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**Stillington Road
Easingwold, North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

November 2010



Report No. 2135

CLIENT
Redrow Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd

**Stillington Road
Easingwold, North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment



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Report Information

Client: Redrow Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd
Address: Brunel Road, Wakefield 41 Industrial Estate, Wakefield, WF2 0XG
Report Type: Desk-based Assessment
Location: Easingwold
County: North Yorkshire
Grid Reference: SE 5317 6901
Period(s) of activity represented: Medieval/Post-medieval
Report Number: 2135
Project Number: 3650
Site Code: SRE
Planning Application No.: n/a
Date of fieldwork: 21st October 2010
Date of report: 2nd November 2010
Project Management: Mitchell Pollington BA MA
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Illustrations: Mitchell Pollington
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Authorisation for
distribution: -----



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1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Redrow Homes (Yorkshire) Ltd to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Stillington Road, Easingwold, North Yorkshire in advance of a planning application for the site.

Site location and topography

The proposed development site covers an area of approximately 11 hectares on the south-eastern edge of Easingwold, centred at SE 5317 6901 (Figs 1 and 2). The site is bounded to the north by Stillington Road and to west by York Road, with an area of modern residential development adjacent to the site's north-western and north-eastern sides. A number of houses are also situated in a block of land on the proposed development site's western edge, adjacent to York Road. A drainage channel, which feeds into the Longbridge Beck to the south, defines the eastern side of the site.

The site is situated on level ground at a height of approximately 25m AOD. It is primarily in use as pasture and is divided into a number of irregular-sized fields by hedgerows (see Plates 1 to 4).

The study area comprises all land within 500m of the boundary of the proposed development site.

Geology and soils

The underlying geology of the proposed development site comprises Triassic Mudstones (BGS 2001), overlain by deep, well drained, sandy soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1980).

2 Methodology and Sources

Where sites listed in the catalogue (Section 4) are mentioned in the text, the relevant catalogue number is given in bold type.

The following sources of information have been consulted in order to meet the requirements of the desk-based assessment, and are in line with the guidelines laid down by the Institute for Archaeologists for such work (IfA 2008).

Archaeological records and archives

Information on previous archaeological finds and investigations within the study area was obtained from the North Yorkshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) and the English Heritage National Monuments Record (NMR).

The holdings of the North Yorkshire County Record Office were consulted for historic maps and plans, antiquarian histories and other relevant documentary sources.

Designated sites or areas

Information on designated sites of historic or archaeological significance, including Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings, was obtained from the English Heritage NMR.

Published and unpublished documentary sources

A range of published and unpublished material has been researched and consulted. This includes academic articles, together with general sources on the area and its wider archaeological and historical background. These are listed in the bibliography.

Geological and soil surveys

Information on the underlying geology and soils within the study area was taken from data collected by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2001) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (1980).

Walkover survey

A walkover survey was undertaken on the 21st of October 2010 in order to assess the survival of previously recorded and documented features, to identify any further archaeological sites visible on the ground and to determine the potential for any future archaeological investigations.

3 The Study Area

Identified archaeological sites, buildings and features

A total of five archaeological sites or historic features have been identified within the proposed development site, with a further 11 recorded in the study area within 500m of the site boundary. These features are discussed below and have been catalogued in Section 4.

Designated sites or areas

The study area contains no designated Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields.

The study area contains six Listed Buildings, none of which are located within the proposed development site. A dovecote at 145 Long Street is also recorded on the North Yorkshire Country Council HER as being a Listed Building. However, the LBS number provided by the HER does not correspond to the records or data set of Listed Buildings produced by English Heritage, and this structure is not recorded as being Listed on the Easingwold Draft Conservation Area Appraisal (Hambleton District Council 2009).

The study area also covers part of the south-eastern side of the Easingwold Conservation Area as defined by Hambleton District Council, although no part of the proposed development site falls within the Conservation Area.

Previous archaeological investigations

There have been no previous archaeological investigations carried out within the proposed development site.

The Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Group undertook building recording within the study area on a dovecote at 145 Long Street in 2006 (2; Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Group 2009).

In 2007 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by CS Archaeology on land at 145 Long Street, approximately 450m to the north-west of the proposed development site. This identified a linear boundary and sherds of pottery of a medieval date, and a section of the wall of a dovecote (1; Scurfield 2007; 2008).

Historic Landscape Characterisation

The northern part of the proposed development site has been characterised by North Yorkshire County Council as comprising piecemeal post-medieval enclosure consisting of medium sized, irregular shaped fields, defined by hedges (HNY 21750). The southern part of the site has been characterised as comprising an area of planned post-medieval enclosure consisting of medium sized fields defined by straight hedges (HNY 9890).

National Mapping Programme

The study area was covered as part of the English Heritage National Mapping Programme's (NMP) Vale of York project between 1998 and 2000, which aimed to record and interpret all archaeological features visible on aerial photographs. A number of blocks of medieval ridge and furrow ploughing were identified within the study area, one of which, on a north-west to south-east alignment, was recorded within the southern side of the proposed development site (see Fig. 2), although no earthwork remains are now visible.

Archaeological background, sites and features

Early prehistoric period

There is no recorded evidence for early prehistoric activity in the study area, and generally evidence for the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods is limited in North Yorkshire. Neolithic and early Bronze Age sites are also scarce in lowland areas, although the concentration of large ritual monuments dating to these periods within the Vale of York, such as the Thornborough Henges and the Devil's Arrows at Boroughbridge, attest to the region's importance at this time. Although there is no recorded evidence for Neolithic or Bronze Age activity within the proposed development site, there is limited evidence for Bronze Age activity around Easingwold. A circular cropmark identified in a field to the south of Holly Brook Farm, just outside the southern edge of the study area, could represent the remains of a Bronze Age barrow (NMR no. SE 56 NW 49). The HER also records 'mounds' to the south of Stillington Road, which may represent barrows, but no further evidence for such features is available (9). Further evidence for Bronze Age activity in the area is provided by the

discovery of a Late Bronze Age hoard in 1735, about 1.5km to the south-west of the proposed development site, which comprised around a hundred socketed axes and other metal objects (NMR no. SE 56 NW 3).

Iron Age and Roman period

In contrast to the earlier periods, there is greater evidence for Iron Age settlement activity in North Yorkshire, much of which derives from cropmarks recorded through aerial photographic analysis, such as the work of the English Heritage NMP for the Vale of York. This has recorded the extensive remains of field systems, settlements and trackways dating to the late Iron Age and through into the Roman period. No features of a possible Iron Age date have been recorded as cropmarks within the study area itself, but a field system and associated trackway have been identified approximately 2km to the south of the proposed development site (NMR no. SE 56 NW 56).

It is likely that following the Roman invasion of the area in AD 71 many of the late Iron Age sites, and field systems, continued in use, albeit often with additional Roman material goods including pottery and imported food stuffs. Finds from around Easingwold may also suggest the presence of a more highly Romanised building close to the present village. Fragments of mosaic were discovered in fields close to Easingwold in 1854, perhaps indicating the site of a villa (3). The exact location of these finds is, however, unclear as the grid reference of SE 53 69 recorded on the HER is not specific, and these finds did not certainly lie within the proposed development site. The field name 'Stone Field', found outside the western edge of the study area in an area of enclosed medieval strip fields, could also suggest the presence of an earlier stone building, possibly represented by concentrations of stone brought to the surface during cultivation.

Medieval period

There is little archaeological evidence for post-Roman or Anglo-Saxon activity within North Yorkshire, and none from within the study area. Place-name evidence does, however, indicate Anglo-Saxon settlement in the area. The name 'Easingwold' derives from the Anglo-Saxon personal name 'Esa' combined with the elements *-ing*, 'of the people of', and *-wold*, 'forest', and therefore means 'Forest of Esa's people' (Smith 1928). This name also suggests that the Easingwold area may have been extensively wooded at this time. There was certainly a settlement at Easingwold by the late Anglo-Saxon period, as the township is listed in the Domesday Book of 1086 as *Eisincewald* (Page 1912, 313).

It is likely that the proposed development site remained primarily in agricultural use throughout the medieval period. The only feature of a probable medieval date recorded within the site is a block of ridge and furrow ploughing, identified in the site's southernmost field (4), although no surface traces of this now appear to be visible.

Post-medieval and modern periods

The fields which form the proposed development site are probably the result of piecemeal post-medieval enclosure. This may pre-date the Easingwold Enclosure Act of 1808 as the area is not shown on the Enclosure Map of 1812, presumably as these fields were already in existence (see Fig. 3). The present field pattern was certainly established by the 1840s when it appears on 'A plan of part of the township of Easingwold', the Easingwold Tithe Map of 1841 (see Fig. 4; Scott 1841), although two boundaries have now been removed in the centre of the site (see Figs 2 and 4). The depiction of the site on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of 1856 differs little from the 1841 plan, apart from showing the course of a drainage channel crossing north-west to south-east through a field on its southern side (7; see Fig. 5). By the 1890s a small building had been constructed just outside the south-western side of the proposed development site that was accessed by a track from York Road which crossed the site's southernmost field (5; see Fig. 6; Ordnance Survey 1894). This is no longer visible on the surface. By the early 20th century a house called 'South Villa' was constructed just outside the north-western side of the proposed development site, and a sewage works was built on its north-eastern side (see Fig. 7; Ordnance Survey 1913). By the second half of the 20th century these areas had been developed for housing and light industrial use.

4 Catalogue of Archaeological Sites and Buildings

Archaeological sites and features

Catalogue entries for archaeological sites and features have been ordered geographically from west to east and given a numerical identifier, and include a National Grid Reference (NGR) number. Where an entry has an associated MNY or ENY number the information has been obtained from the North Yorkshire County Council HER. All further information is referenced in the bibliography.

1. Watching Brief

ENY 3826**SE 5281 6952**

In 2007 CS Archaeology undertook a watching brief on land at 145 Long Street, Easingwold during the construction of a housing development. A linear field boundary and sherds of abraded medieval pottery were identified, indicating medieval agricultural activity (Scurfield 2007). A watching brief was also carried out for the foundations of a new dovecote, which recorded a short section of the old dovecote wall, together with a single sherd of medieval pottery (Scurfield 2008).

2. Building recording

ENY 4772**SE 5284 6953**

In 2006 the Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group carried out building recording on a dovecote at 145 Long Street (Yorkshire Vernacular Buildings Study Group 2009).

3. Site of Roman villa?**MNY 18102****SE 53 69**

Fragments of a tessellated pavement were discovered near Easingwold in 1854, and were deposited with the Yorkshire Museum. Although the HER gives a general grid reference within the proposed development site, the actual find spot is unknown.

4. Ridge and furrow**SE 5303 6888**

A block of ridge and furrow ploughing, aligned north-west to south-east, identified as cropmarks during the Vale of York NMP project.

5. Track**SE 5307 6887**

A track is marked on the 6 inch Ordnance Survey maps of 1894 and 1913 aligned north-west to south-east across a field forming the southern end of the proposed development site. This served a small agricultural building situated just outside of the eastern boundary of the field (see Figs 5 to 7; Ordnance Survey 1894; 1913).

6. Pond**SE 5308 6878**

A pond marked on the First Edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1856 (see Fig. 5).

7. Drain**SE 5311 6898**

A former drainage channel shown on the First Edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1856, crossing the southern side of the proposed development site from north-west to south-east (see Fig. 5).

8. Second World War building**MNY 24194****SE 5321 6943**

The site of former buildings of a possible Second World War date, now occupied by a new housing development.

9. Mounds**MNY 18090****SE 5323 6935**

The HER records possible 'mounds' to the south of Stillington Road. This area is now occupied by modern residential housing and no other record of these features has been identified.

10. Army Camp (site of?)**MNY 23991****SE 5335 6955**

The possible site of a Second World War army camp on the northern side of Stillington Road.

Listed Buildings

Catalogue entries for Listed Buildings have been ordered geographically from west to east and given an alphabetical identifier, and include a National Grid Reference (NGR) number, a Listed Building number (LBS), and where relevant an associated HER number (DNY).

A. Beckwiths Shop, Long Street LBS 333442 DNY 3592 SE 5280 6957

An early to mid-19th-century shop, with a late 19th or early 20th-century front with a carriage arch to the right. This building is Grade II Listed.

B. Nos 141 and 143 Long Street LBS 333444 DNY 3918 SE 5282 6956

A pair of early 19th-century houses constructed of pale brick. This building is Grade II Listed.

C. Nos 137 and 139 Long Street LBS 333443 DNY 4546 SE 5282 6956

A mid to late 18th-century house, now divided into two houses, constructed of red-brown local brick. This building is Grade II Listed.

D. Church of St John the Evangelist LBS 382348 DNY 4264 SE 5290 6949

A Roman Catholic church constructed between 1830 and 1833 with alterations in 1870, built in a Gothic Revival style. This building is Grade II Listed.

E. Nos 190, 192 and 194 Long Street LBS 333438 DNY 3590 SE 5305 6949

A mid 18th-century house, now divided into three cottages, constructed of red-brown local brick. This building is Grade II Listed.

F. Milepost, Stillington Road LBS 333467 DNY 3600 SE 538 690

A mid to late 19th-century cast iron milepost, painted white with black lettering in relief. This structure is Grade II Listed.

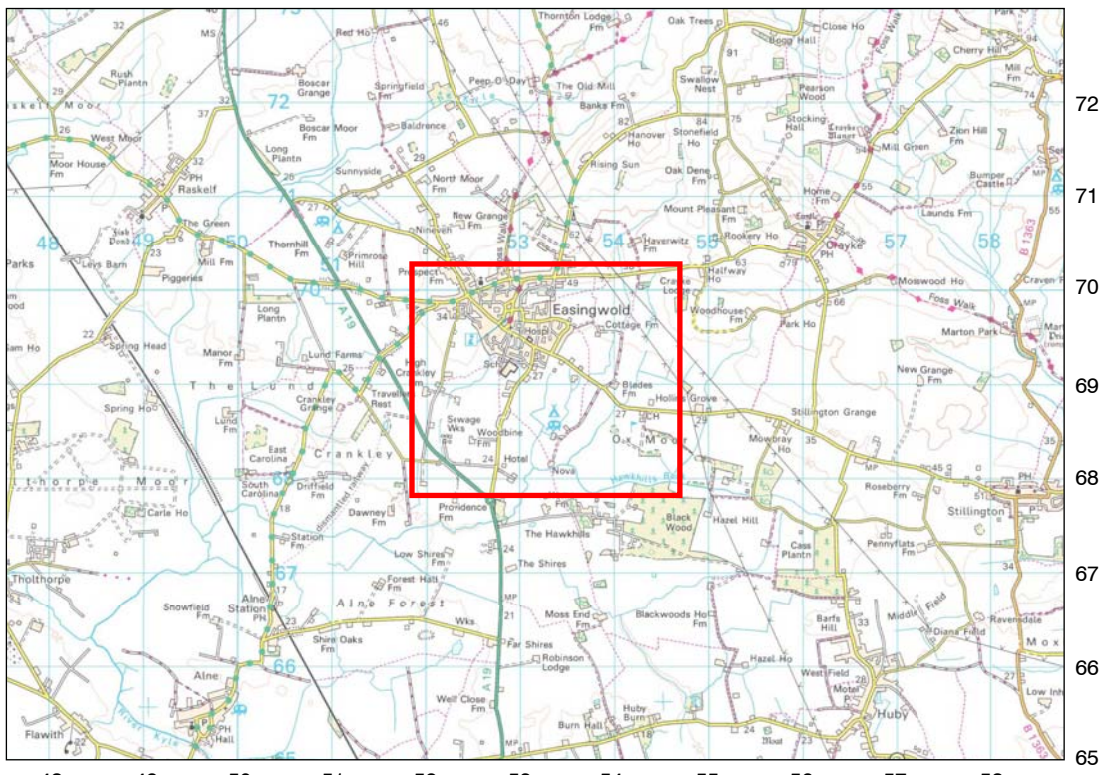
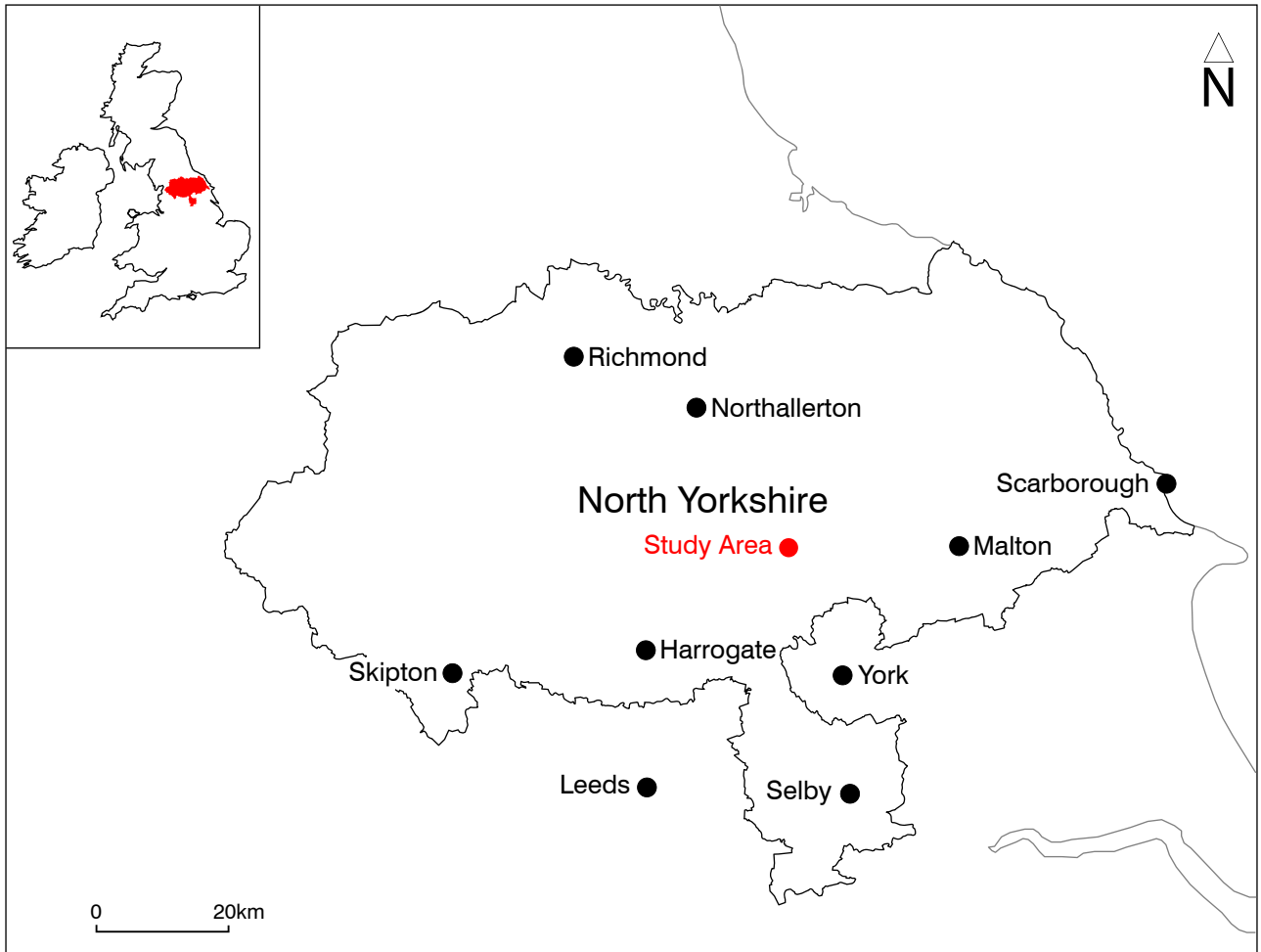
5 Conclusion


There is no recorded evidence for any prehistoric activity within the proposed development site, although there is some limited evidence for possible Bronze Age activity in the Easingwold area. The extensive remains of Iron Age and probable Roman period field systems and settlements have also been recorded by the NMP in the surrounding area, and such features are common in the Vale of York. It is possible that the site of a substantial Roman building, such as a villa, is located to the south of Easingwold, although the original position of related finds, such as the fragments of tessellated floor, are uncertain and cannot definitely be located within the proposed development site.

There was a settlement at Easingwold by the later Anglo-Saxon period, and it is likely that the proposed development site has remained primarily in agricultural use from at least this time. The only medieval features within the site are the recorded remains of a block of ridge and furrow ploughing, which is no longer extant.

The existing field pattern is the result of post-medieval enclosure, although this appears to pre-date the Easingwold Enclosure Act of 1808, and has remained largely unchanged since the mid 19th century.

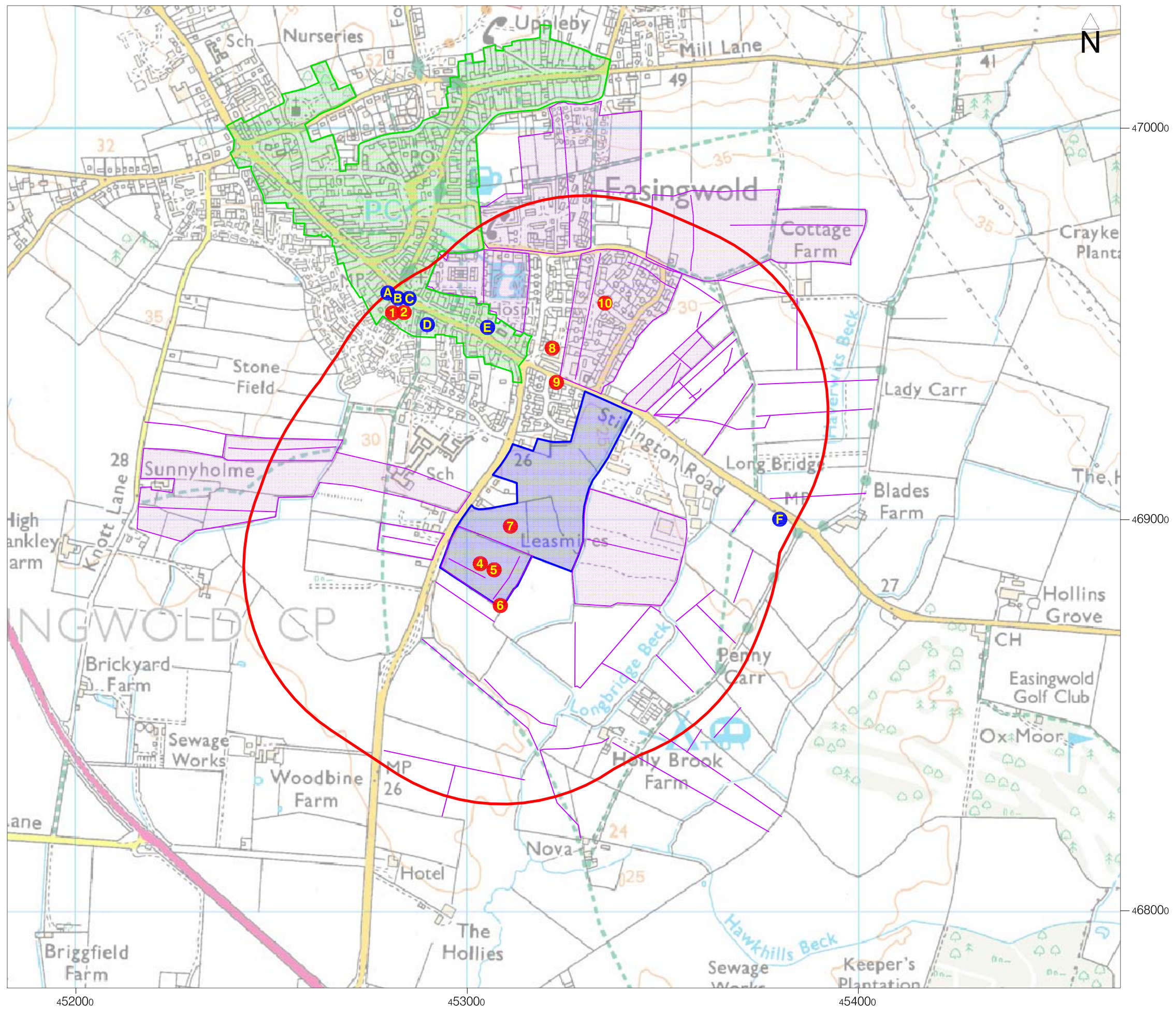
Therefore, there is potential for the survival of previously unrecorded prehistoric or Roman period sub-surface deposits within the proposed development site. Evidence for medieval activity, or unrecorded post-medieval sites, is likely to be associated with agricultural use, such as ploughing, drainage or former field boundaries. Further archaeological investigations may be required to determine the nature and extent of any potential sub-surface remains within the proposed development site. These could possibly include a programme of geophysical survey, if the ground conditions, geology and soils are suitable, a watching brief or evaluation excavation. Any such work should form part of an overall archaeological strategy to be agreed with the North Yorkshire County Council Heritage and Environment Section.



 Inset - see Figure 2

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Fig. 1. Site location



	Study area
	Proposed development site
	NMP cropmarks
	Conservation Area
	Catalogued feature
	Listed building

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Fig. 2. Plan of the proposed development site showing the boundary of the study area and catalogued features (1:10 000 scale based on 1:25 000 scale mapping)

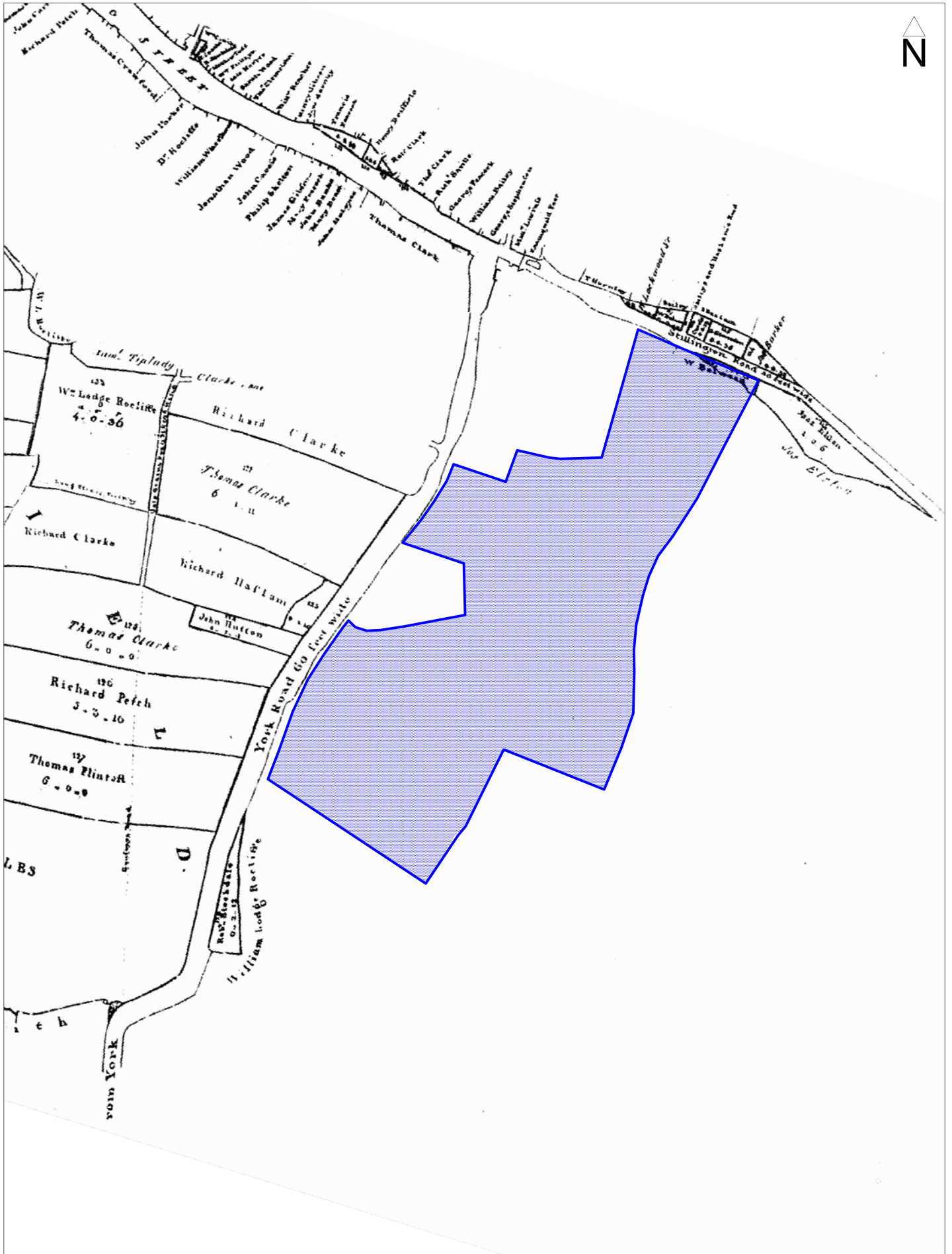


Fig. 3. Extract from the Easingwold Enclosure Map of 1812, with the proposed development site highlighted in blue (not to scale; North Yorkshire County Record Office ref. I(PC/EAW), mic 1529/9)

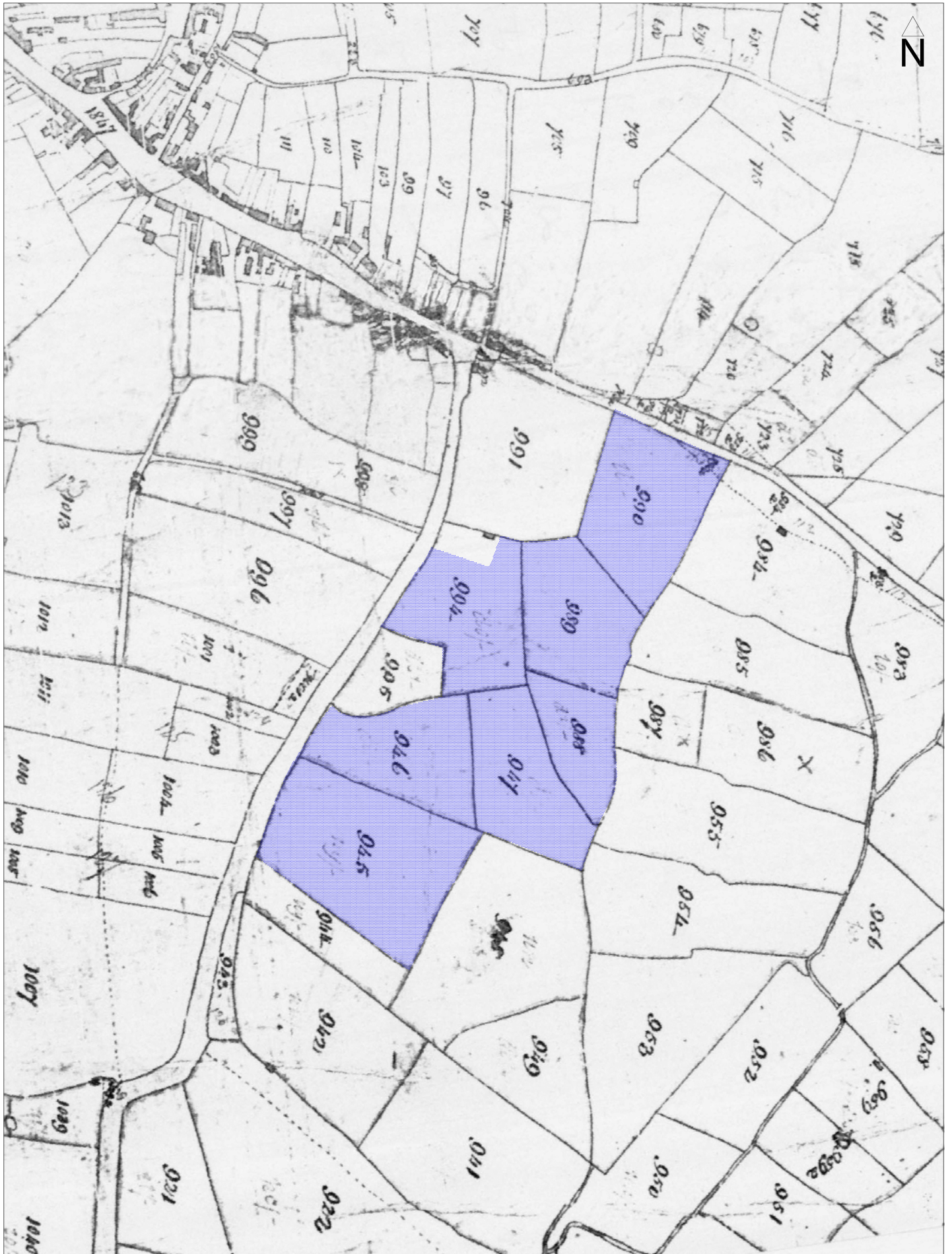
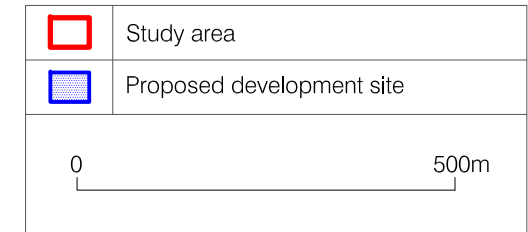
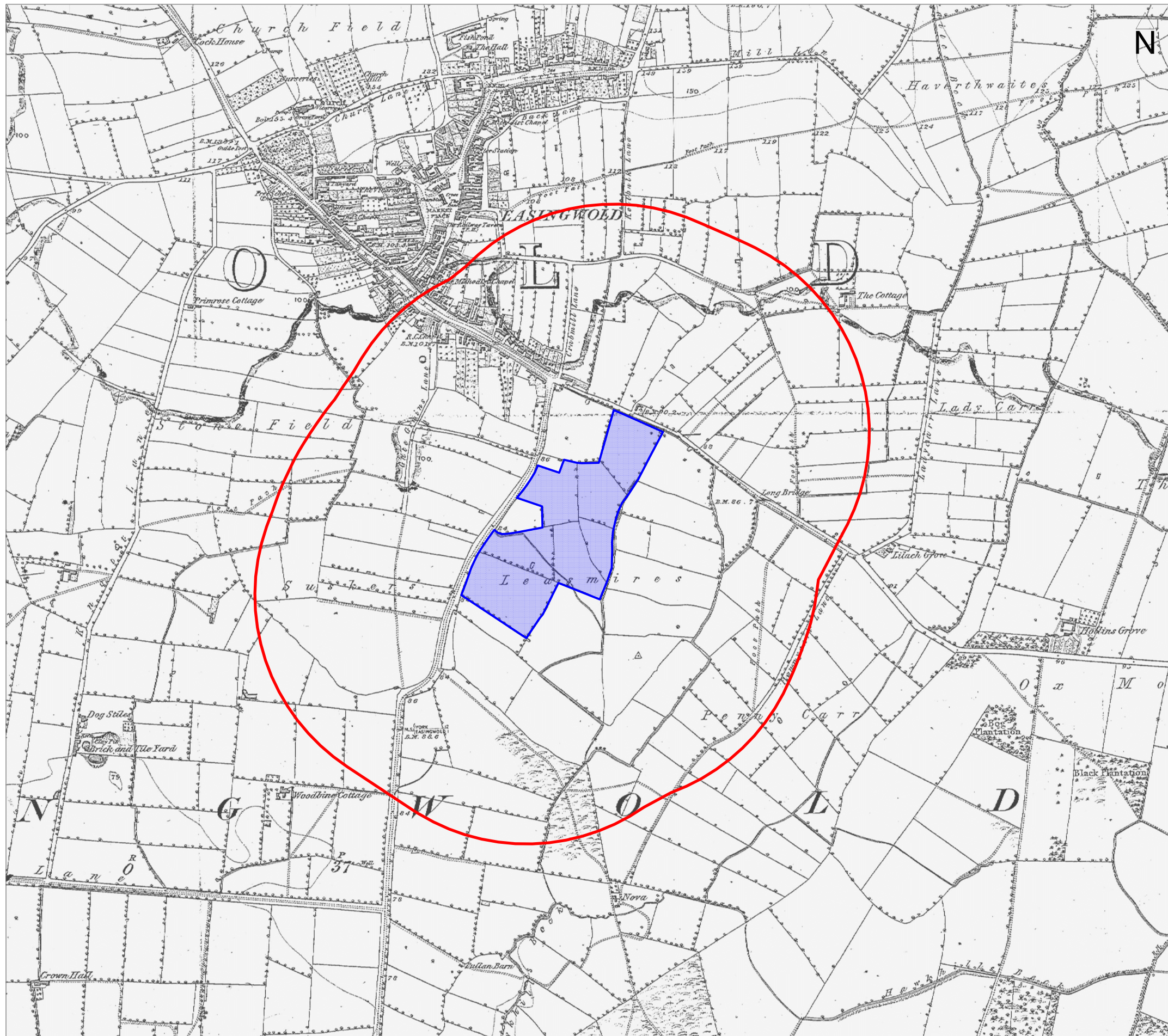


Fig. 4. Extract from 'A plan of part of the township of Easingwold' of 1841, with the proposed development site highlighted in blue (not to scale; North Yorkshire County Record Office ref. MI5, mic 1982/463-475)




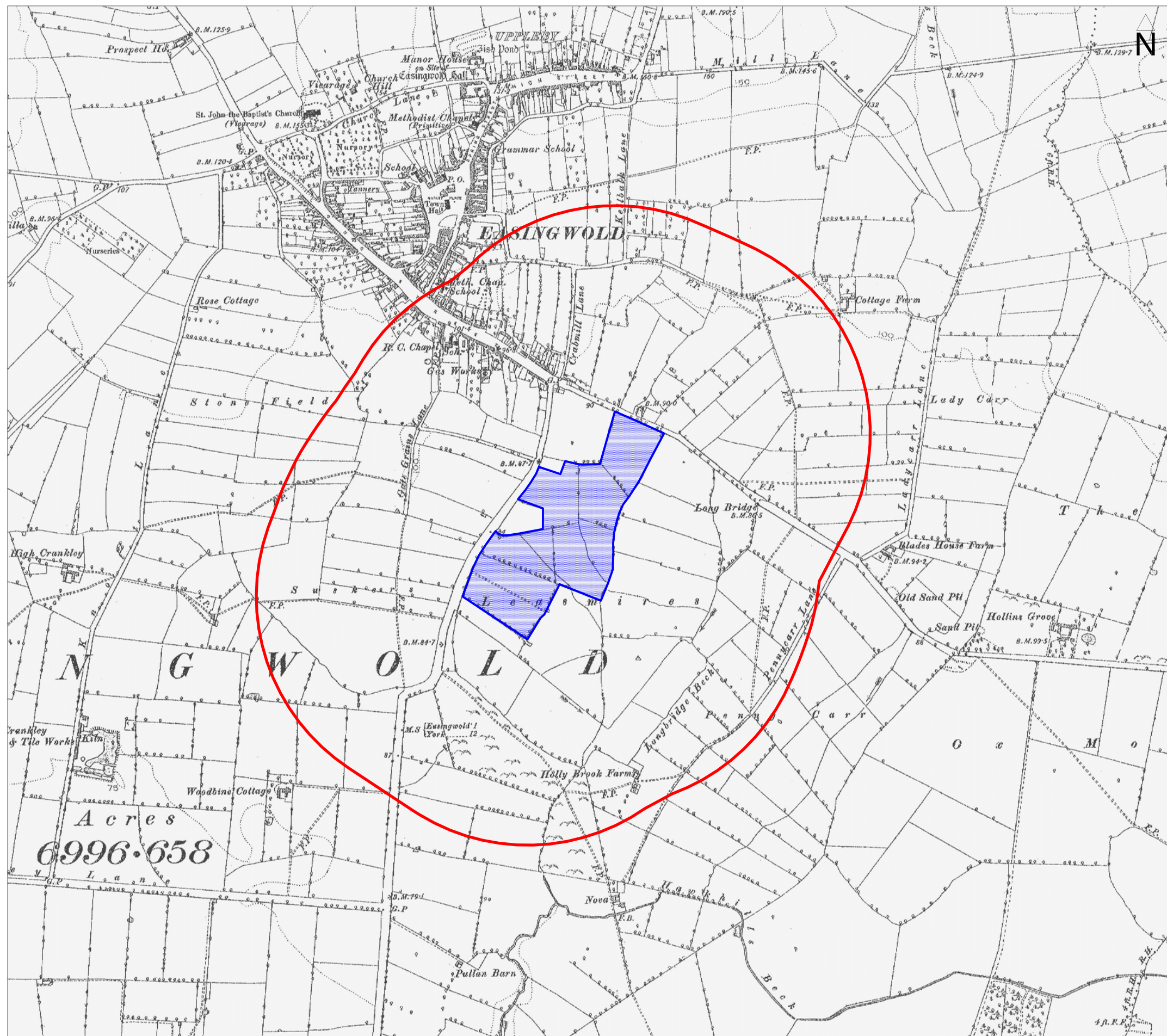




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Fig. 5. Extract from the First Edition 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1856 with the proposed development site and study area highlighted (1:10 000 scale; sheet 121)



	Study area
	Proposed development site
	


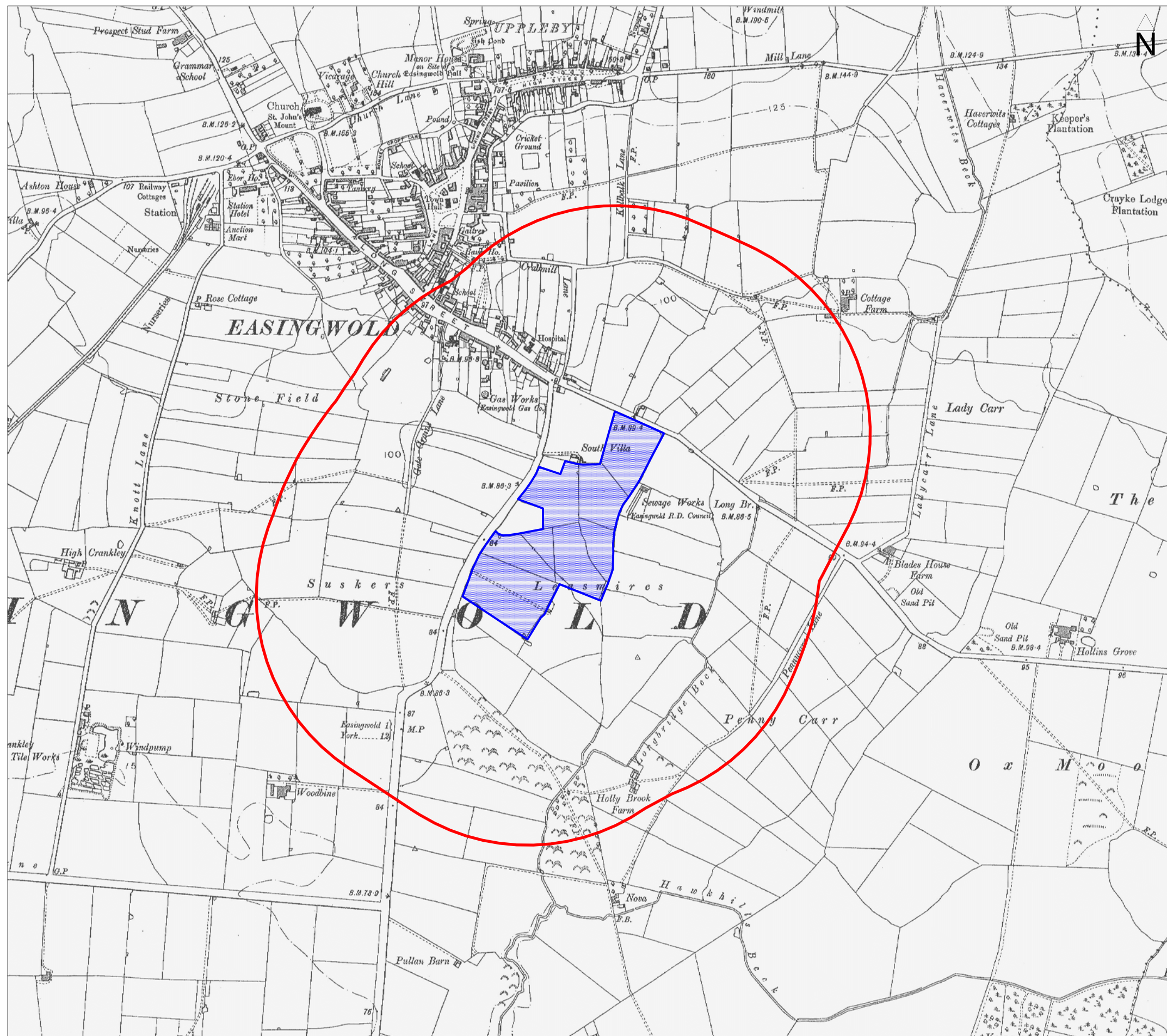




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Fig. 6. Extract from the 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1894 with the proposed development site and study area highlighted (1:10 000 scale; sheet 121 SE)



	Study area
	Proposed development site
	



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Fig. 7. Extract from the 6 inch Ordnance Survey map of 1913 with the proposed development site and study area highlighted (1:10 000 scale; sheet 121 SE)

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