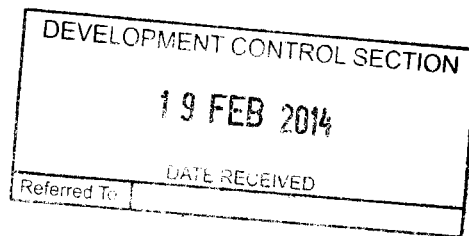

LAND AT BURRINGHAM ROAD,
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
OSA REPORT No: OSA14DT08

February 2014.



OSA

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Report Summary.

REPORT NO: OSA14DT08

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COUNTY: North Lincolnshire

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 8700 0820

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1.0 Abstract.

On-Site Archaeology Ltd *undertook an archaeological desk-based assessment in January and February 2014, on behalf of Persimmon Homes Yorkshire, to assess the archaeological potential of a proposed development site on land off Burringham Road, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. This assessment is intended to support a planning application for residential development.*

All available documentary and archive materials were consulted to provide a summary of the historical and archaeological significance of the site, which is currently a parcel of overgrown land forming the former practice area of the adjacent golf course.

The site lies within an area of fairly low archaeological activity. Iron Age and Romano-British settlement is known, through excavation, to be located approximately 1.3km to the east. The settlement appears to lie on a raised ridge overlooking low-lying land to the west, upon which the current site is situated. This area is most likely to have been used as fields associated with the settlement, which, due to the level at which it lies, may have been prone to seasonal flooding. Archaeological remains that may be anticipated here are likely to be limited to ditched field boundaries designed to control livestock. These could be considered of local, or regional significance, if they could be associated with the settlement evidence to the east.

There are no listed buildings or other designated heritage assets within, or sufficiently close to be affected by future development within, the site.

Due to the relatively low potential of the site to contain archaeological remains there should be no heritage reason for planning permission not to be granted. Any grant of permission could include archaeological conditions, requiring a scheme of evaluation and/or mitigation to be undertaken.

2.0 Introduction.

This archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken by *On-Site Archaeology* on behalf of Persimmon Homes Yorkshire to support a planning application for proposed development on land to the south side of Burringham Road, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, centred at National Grid reference SE 8720 0830. The site presently comprises the former practice ground of the Scunthorpe Golf Course. It has not been used by the golf club for approximately thirty years and had become overgrown and had suffered from dumping. Some clearance of vegetation is currently being undertaken.

This study was undertaken to provide a summary of the historical and archaeological significance of the site together with a wider study area extending to a distance of approximately 1000 metres from the centre of the site, through the assessment of all available documentary and archive material as well as all presently known features of historical and archaeological interest (collectively, 'heritage assets'). In addition a wider search of the surrounding area was conducted to provide archaeological context for the study area.

The North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record Office will take the archaeological potential of the site into account when they advise the Local Planning Authority on the planning application.

3.0 Methodology.

The archaeological and historical significance of the site was assessed using a variety of sources. These included archaeological records held at the North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the online archaeological catalogues archived by the Archaeological Data Service and the English Heritage National Monument Record. The assistance of the staff at these records offices is greatly appreciated. The history of the area has been compiled through the study of historical maps and published archaeological and historical documents.

Archaeological and historical data has been collected for an area extending to a distance of approximately 1000 metres from the centre point of the site(s). The locations of these data points, which are derived from the North Lincolnshire HER, are listed in the gazetteer in Chapter 5. Locations of these data points are presented as Figure 3. In addition a wider search of the general area has been undertaken to assist in the understanding of the archaeological background of the surrounding area, using the Heritage Gateway, the Archaeological Data Service and the English National Monument Record.

A site visit was made to establish current land use, identify any potential archaeological remains and provide a photographic record. A selection of these photographs has been used to illustrate this report (see Plates 1-15). Site research notes are currently stored with *On-Site Archaeology*.

4.0 Site Location, Landuse, Topography and Geology.

The proposed development site is located to the southwest of Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, centred at National Grid Reference SE 8720 0830 (Figure 1).

The site comprises a parcel of rough ground on the south side of the B1450, Burringham Road, close to its junction with Scotter Road / Scotter road south. The site is approximately 1.65 ha in extent. The site is bounded to the south by the Ashby Decoy Golf Course, to the east by The Mallard public house and restaurant, together with its associated car park and to the west by a rugby fields. The site had formally been used as a practice area by the golf club, but had ceased to be used and maintained approximately thirty years ago. It had subsequently become very overgrown and had been subject to dumping, of topsoil, spoil and refuse.

The bedrock geology comprises sedimentary Mudstone of the Mercia Mudstone Group, overlain by superficial deposits of sand of the Sutton Sand Formation. of quaternary date (<http://mapapps.gbs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home>).



Figure 1. Site location (NGR SE 8720 0830)

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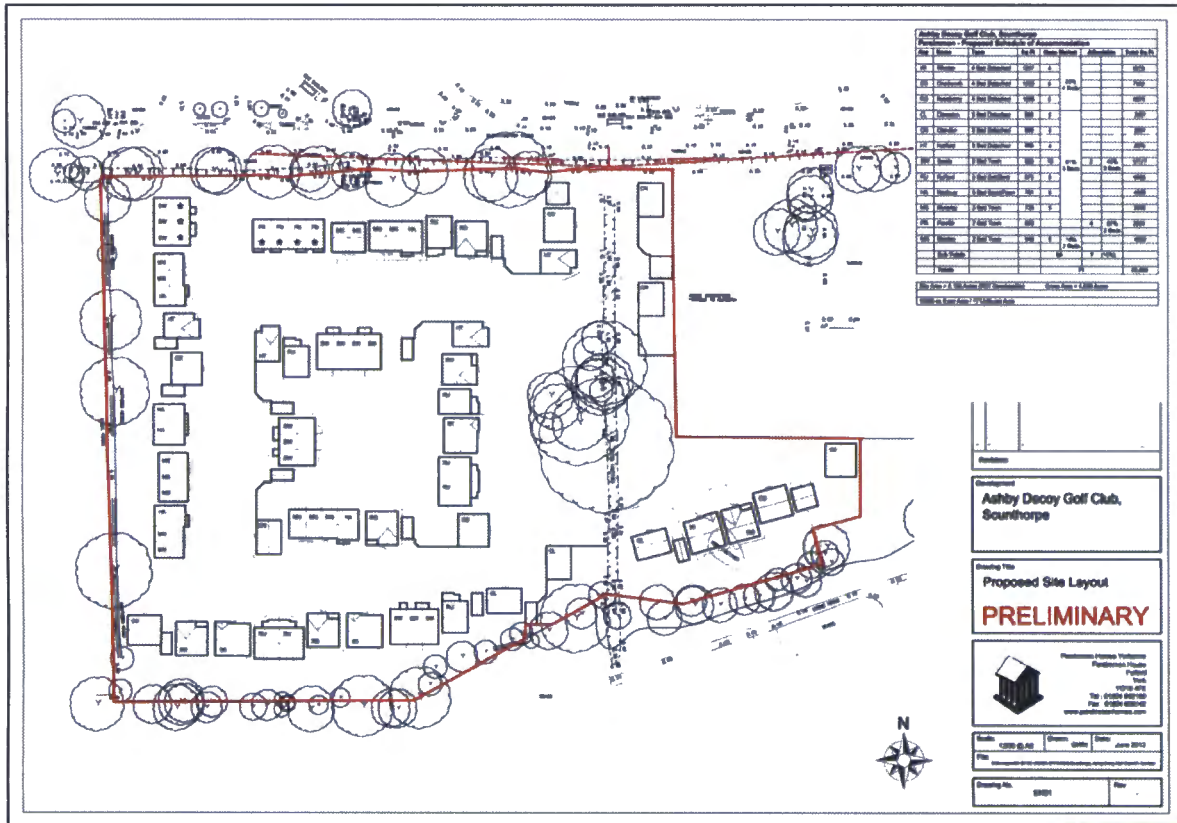


Figure 2. Draft site layout

5.0 Gazetteer of HER Entries.

5.1 HER entries

The following chapter lists the archaeological investigations and heritage assets (sites, findspots and buildings/structures of archaeological or historical interest) recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER), which are likely to contribute to the archaeological significance of the site being studied. These are made up of all the records within a 1km radius of the approximate centre of the site. Where possible the relevant North Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record number is given for monuments and events. The locations of the recorded sites are plotted on Figure 3.

Map No	Name of known sites, findspots or interventions	Date	NGR (SE)	HER no.	Description
1	Ashby Decoy, Scunthorpe Golf Course	19th century	8656 0807	MLS4041	Ashby duck decoy was working until c. 1918. The pond survives within Scunthorpe Golf Course (See section 5.4 below).
2	MPP evaluation visit, Ashby Decoy	NA	8658 0804	ELS3452	Visit by Eric Instone of English Heritage, in order to evaluate Ashby Decoy for the Monuments Protection Plan.
3	Site visit to Ashby Decoy	NA	8659 0805	ELS3771	Site visit in connection with a current HLS application in December 2012. Alison Williams, Andrew Taylor, Mike Hemblade, Alice Beasley (Bradford University placement).
4	Aerial photographic sorties during 1977	NA	Centre d SE 8 0	ELS2787	Aerial photography carried out by Mike Felcey during 1977. Precise dates not known, only the processing dates of the resulting colour slides. Whilst the routes of these sorties do pass through the search area none of the recorded monuments do. These include cropmarks representing probable Iron Age and Romano-British field systems, undated linear cropmarks and evidence for post-medieval warping drains.
5	Westcliffe primary school, Dryden Road, Scunthorpe	NA	878 088	ELS3593	A Fluxgate gradiometer survey was carried out in 2010 by Pre-Construct Geophysics
6	Silica Park, Scunthorpe	NA	8745 0775	-	Between December 2012 and September 2013 an archaeological watching brief was carried out during the construction of a residential children's care home at Silica Country Park, to the east of Scotter Road South. No archaeological features or finds were recorded. Natural sand was revealed at between 0.80m and 1m below the existing ground surface. (OSA, 2013).
7	Golf Course	20th century	8692 0805	HLS1780	The Historic Landscape Characterisation project defines the entire site area as a Recreational Open Space as it forms part of the golf course, constructed in the 1930's. Previous landuses are recorded as post-medieval to modern heathland, preceded by medieval to post-medieval unenclosed land.

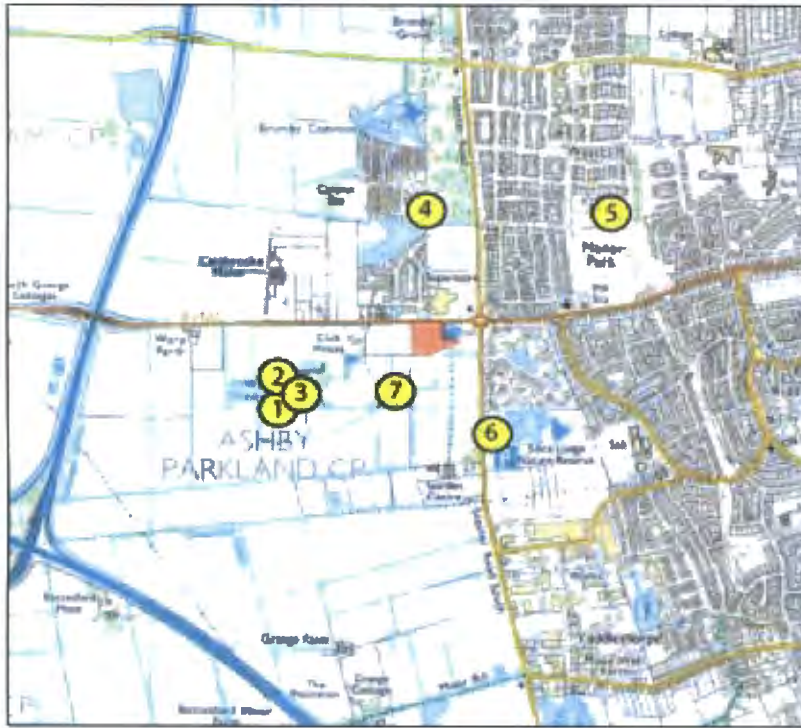


Figure 3. Locations of heritage assets mentioned in the gazetteer

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Based on the gazetteer, the following is a summary of the general archaeological and historical background of activity within the study area. The numbers in brackets refer to the gazetteer in section 5 and the accompanying map (Figure 3). In addition selected archaeological and historical data from beyond the study area is referred to, where this may provide useful information to assess the potential of the site itself.

5.2 Prehistoric (pre-Iron Age)

Within the 1000m search area there are no indicators of the presence of prehistoric archaeology pre-dating the Iron Age.

However, within the wider area chance finds during the mid 18th to mid 20th centuries include Neolithic flint and stone axes and Beaker pottery (recorded as coming from the Brumby area and held in Scunthorpe Museum) and a Bronze Age hoard, comprising a palstave, two spearheads and two rapiers, found on Burringham Moor, close to the east side of the River Trent, but subsequently lost (information drawn from <http://www.pastscape.org.uk>).

More recent archaeological investigations have revealed further archaeological information relating to this period. Two Bronze Age cremations were excavated at Phoenix Parkway to the north of Scunthorpe in 2009, together with other fragments of pottery across the site

suggesting that more cremations had existed but had been ploughed out (Allen Archaeology Ltd, 2010). This same site revealed a single pit, or tree bole dated to the Neolithic period.

5.3 Iron Age/Romano-British period

Once again the search area does not contain archaeological data relating to these periods, which are discussed together as they are often difficult to distinguish archaeologically, especially when represented by cropmark evidence.

The wider Scunthorpe area is however, rich in archaeological evidence for this period. Beyond the limits of modern Scunthorpe much of the evidence comprises cropmarks, indicative of extensive field systems and enclosures. Several recent archaeological investigations carried out in Scunthorpe have recorded ditches that are likely to relate to these field systems, such as at Ashby Grange South, Bottesford (ASWYAS, 2002), Frederick Gough School, Bottesford (Allen Archaeology Ltd, 2012), Somervell Road, Scunthorpe (APS, 2007) and Phoenix Parkway (Allen Archaeology Ltd, 2010).

One particular project, in close proximity to the search area, has, in addition to recording ditches suggestive of field systems, revealed evidence for several phases of settlement, dating from the Late Iron Age, through to the 4th century AD. This site was located at 66-72 Burringham Road, which lies just outside the search area, beyond its eastern limit. Evaluation and open area excavations were carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology in 2002. A large defended enclosure had been established by the late Iron Age, with a large, recut, boundary ditch suggesting that the settlement would have originally extended well to the north of the modern Burringham Road. Pottery in the fill suggested the Late Iron Age to Early Roman date. The location for a defended settlement is ideal, lying on the crest of a ridge, with commanding views in all directions. A ditch and a gully from the same period ran north to south down the centre of the site; this may have been part of a field system associated with the enclosure. There seemed to be a period of hiatus on the site until the mid to late 2nd century AD. A small enclosure, a well, a probably four post structure and corn drier all date to this phase. Further enclosures, surfaces, pits and timber structures indicated that the settlement continued through the late 2nd to 3rd century. The mid 3rd century was the most active period of activity on the site, with further ditches, fence-lines, grain-drying structures and possibly a building with a suspended floor. The quantities of domestic rubbish indicate the presence of an associated contemporary settlement. Although the intensity of activity declined during the late 3rd century parts of the field system was being maintained. Limited activity, including the construction of two hearths and reinstatement of a ditched and fenced boundary continued into the early 4th century AD. (Boyer, et al, 2009).

5.3 Medieval period

The medieval period is not represented within the search area.

Scunthorpe appears in the Domesday Book as *Escumetorp*, as do others of the modern city's constituent villages, including Brumby (*Brunebi*), Bottesford (*Butlesford*), Crosby (*Cropesbi*) and Ashby (*Aschebi*) (Oxford Archaeology North, 2006).

Archaeological evidence for the late Saxon period has been found in Bottesford, at Baldwin Avenue. This comprised a series of ditches, which may represent agricultural field boundaries.

Whilst Bottesford is recorded as having a market and fair as early as the 13th century, and whilst the church itself is medieval fragments of Saxon sundials found during Victorian restorations, point to an earlier origin.

The site lay beyond the settled centres of the nearby villages during the medieval period and is described with the Historic Landscape Characterisation as unenclosed land (7).

5.4 Post-medieval and early modern period

Throughout the post-medieval the predominantly medieval settlement pattern in the area continued. The dramatic change to the area began in the mid 19th century with the discovery of iron ore at Frodingham. The first iron furnace was established in 1864. The town was formed of the former villages of Scunthorpe, Frodingham, Brumby, Ashby and Crosby whose populations numbered only in the hundreds in 1851. Scunthorpe eventually became, and remains, one of Britain's major steel towns. The villages became one urban district in 1919 and the name Scunthorpe was given to the whole of the new municipal borough in 1936.

The site itself lay beyond the expanded 19th century town (see section 6 below). The most significant landscape feature in the vicinity of the site during the 19th century was the Ashby Decoy (1, 2 and 3). This had been constructed in the early 1830s. During the course of the first 35 years of its use the decoy accounted for nearly 100,000 wildfowl and was one of the most productive in the country. In the most productive seasons over 6000 fowl were taken (Payne-Gallwey, 1886). The decoy was designed to attract wild birds that could then be induced up a netted pipe or water filled trench and thus enable them to be trapped and caught. The Ashby decoy had four pipes arranged at the corners of an approximately square pond (see Figure 4).

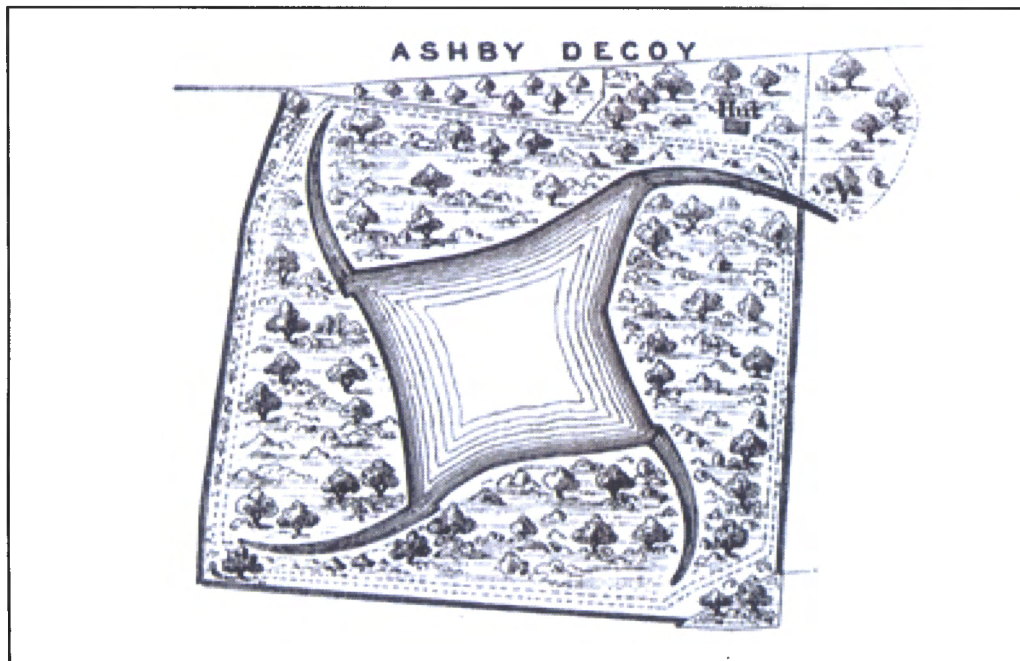


Figure 4. *Ashby Decoy as drawn in 1886 (Payne-Gallwey, p.120)*

In addition to the decoy itself which was surrounded by trees, within an otherwise open agricultural landscape, a cottage was constructed on the south side of Burringham Road.

Ashby Decoy Cottage has subsequently been demolished and replaced by the Scunthorpe Golf Course club house, the course having been founded in 1936. The site formed part of the golf course, being used as a practice area until the early 1980s. It has since become very overgrown and has witnessed dumping of topsoil, builders refuse, rubble and other rubbish. Partial tree clearance has taken place very recently, and the site includes piles of timber, burnt and unburnt tree stumps and the locations of several fires (see section 7, below).

6.0 Cartographic Evidence.

The earliest detailed map consulted in the First edition Ordnance survey dated to 1856 (Figure 5). This shows the nature of landuse in the general area of the site, with Brumby Common and Burringham Moors to the north and west. Ashby Decoy is visible, set within one of the largest areas of woodland within what is otherwise an open landscape. The decoy lies within a landscape laid out with rectangular properties, which in the vicinity of the site follow the alignments of Scotter and Burringham Roads. Little detail is shown for the site itself, which lies within a single field at the junction of the two roads, immediately to the northeast of the woodland associated with the decoy.



Figure 5. Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map dated to 1818

By the late 19th century the cartographic sources are improved by the introduction of the 25 inch to the mile Ordnance Survey maps. The 1887 edition (Figure 6) for the area of the site clearly shows the detailed layout of Ashby Decoy, shown almost exactly as it had been illustrated by Payne-Gallwey the previous year (see Figure 4 above). Much of the associated woodland has been cleared. Ashby Decoy Cottage is shown adjacent to the Burringham Road. The site is located to the east of the cottage, within two almost square fields at the junction of Scotter and Burringham Roads. The site can be fairly accurately located due to the presence of field boundary ditches.

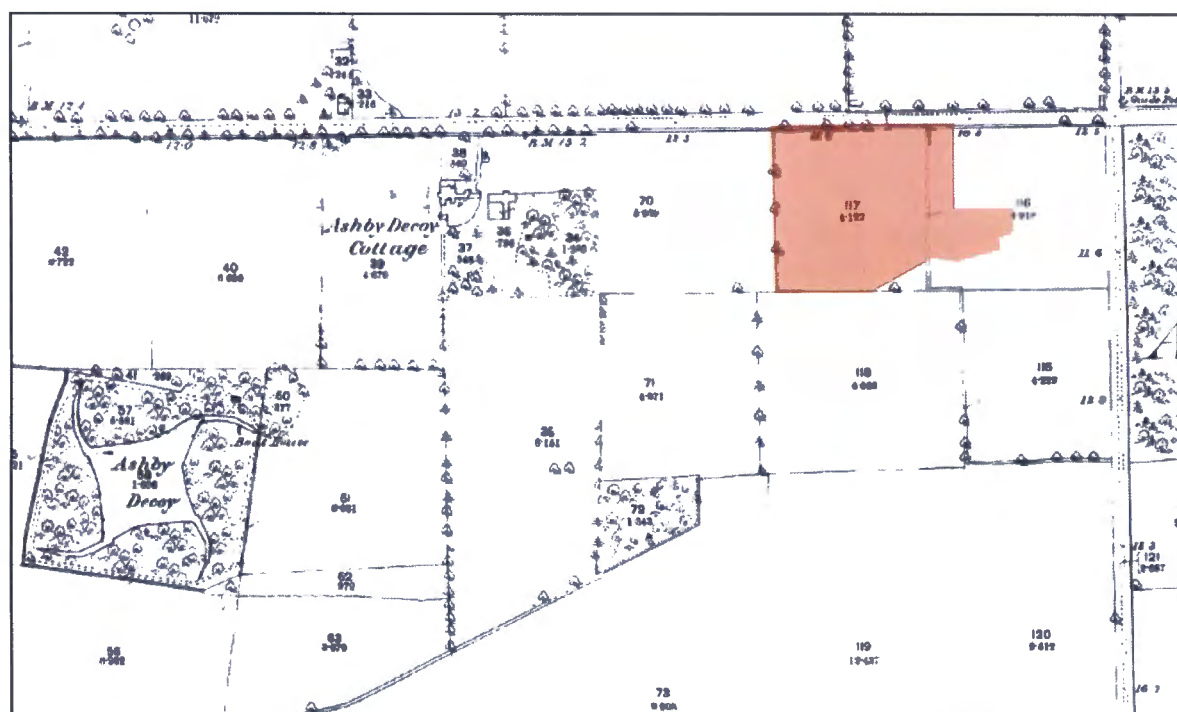


Figure 6. Extract from the 1887 25 inch Ordnance Survey map

Few changes had taken place in the immediate vicinity of the site by the early 20th century, as shown by the 1908 edition of the Ordnance Survey (Figure 7). The area between the decoy and the site, is, by this date, shown as marsh or moorland. Towards the eastern edge of the map the increasing urban expansion of Scunthorpe is shown with housing developments stretching along Burringham Road.

Very little changed through the first half of the 20th century (see Figure 8, the 1956 Ordnance Survey map), with the obvious exception of the foundation of the Golf Course. However, the basic layout of the area remained unchanged by this foundation, presumably due to the continued need for the drains, which formed the field boundaries, to be maintained. The site still occupies the same two square fields. Some additional suburban expansion has taken place to the east and an overhead powerline has been constructed to the west, but otherwise the landscape within which the site lies is predominantly still an agricultural one..

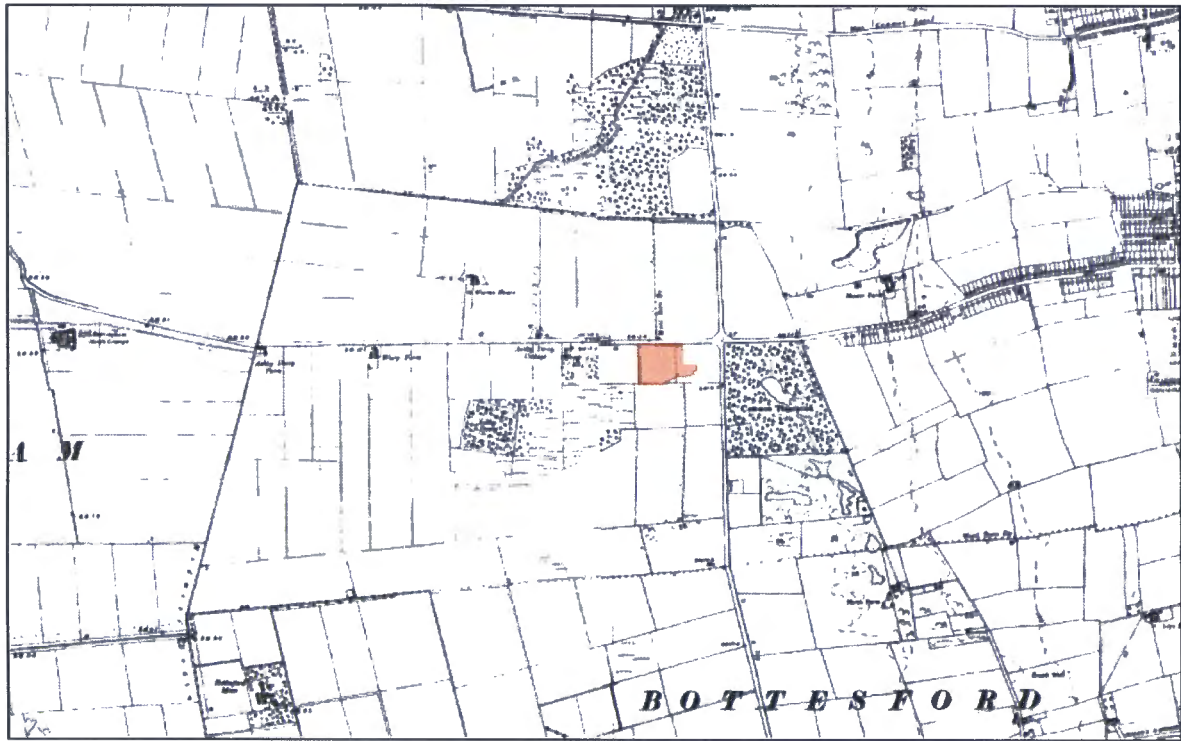


Figure 7. Extract from the 1908 Ordnance survey map

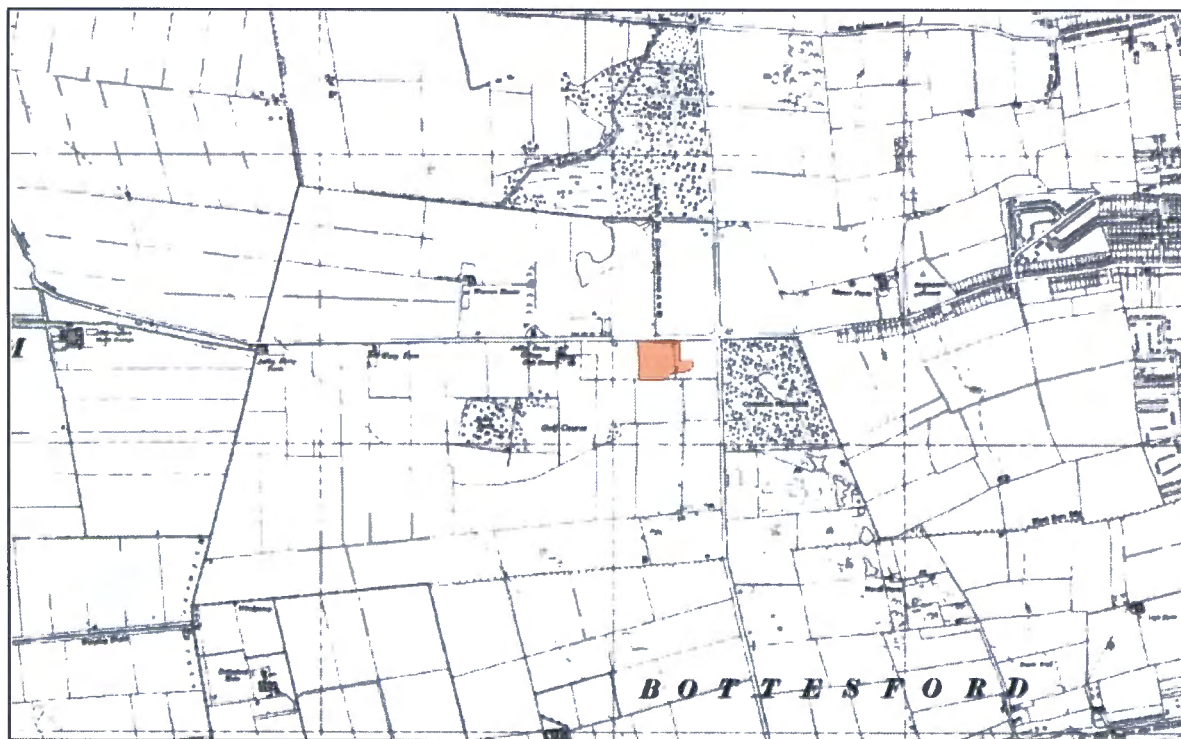


Figure 8. Extract from the 1956 Ordnance survey map



Figure 9. Extract from the 1971 Ordnance Survey map.

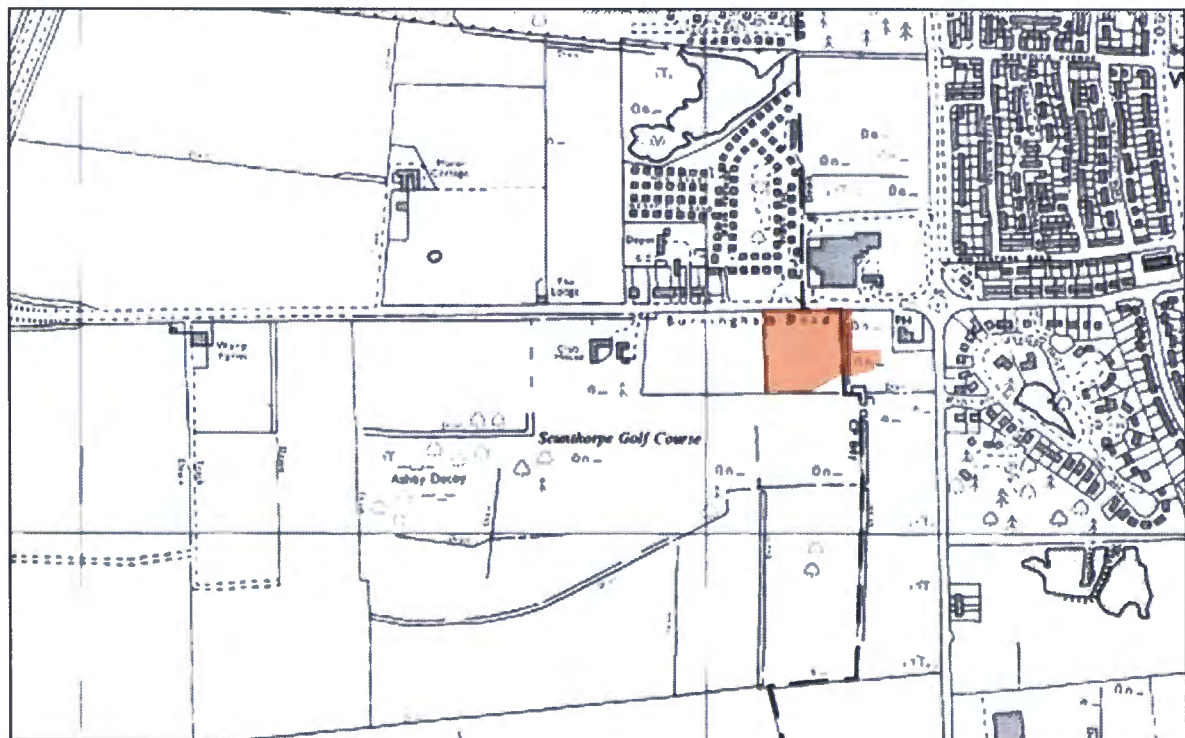


Figure 10. Extract from the 1983 Ordnance Survey map.

The final two maps from the later 20th century continue to show relatively little change to the site itself, which remained part of the golf course. The continued expansion of suburban Scunthorpe has reached, and started to cross, Scotter Road, with the construction of the Public House and supermarket to service the growing population. The site by the latest map clearly lies at the junction of urban and rural space.

7.0 Notes from a Site Visit.

A site visit was undertaken on 7th February to provide information regarding recent landuse and any effects that this may have upon potential archaeological survival.

The site was accessed from the adjacent golf course, along a path running along the southern perimeter of the rugby ground (Plate 1). The rugby ground is enclosed by a modern metal post and mesh fence, which forms the western boundary of the site (Plate 2).

A large proportion of the site has been recently cleared of trees and shrubs (Plate 3). The evidence for this activity is still clear, with piles of branches (Plate 4), tree stumps (Plate 5) (some of which have been burnt) and bonfires (Plate 6). Within the areas that have been cleared there are several mounds (Plate 7). Enquiries made of the golf club suggest that these represent dumping of spoil, topsoil, builders rubble (Plate 8) and fly tipping of refuse as the practice ground was not landscaped. The ground is very wet, with areas of standing water being present (Plate 9), especially towards the lower lying eastern side.

The eastern part of the site has not yet been cleared of trees (Plate 10). This area is separated from the rest of the site by a linear, north south aligned drainage ditch (Plate 11). This ditch can be equated to a boundary ditch visible on the historic maps from at least the later 19th century. To the east of the ditch the tree covered area includes the remains of a pond (Plate 12). The current water levels are so high that this has spilled out to the south and is spreading out onto the adjacent golf course path (Plate 13).

Part of the southern portion of the site is currently short cropped grass, forming the edge of the well maintained golf course (Plate 14).

The northern edge of the site is formed by Burringham Road, which is partially screened by trees. The road lies approximately 1m higher than the site (Plate 15), having presumably been constructed on a raised causeway due to the low-lying, flood prone character of the land.

No potential archaeological features were identified within the proposed development area during the site visit, with the possible exception of the extant north south aligned drainage ditch, which appears to represent a survival of the 19th century landscape. Although the site does not appear to have ever been built upon the presence of trees for much of the past thirty years, the clear evidence for modern earth moving, and the recent removal of vegetation have all lead to a degree of disturbance of the site.

8.0 Discussion.

The research undertaken in the preparation of this assessment has identified very few heritage assets that may be impacted upon by the proposed development. The heritage assets and potential impacts are outlined in summary form below.

There is no evidence that buried archaeological remains are present on the site. The settlement evidence of Late Iron Age/Romano-British date known through excavation that lay approximately 1.3km to the east, raise the low possibility that remains relating to associated field systems may exist on the site, although no cropmarks are known. If present such remains could be of local/regional significance.

The site does contain at least one more recent field boundary, which survives as an open drain. This is of local significance and, as the draft development plan shows (see Figure 2), this features is to be retained.

No listed buildings or other above ground heritage assets will be affected by the proposed development.

9.0 Conclusions.

The site lies within an area of fairly low archaeological activity. Iron Age and Romano-British settlement is known, through excavation, to be located approximately 1.3km to the east. The settlement appears to lie on a raised ridge overlooking low-lying land to the west, upon which the current site is situated. This area is most likely to have been used as fields associated with the settlement, which, due to the level at which it lies, may have been prone to seasonal flooding. Archaeological remains that may be anticipated here are likely to be limited to ditched field boundaries designed to control livestock. These could be considered of local, or regional significance, if they could be associated with the settlement evidence to the east.

There are no listed buildings or other designated heritage assets within, or sufficiently close to be affected by future development within, the site.

Due to the relatively low potential of the site to contain archaeological remains there should be no heritage reason for planning permission not to be granted. Any grant of permission could include archaeological conditions, requiring a scheme of evaluation and/or mitigation to be undertaken.

10.0 List of Sources

10.1 Published and unpublished documents.

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English Heritage Pastscape. <http://www.pastscape.org.uk>

11.0 Plates.



Plate 1. Fence around the rugby ground.



Plate 2. Western boundary of site.



Plate 3. General view of tree clearance.



Plate 4. Piles of cleared timber.



Plate 5. Tree stumps.



Plate 6. Bonfire and burnt tree stump.



Plate 7. Earth mounds towards western edge of site.



Plate 8. Mound of builders rubble.



Plate 9. Areas of standing water.



Plate 10. Tree covered eastern part of site.



Plate 11. Drainage ditch.



Plate 12. Pond within trees at eastern end of site.



Plate 13. Overspill from the pond onto the golf course.



Plate 14. Southern grassed portion of the site.



Plate 15. Northern boundary, showing the relative height of Burringham Road.