



Scheduled Monument - Thorpe medieval settlement, Thorpe in the Fallows – 1016978 shown in red on modern Ordnance Survey Mapping.

Overlain with 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 mapping 1886

Arrows indicate former field boundary referred to in our written representation viz (as per SoCG)

"The historic agrarian setting of the Thorpe le Fallows scheduled monument is important to its significance as the remains of a rural medieval settlement. Further to our rejection of the proposed c50m offset as insufficient to address the setting of the monument, we have advised that this specific field boundary should be reinstated as a limit to the solar array. This former boundary has a direct historic landscape relationship to the shrunken settlement remains to its south and the rising round upon which Thorpe le Fallows sits. The irregular line of this east-west boundary as shown on the 1st edition OS 1:2500 mapping suggests it sat in an organic relationship to the pattern of open-field cultivation stripes and associated land tenure, in contrast to the straighter more regular subdivision of strips characteristic of more structured enclosure. The significance of the monument is not set in a singular medieval moment of fully open fields and peak population that can be juxtaposed to an equally static post-medieval landscape of depopulation and enclosure. Central to the understanding and appreciation of shrunken or deserted medieval villages is that the archaeological remains we encounter relate to complex and extended processes of social and economic change; sudden changes may occur but they do not define the limit of interest or understanding. Significance is therefore [diachronic] concerned with the history and evolution of the monument in this landscape rather than [synchronic] confined to certain particular points in time. We have set out a reasonable measure to conserve and better reveal the significance of the scheduled monument, and reframe it in the context of the harm resulting from development's transformation of its agrarian setting. The reinstatement of this former boundary as a limit to the solar array is both proportionate and necessary to a sustainable planning outcome. The irregular character of the boundary is important to the effectiveness of this mitigation, any functional straight-line security fencing would need therefore to sit north of the reinstated boundary. To be effective as mitigation the reinstated boundary would need to be a laid hedgerow and would benefit from the inclusion of some standard trees for instance crab apple, field maple etc."