

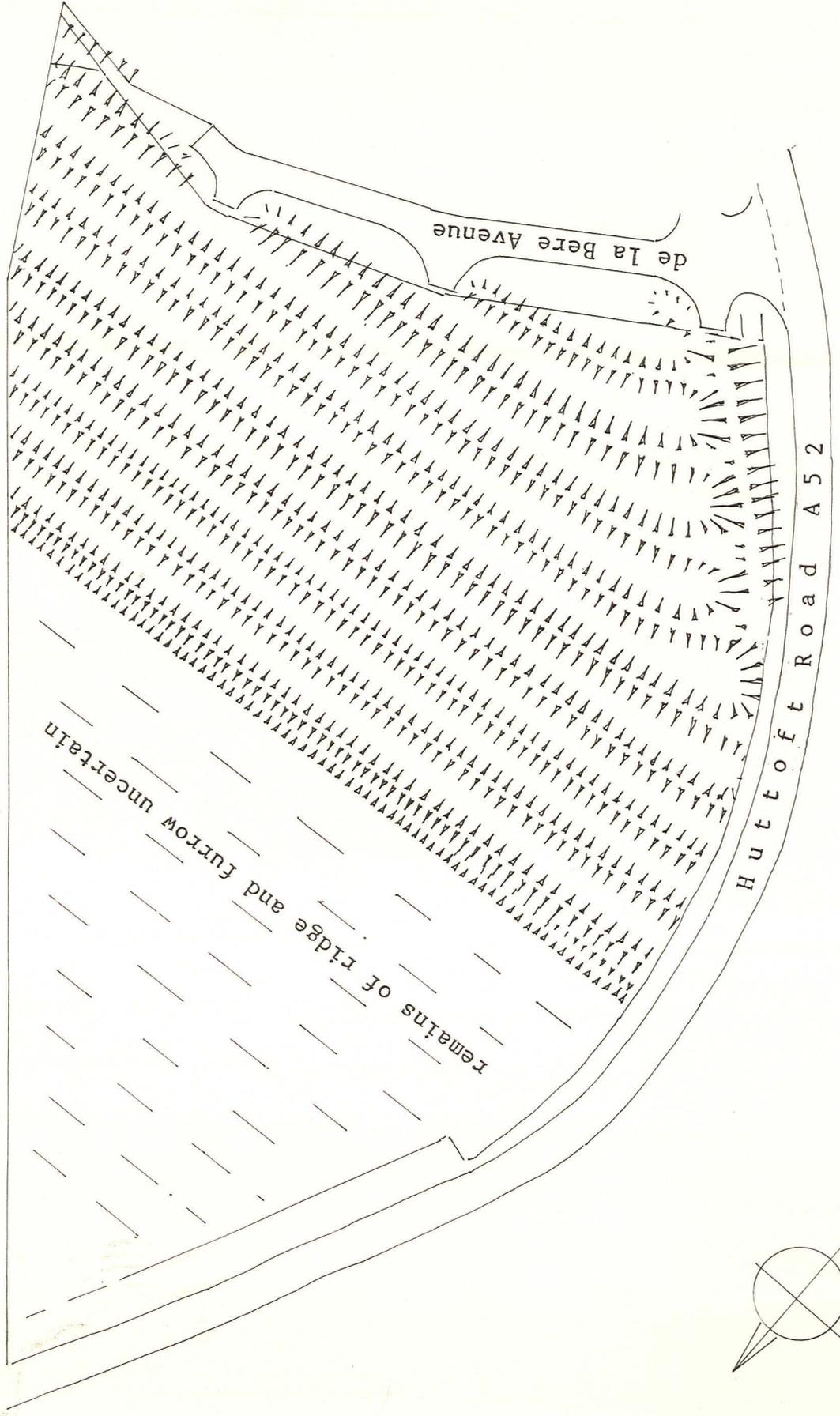
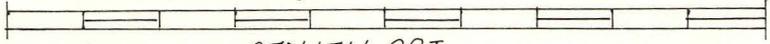
SUTTON on SEA
Cade's Field Earthwork Survey

EVENT 416263

SOURCE 410263

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M.V.C. L.A.S.
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SUTTON on SEA Cade's Field Earthwork Survey

Introduction

A survey of the earthworks in Cade's Field was carried out on July 20th 1992. Medieval plough furrows, known as ridge and furrow, survive in the southern half of the field. The land had been used as pasture until 1991 but was left fallow in 1992. A crop of hay had been cut just prior to the survey.

Background

Examination of the Tithe and Enclosure Award maps of 1839 and 1840 for Sutton le Marsh at the Lincolnshire Archives Office showed that Cade's Field was once much larger, its southern limit extending as far as the church. The Tithe Award also recorded that the field was used for pasture and the field was let to various tenants, being sub-divided into plots of various sizes. The land divisions were aligned with the ridge and furrow which is still visible today. Land to the east of Cade's Field was named Dale Riggs on the Tithe Award Map. Whilst Cade's Field is probably a personal name the term Rigg probably refers to presence of ridge and furrow, rig being an alternative term for ridge.

Description

Ridge and furrow earthworks cross the south half of the field aligned approximately east-west. The northern limit of the main earthworks is marked by a later dyke, or field drain, which runs parallel to the ridge and furrow. To the north of the dyke the field is almost flat but there are faint indications of continuing ridge and furrow which must have been ploughed out.

The distance from ridge to ridge varies but on average they are 9m apart. The surviving height from the top of the ridges to the bottom of the furrows varied between 0.30-0.35m (Fig.1).

The present unusual shape of Cade's Field has been caused by the construction of the railway line to the east (which was constructed after 1840) but has been removed and replaced with housing. It is assumed that the ridge and furrow would have extended beyond the line of the railway.

At the south-west corner of the field the ridges meet a headland which marks the edge of the original field. The Huttoft Road which forms the curving western boundary clearly follows a modern line cutting across the headland and the ridge and furrow.

The ridge and furrow was seen extending into the grass verge adjacent to de la Bere Avenue and into the gardens of the houses to the south. This confirms the evidence from the early maps that the present housing south of de la Bere Avenue was constructed on the southern part of Cade's Field.

Discussion

The old settlement of Sutton le Marsh flourished as a result of coastal trading but was partially destroyed by the sea in the late 13th century.

There is some evidence to suggest the presence of settlement remains to the south of the church and the present hamlet of Sandilands is also of some antiquity. The 1839 Tithe Award Map shows a large farm to the south-west of the development site and houses in the area now known as Sandilands. Earthwork remains have been observed in the field immediately south of the church which may be the remains of house platforms. If so this area of settlement had already disappeared by 1839 as no buildings are shown on the Tithe Award map.

There was no evidence from the ground survey of any settlement remains within the proposed development area. The plough furrows in the field are probably associated with medieval land use and the change to pasture may be associated with the continued depopulation of the land during the 15th and 16th centuries.

Conclusion

It is considered unlikely that any settlement remains will be uncovered in Cade's Field. It is therefore considered that no archaeological excavation is necessary on the site although a watching brief during earth moving may be required by the County Archaeological Officer.

Naomi Field
July 29th 1992



Cade's Field, Sutton on Sea. Earthwork survey in progress