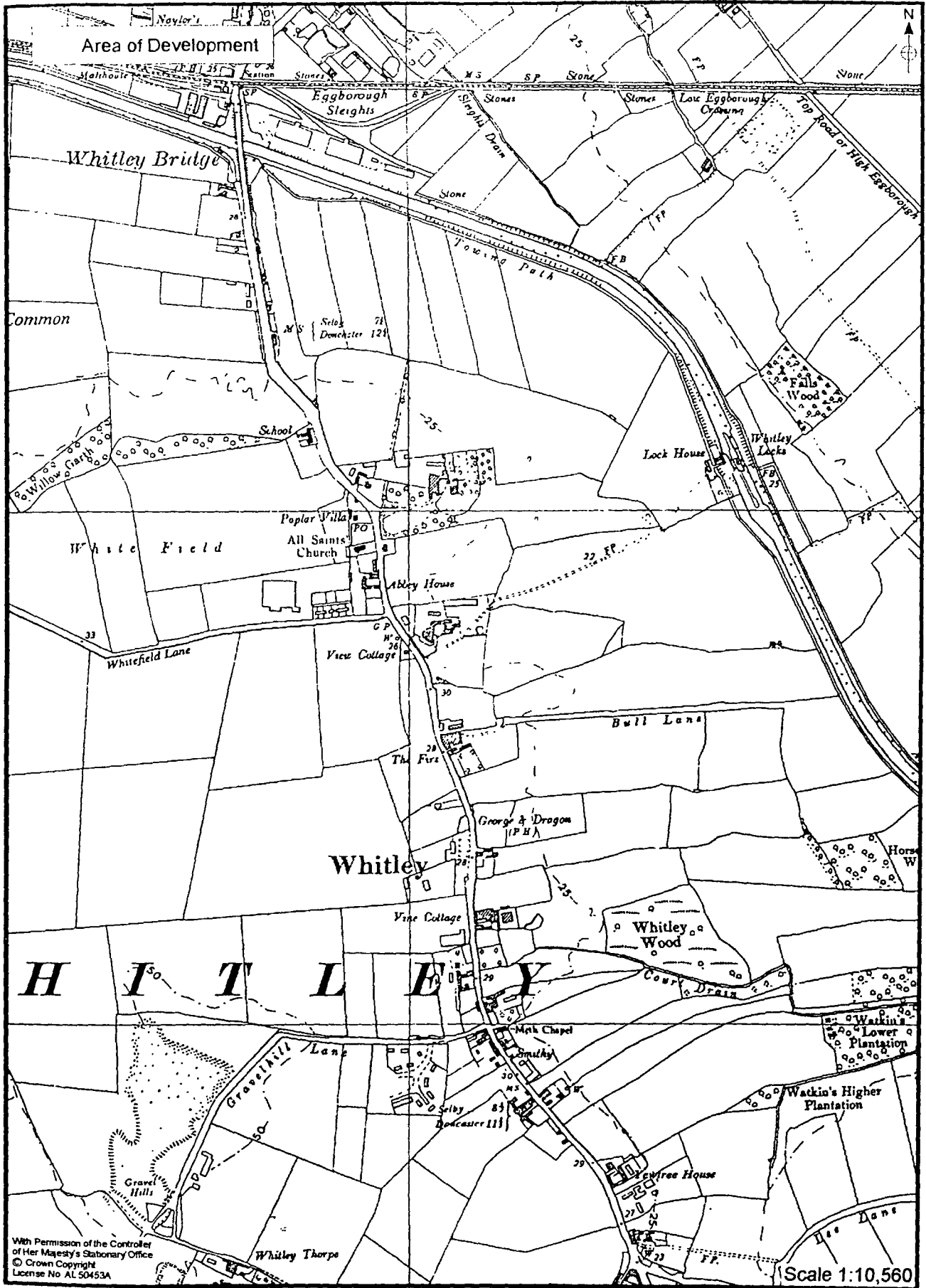


Figure 7. Extract From Ordnance Survey Map, 1956

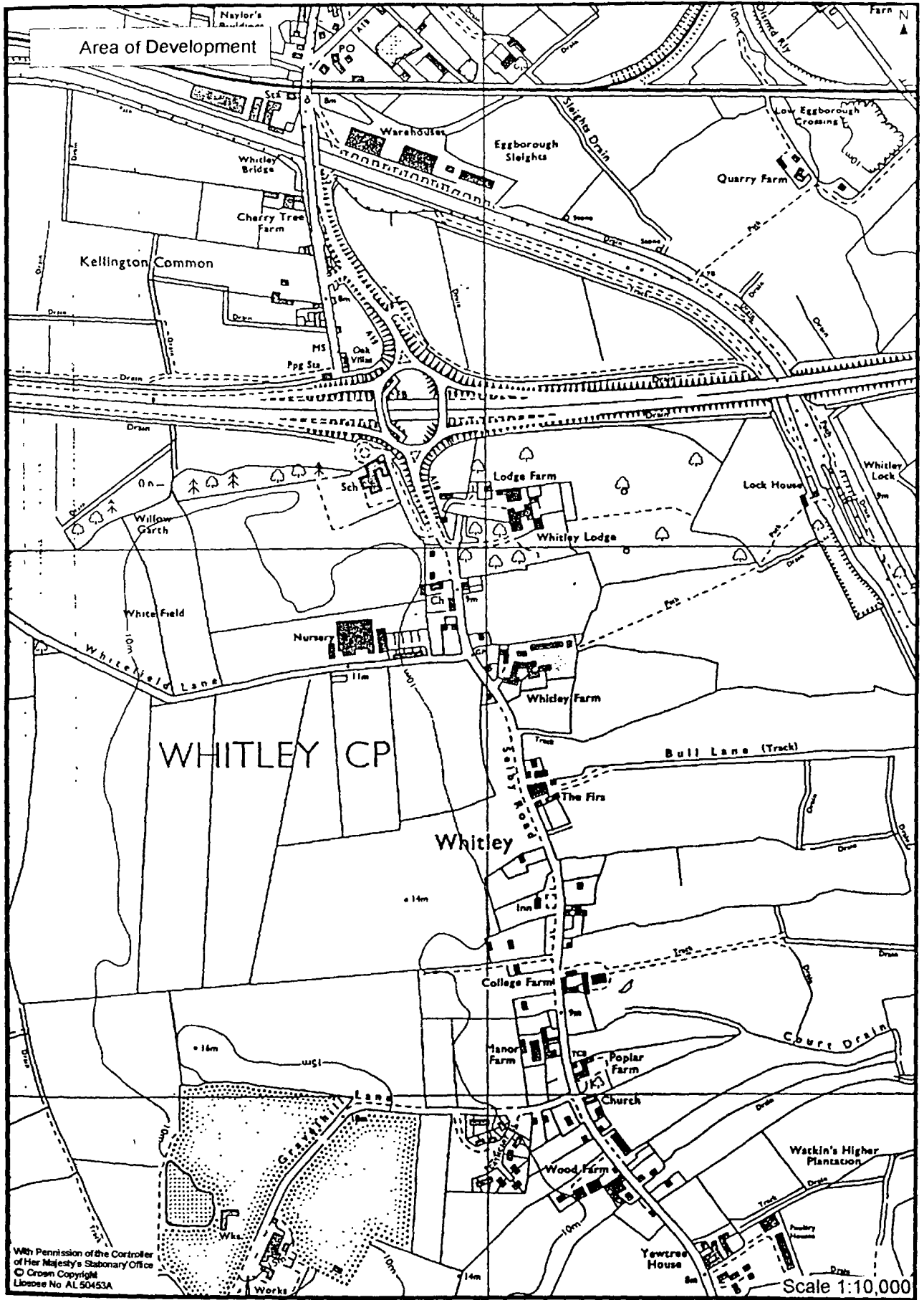


Figure 8. Extract From Ordnance Survey Map, 1972

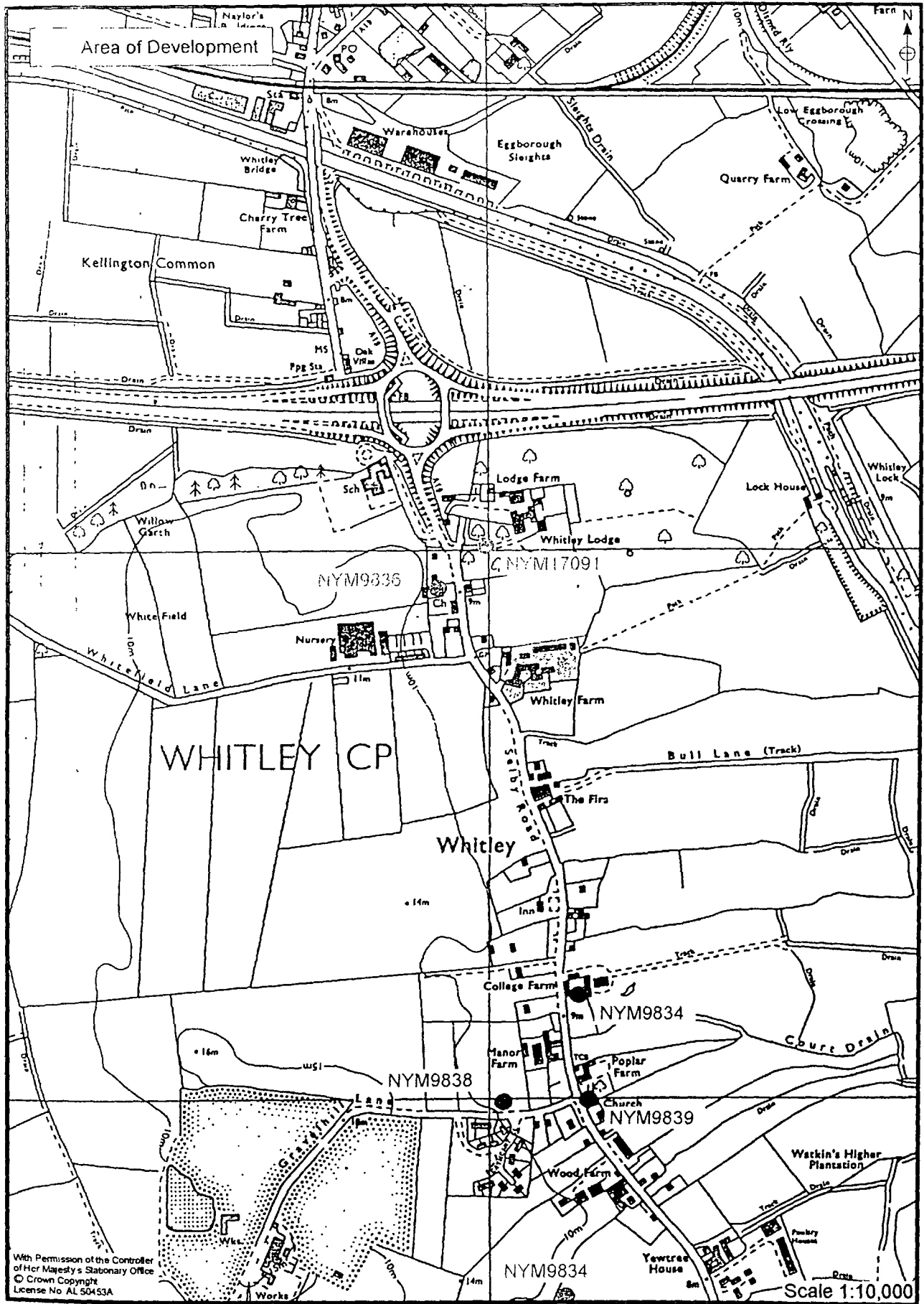


Figure 9. Known Archaeological and Historic Sites



Scale 1:500

Figure 10. Location of Plates

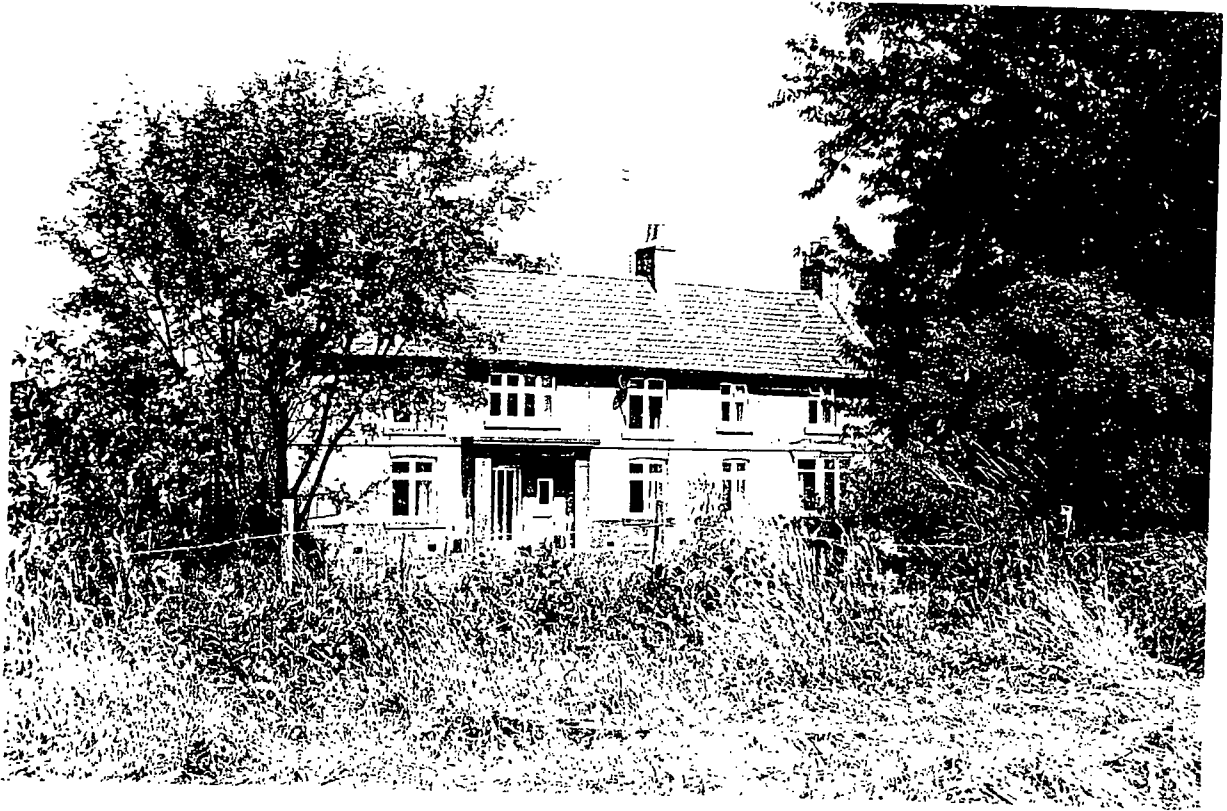


Plate 1 Whitley Farm. Facing north.



Plate 2. Whitley Farm and farm buildings. Facing south-west.



Plate 3. Whitley Farm and farm buildings. Facing south.



Plate 4. Whitley farm buildings. Facing north.



Plate 5. Whitley Farm buildings. Facing east.



Plate 6. Whitley Farm buildings. Facing east.

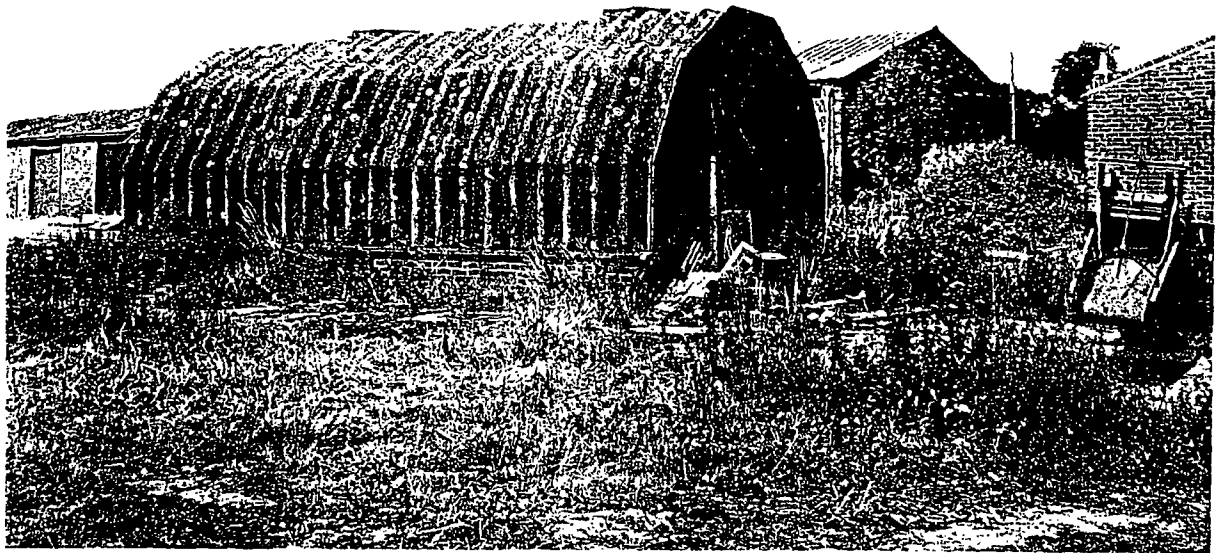


Plate 7. Whitley Farm buildings. Facing south-east.



Plate 8. Whitley Farm building. Facing north..