RK293 (1-14) Nov 12 14

SK4603

There is no Roman evidence of any domestic site associated with the fields, which are of more than a single period. There are elements of prehistoric fields, but this remains to be proved by physical evidence of a conventional archaeological type.

It is noteworthy that the double ditch is an extension of the parish boundary at SK 63035 that the road to Keckleton is anomalous to the parish boundary. The double ditch may be later than B + although I have indicated B as a continuous ditch, it may be a pit alignment like C

One wonders about the small kink in the parish boundary behind the farm at SK SK 45035, which might indicate an earlier domestic site under the farm. The field systems continue across the road to the X area, but it is necessary to wait until these slides "surface."

It is extremely unlikely that such ditches would yield any dating material + surface finds might have no connection with the ditches or have no significance for their period of construction, use, or termination. Biological investigations of ditch deposits ought to give some indication of area foliage at the termination of the active life of the field systems.

Although this evidence is entirely new + (with other similar evidence) entirely changes concepts of the extent Prehistoric + Romano British land use in S.W. Leics., it is of no special local significance. It is more likely to be indicative of a much more widely spread pattern of prehistoric settlement + land use. This of land use ended + redevelopment has taken place so long after cessation that at least some of the earlier boundaries were irrelevant.

I think there is some evidence from other areas I study that neolithic fields + boundaries may have been elements in Iron Age + Romano British field systems in much the same way that medieval features survive as an integral part of todays landscape. (over)

RK293 (2-141

i.e. one can find additions or subtractions, but rarely a total change. In the past 200 years, the enclosure awards introduced minor diversions into a medieval landscape + the canals, railways + motorways cut across it. Similarly the Roman roads in many cases cut across a man made landscape that contained, as integral parts, neolithic, celtic + iron age ditches, hedges + boundaries in an accumulated pattern.

Whilst this may seem difficult to prove archaeologically, where such fossil features as the "Newbold Verdon" pattern can be shown to be more than one period from additions + alterations (as opposed to total obsolescence), then the period of land use is being lengthened. When it can be shown that neolithic banks, boundaries + ditches are not anomalous to Romano British farmsteads, then this must be an indication of the possibility of continuity of land use over 2000 years.

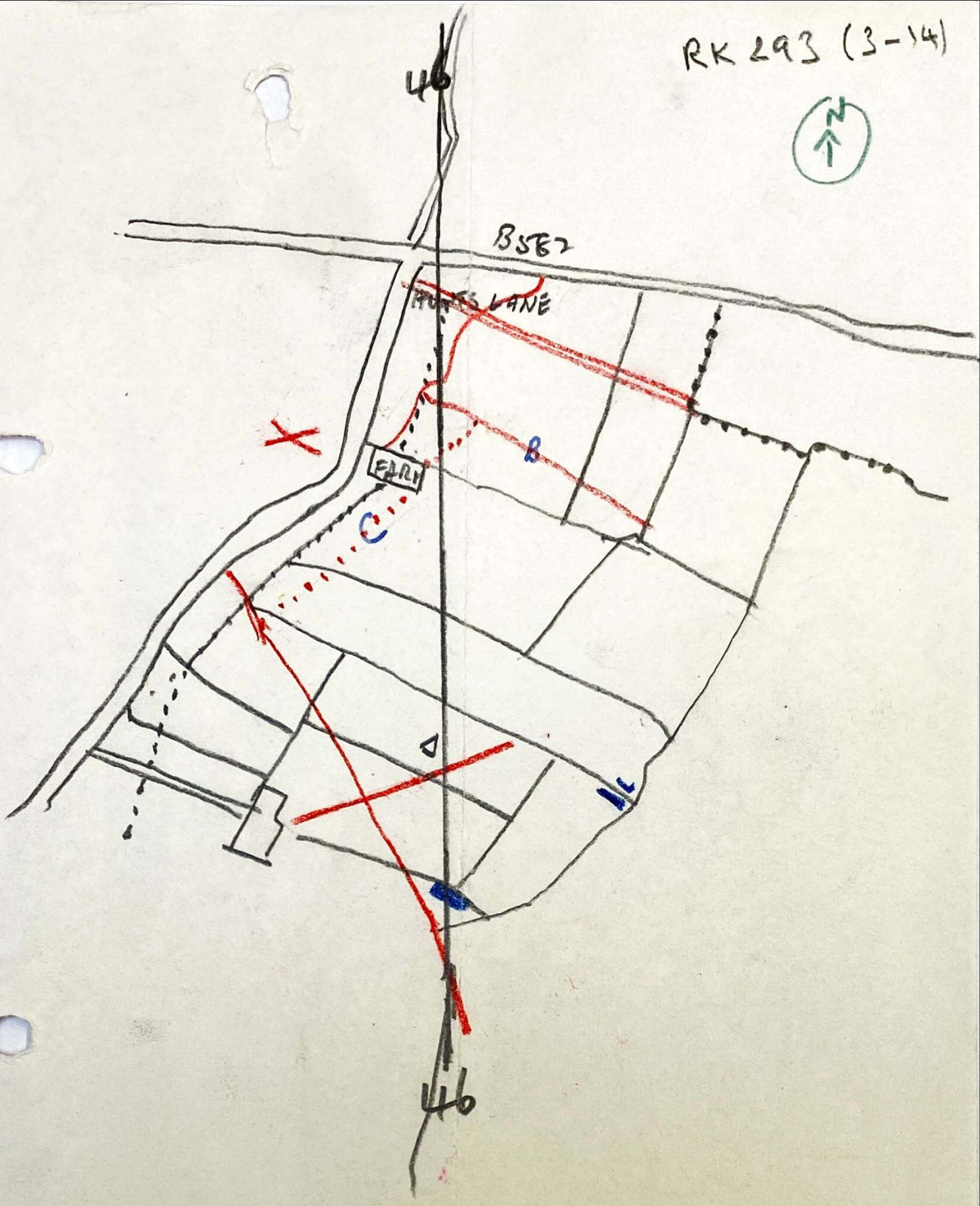
It is unlikely that land development would have been as evenly spread over the landscape in neolithic times as it is today, but the emerging pattern is much more of contiguous fields over large areas than of forest clearings in a wooden landscape.

I'd be grateful if you'd let me know of anything that turns up + I shall of course maintain surveillance from the air at appropriate times.

Kindest Regards

Yours Sincerely

RK 293 (3-14)



SK 1503

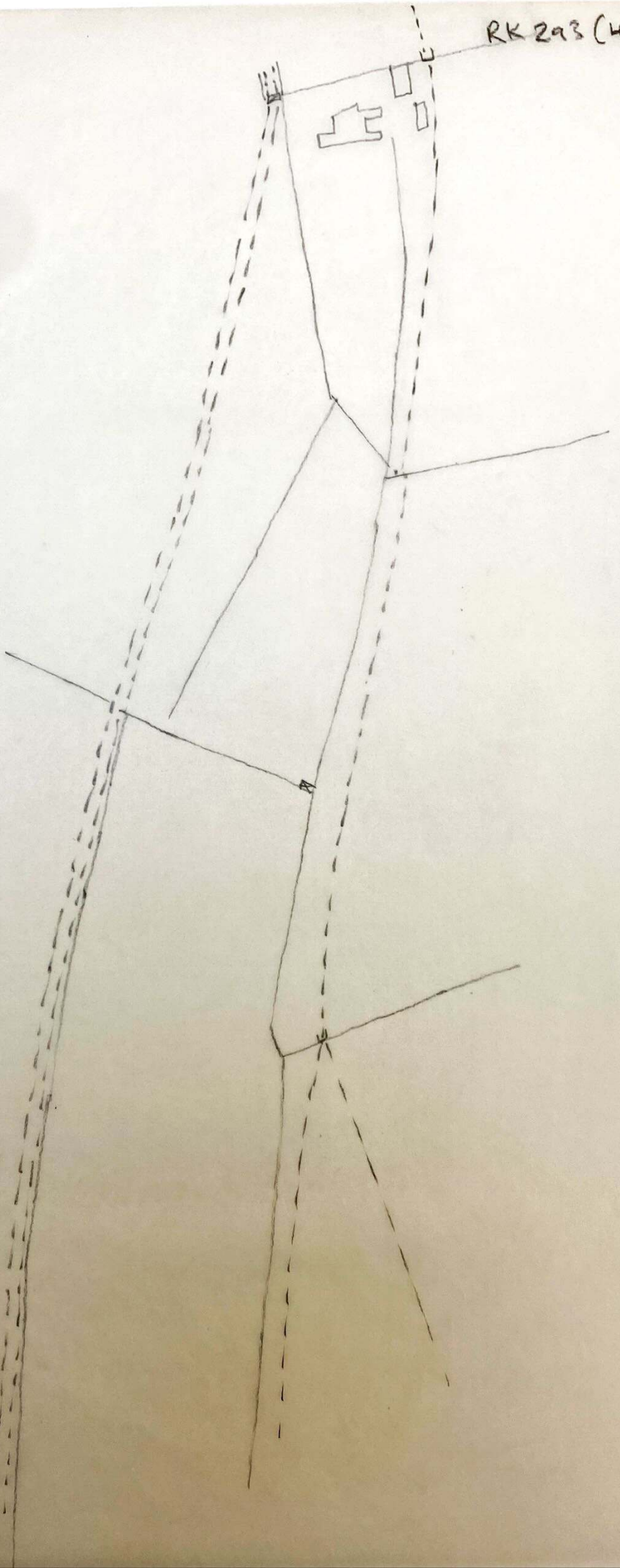
Mostly in Desford but extending into N.V.

KIRKBY MALLORY

TITHE MAP

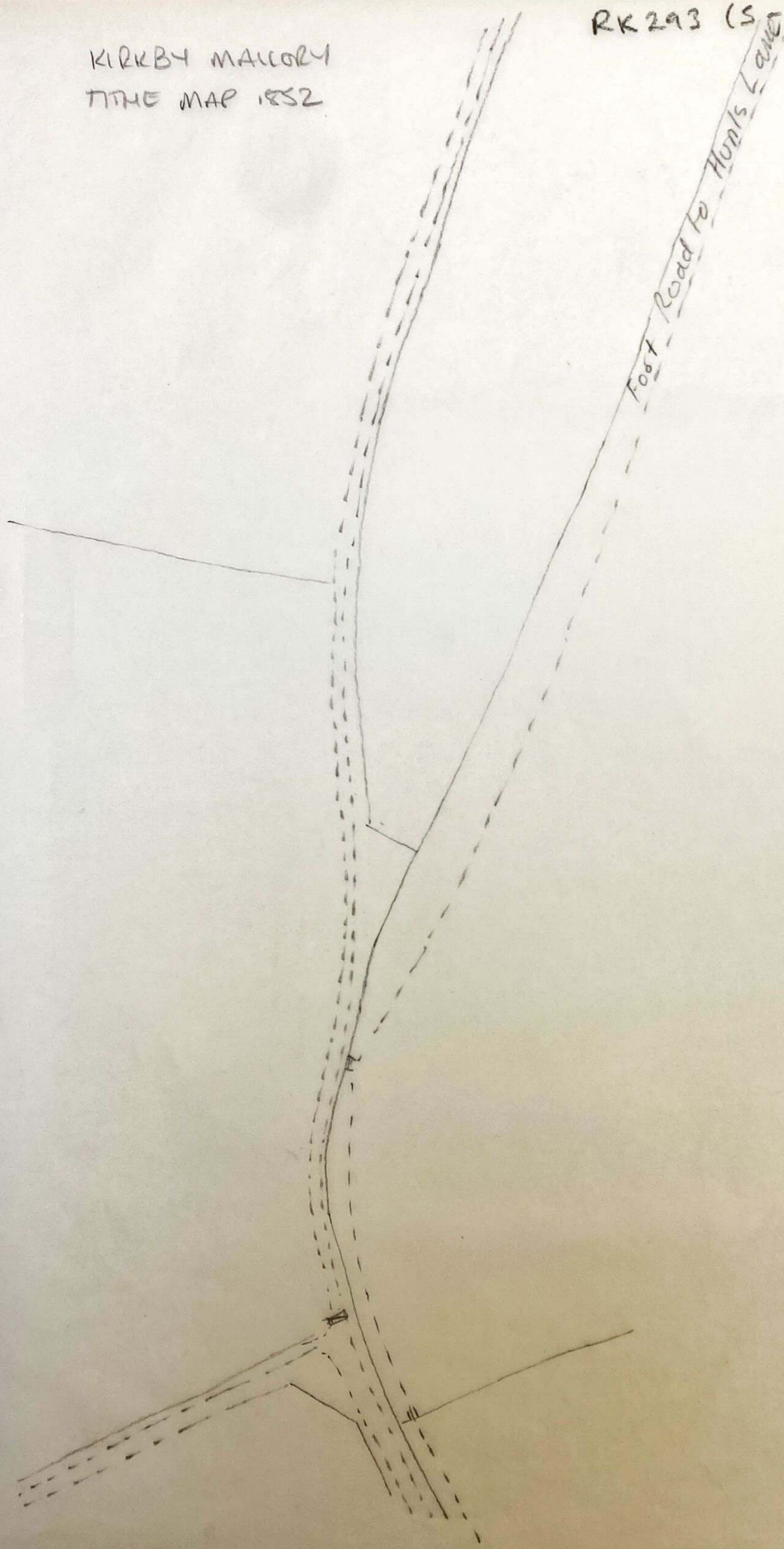
1852

RK 293 (4-14)



KIRKBY MALLORY
TITHE MAP 1852

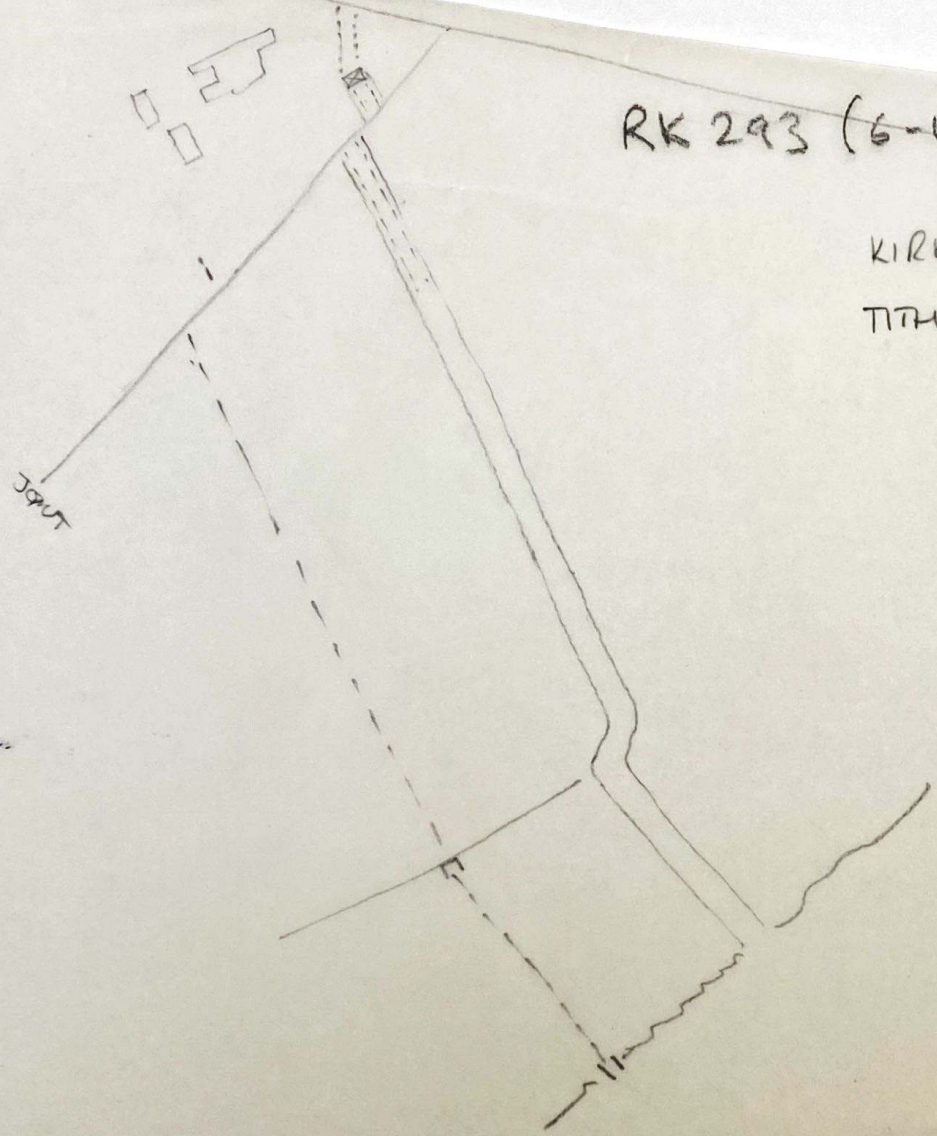
RK293 (S 14)



RK 293 (6-14)

KIRKBY MALLORY

TITHE MAP 1852



RK293 (9-14)



RK293 (10-14)



RK 293 (11-14)



RK 293 (12-14)



RK 293 (7-14)



RK 293 (8-14)



RK293 (13 - 14)



RK293 (14-14)

