

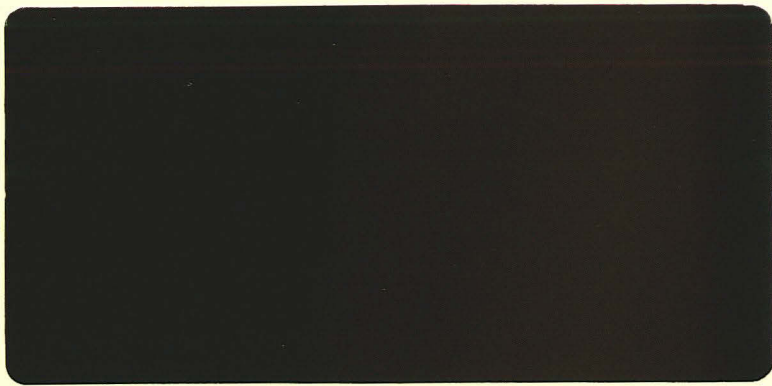
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**EARTHWORK SURVEY
ON LAND AT
HALTON ROAD
SPILSBY
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SHR00)**



A P S
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES



Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section
22. MAY 00
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SOURCES L15967/8

**EARTHWORK SURVEY
ON LAND AT
HALTON ROAD
SPILSBY
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SHR00)**

Work Undertaken For
Robert Doughty Consultancy
on behalf of Allison Homes

April 2000

Report Compiled by
Tobin Rayner BSc (Hons)

Planning Application No: S/165/1763/98
National Grid Reference: TF 4065 6565
City and County Museum Accession No: 2000.109
City and County Museum Site Code: HSP00



A.P.S. Report No.68/00

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1. SUMMARY

An earthwork survey was undertaken on land at Halton Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire as part of a planning condition for a proposed residential (estate) development. Artefacts dating from the Prehistoric to the medieval period have been found in the vicinity, including a flint axe, Iron Age coins, an Anglo-Saxon glass bead and medieval pottery.

A rectangular area of ridge and furrow earthworks, including a headland, remnants of arable use of the land in the medieval period (1066 - 1500), was surveyed.

Modern features were also recorded within the development area in the form of two probable drinking hollows, a terraced area, a path and a probable trackway.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

On the 18th April 2000, an earthwork survey was undertaken on land at Halton Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire. A planning application (S/165/1763/98) was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for a proposed residential (estate) development. Permission is subject to conditions requiring a topographic survey prior to development and the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

The earthwork survey was commissioned by Robert Doughty Consultancy on behalf of Allison Homes. Archaeological Project Services undertook the work in accordance with a specification designed by Archaeological Project Services (Appendix 1).

2.2 Topography and Geology

Spilsby lies at the south end of the Lincolnshire Wolds, approximately 25km north of Boston and 15km southeast of Horncastle in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The site is at the eastern edge of the town, on the south side of Halton Road at national grid reference TF 4065 6565 (Fig. 2). Located on the north side of a northwest-southeast stream valley, with the partially canalised stream flowing to the south, the site lies at approximately 35m OD.

Local soils are the Cuckney 2 Association, typical brown sands (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 152). These soils are developed on Upper Jurassic Spilsby Sandstone which overlies Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1995).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Spilsby lies in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric period to the present. Prehistoric artefacts, including a polished flint axe and socketed axe, have been found in the parish. Additionally, a major Late Iron Age settlement is located in the area, evident as an artefact scatter with numerous coins of the period (May 1984, 22).

An Anglo-Saxon glass bead and medieval pottery have previously been found in the parish.

Spilsby is first referred to in the Domesday Book of 1086 and the place name derives from the Old Scandinavian *Spilli's by*, meaning 'Spilli's homestead or village' (Ekwall 1974, 434).

At the time of Domesday, Spilsby formed part of a large manor with Eresby and Thorpe St. Peter. This manor, which was held by the Bishop of Durham, had two

mills (Foster and Longley 1976, 33).

Old Spilsby, which Domesday may refer to, is located over 1km to the north and, comprising earthwork remains, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, no. 22715 (English Heritage 1996, 8).

The investigation area is in New Spilsby, a medieval planned market town (Everson and Hayes 1984, 39) which still retains much of its original layout.

In 1302 Spilsby obtained its market charter and approximately 450m northwest of the investigation site is the Market Cross which dates from the 14th century (Jacques nd, 3). The cross is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, no. 22697 (English Heritage 1996, 8).

A chapel, referred to in 1291 and endowed with a chancel in the 14th century (Marjoram 1974, 79), became the parish church of St. James and was founded as a college for priests (DoE 1987, 33).

Near the church is the Grammar School, founded in 1550, though now comprising predominantly 18th century and later buildings (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 681). There are also a number of buildings dating from the 17th century and later in the town (DoE 1987, 43).

Earthworks of ridge and furrow agricultural remains occur on the site. These are considered to be late medieval in date.

3. AIMS

The aim of the survey was to make a record of ridge and furrow, and other earthworks, prior to development groundworks being undertaken.

4. METHODS

A geodolite TST surveying instrument was used to establish the location and extent of the ridge and furrow, and other earthworks. The dimensions of the earthworks were also recorded by surveying the lines of the furrow bases and ridge crests (Fig. 4 and 5).

Photographic records were also made using a 35mm camera with colour print film.

5. RESULTS

The survey recorded an approximately rectangular area of ridge and furrow earthworks, measuring c.115m x 76m, within Field A (Plate 1, Fig. 3). Two hollows located on the eastern edge of Field A and a terraced area to the north, were also recorded. An east-west aligned path, running centrally across the field, was also surveyed.

A slight bank and terrace were mapped within Field B, whilst no earthworks were observed in Field C (Fig. 3).

The ridge and furrow earthworks within Field A were found to be aligned approximately north-south, with the ridges being between 8m and 10m in width (Fig. 4 and 5).

6. DISCUSSION

Ridge and furrow was a long-lived form of ploughing that is particularly characteristic of the medieval period. The earthworks were individually formed and cultivation occurred on the ridges, with the furrows serving a drainage function.

Although these ploughing techniques probably commenced in the Middle Saxon

period *c.* AD 650-850 (Hall 1982, 53) and persisted to the late 19th to early 20th centuries, the dimensions and shape of the resulting earthworks vary over time due to differing ploughing methods. During the medieval period, the land was tilled using animal-drawn ploughs resulting in broad ridges that, in the earlier phase were characteristically elongated reverse-S shaped in plan. The use of steam traction in more recent times generated straight, narrow ridges. The earthworks recorded at the development site are therefore considered to be the result of late medieval ploughing, due to the broad but generally straight nature of the ridges.

Although considered to be late medieval, the ridge and furrow is of unknown date. However, the ridge and furrow alignment, and elements of the wider field pattern in the area, is apparently crossed by Halton Road. This highway is also undated but is shown on Armstrong's map of 1779 (Fig. 6), indicating that the ridge and furrow must be earlier than this date.

The two hollows located on the eastern edge of Field A, truncating the ridge and furrow earthworks and adjacent to a drainage ditch, are of a later date than the ploughing earthworks. These hollows probably functioned as either ponds or drinking hollows for cattle.

Truncating the ridge and furrow in the northwest corner of Field A was a slight terrace of uncertain date or function. A concrete trough, for cattle watering, was located upon this terraced area.

The slight terrace recorded in Field B (Fig. 3) may be the remains of a headland produced when the ploughs were turned around, producing a build-up of soil and creating an earthwork. The fact that this headland lies to the south of Field A suggests that the southerly hedge line of

Field A is a later feature, constructed after ridge and furrow cultivation had ceased.

An east-west aligned modern path was recorded truncating the ridge and furrow centrally within Field A.

The earthwork recorded as a slight bank, centrally within Field B, appears to be aligned parallel with the escarpment and may possibly represent the remains of a modern trackway.

7. CONCLUSIONS

The survey has measured the extent and dimensions of previously unrecorded ridge and furrow ploughing earthworks within the proposed development area. On the basis of size of the ridges, the earthworks are considered to have been produced by ploughing in the medieval period. A probable headland resulting from this ploughing method was also recorded. Depressions, interpreted as drinking hollows and dating to a later period, were recorded suggesting the land was used for grazing when ridge and furrow cultivation had ceased. A modern path and trackway was also surveyed.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Emma Banbury of the Robert Doughty Consultancy who commissioned the fieldwork and report on behalf of Allison Homes. Thanks also due to Stuart Robinson of Allison Homes for arranging access to the site. The archaeological project was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Gary Taylor and Tom Lane. David Start permitted access to the library and parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of

Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
Project Officer: Tobin Rayner
Site Assistants: Rachael Hall, Andrew Failes
Photographic Reproduction: Tobin Rayner and Sue Unsworth
Illustration: Tobin Rayner
Post-excavation Analyst: Tobin Rayner

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

BGS British Geological Survey

DoE Department of the Environment

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

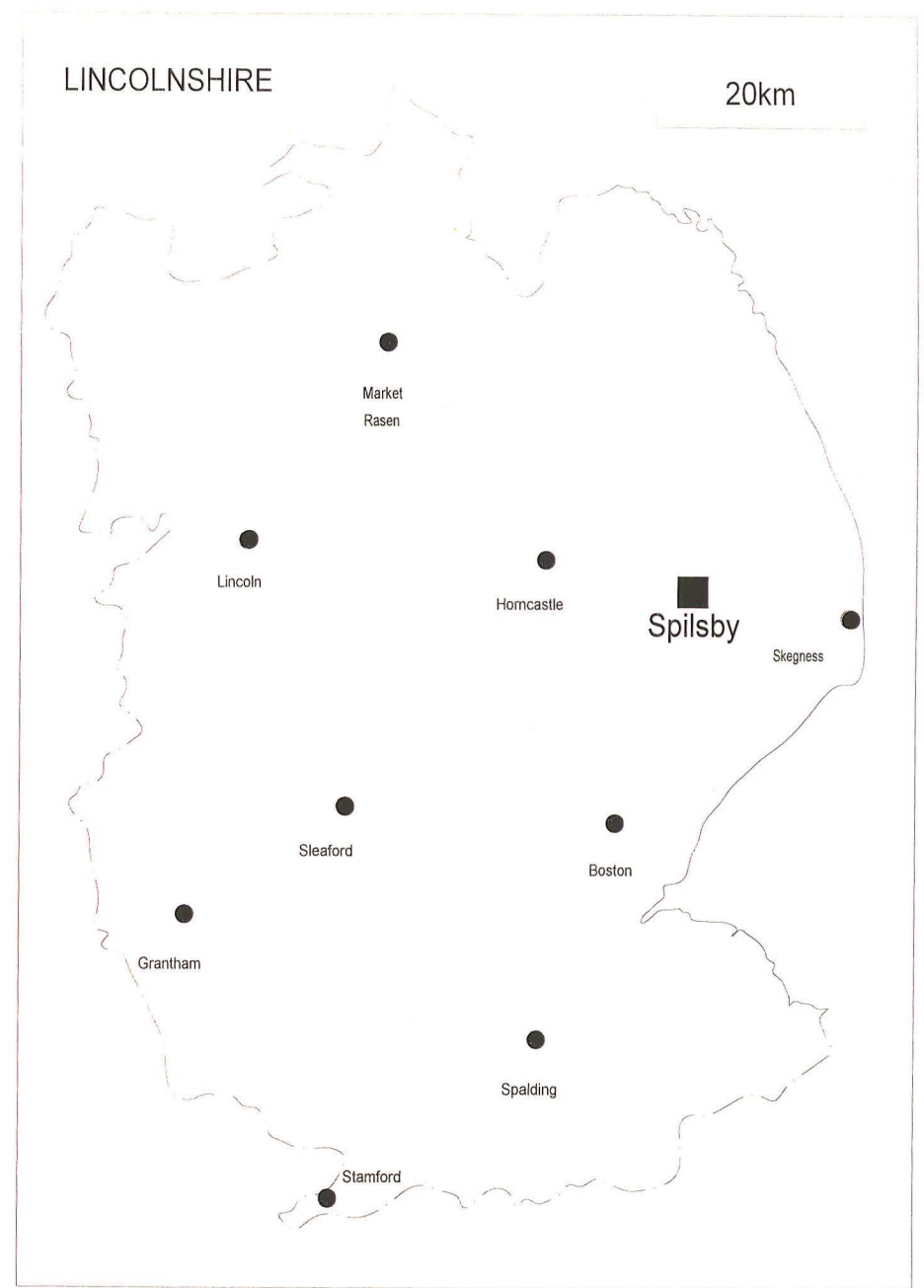


Figure 1 General Location Plan

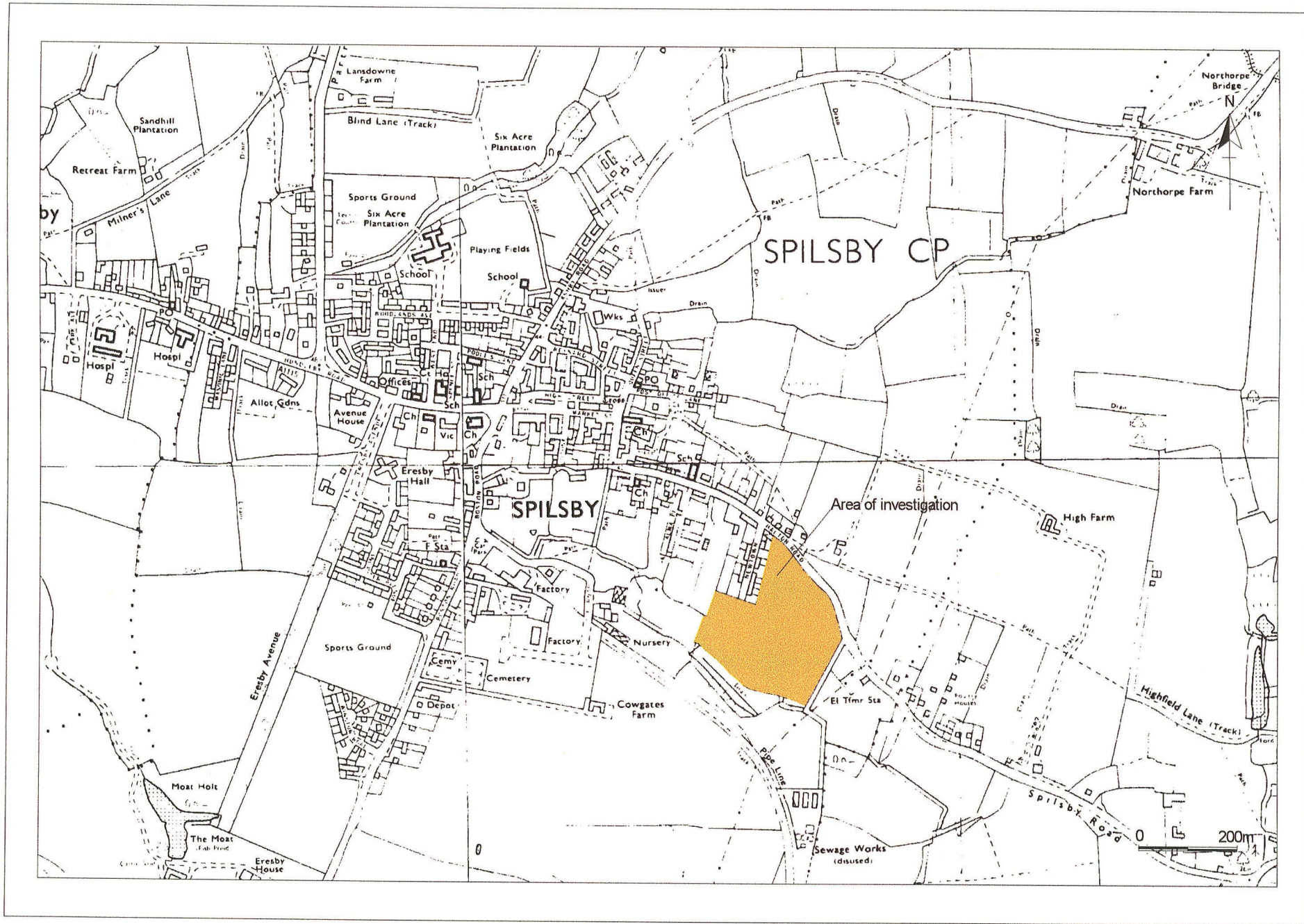


Figure 2: Site Location Plan

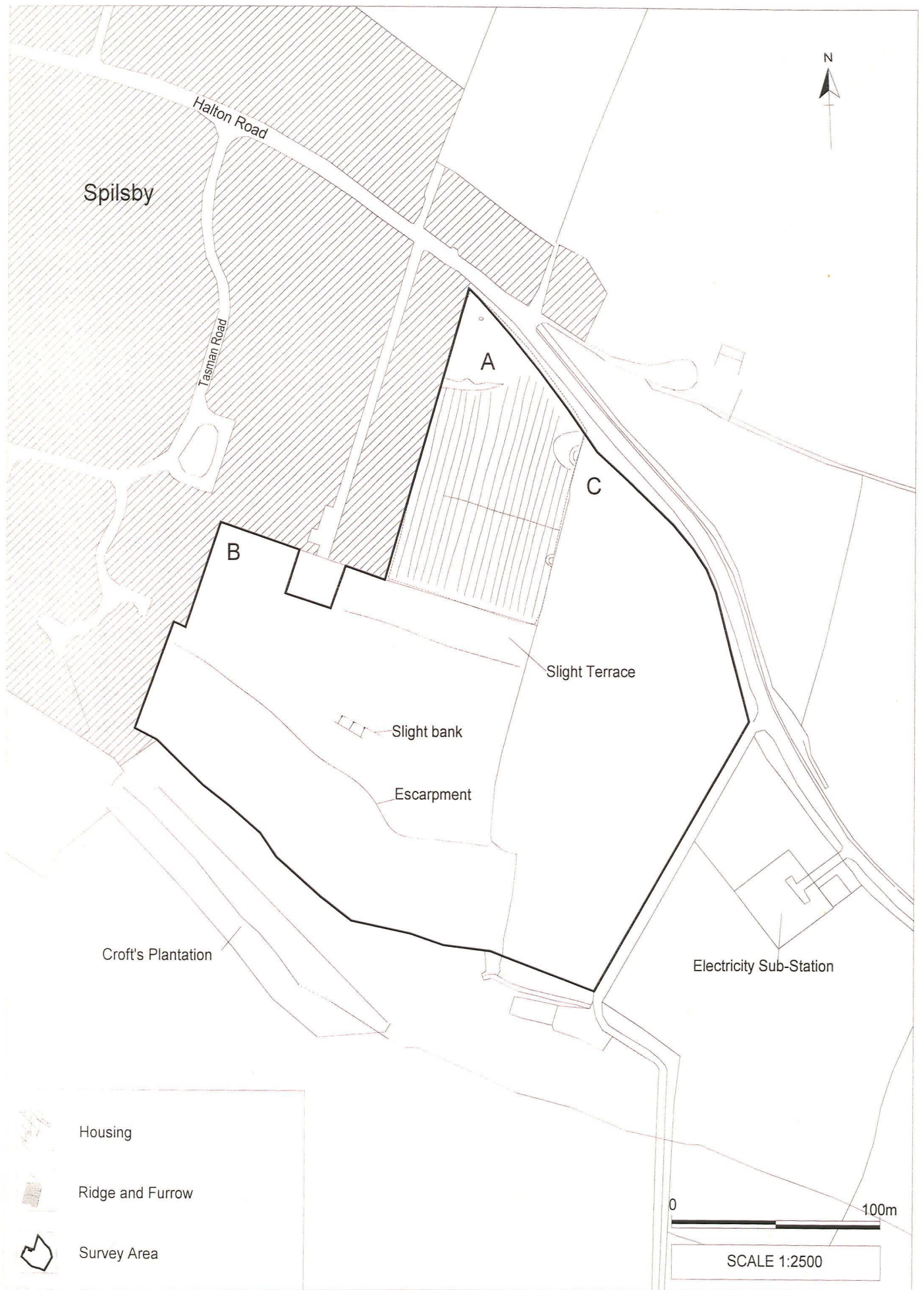


Figure 3: Site Location and Survey Detail

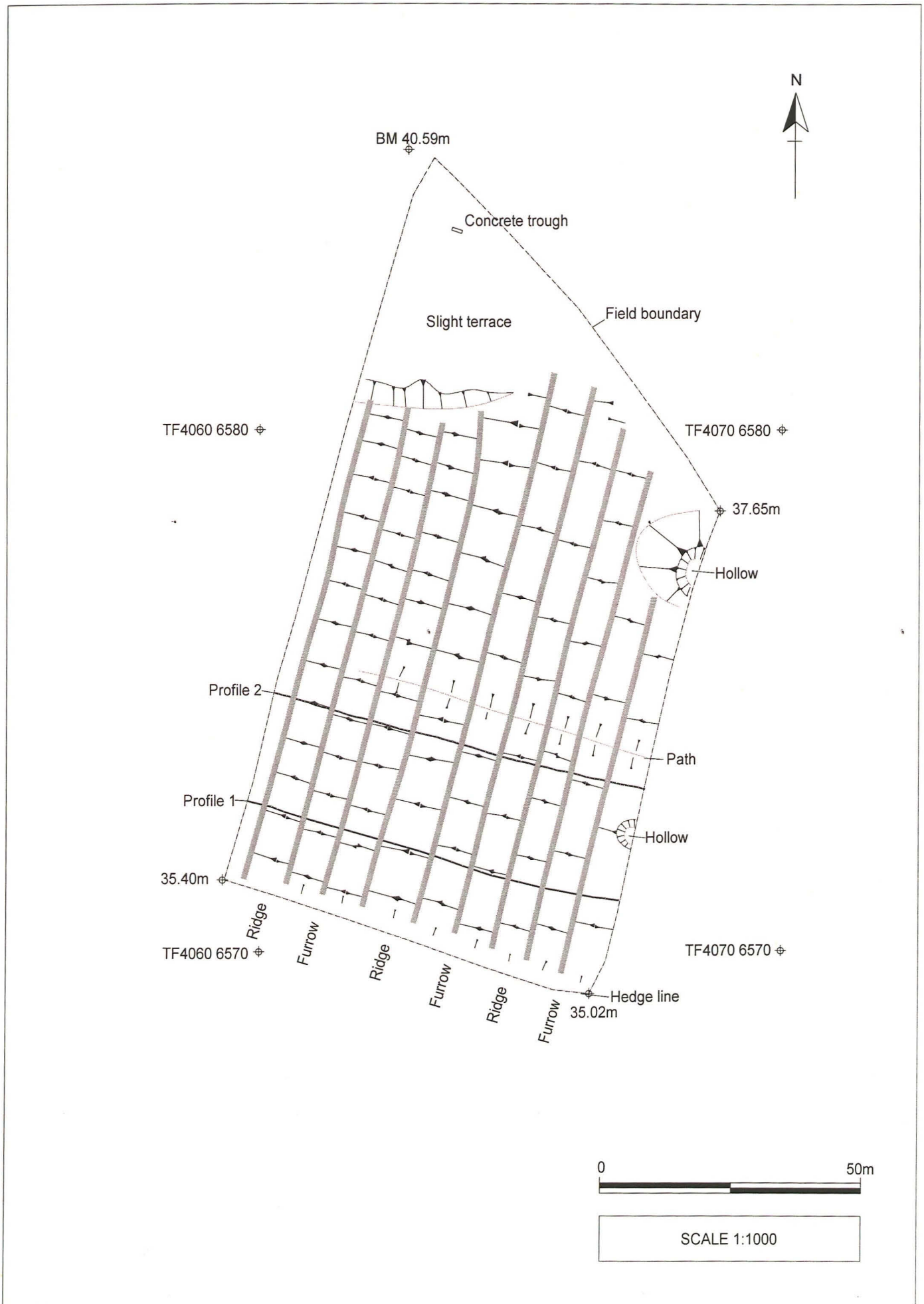
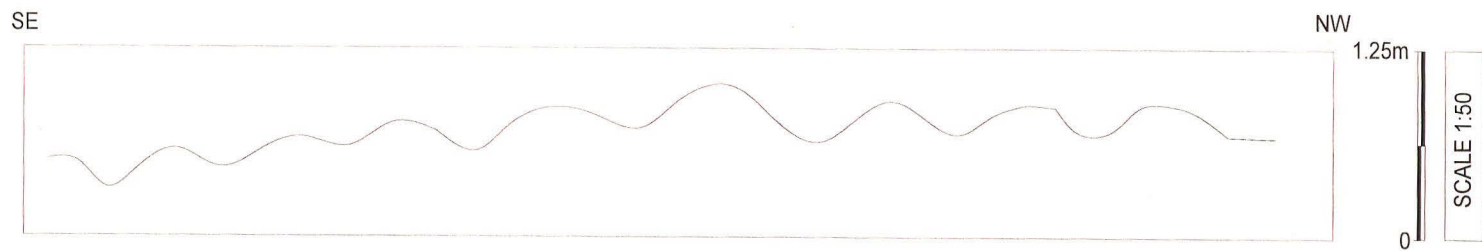
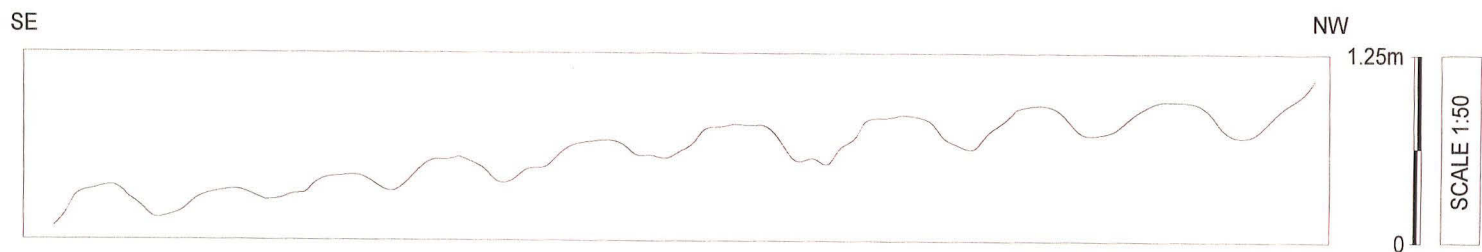


Figure 4: Hachure representation of the Ridge and Furrow



Profile 1



Profile 2

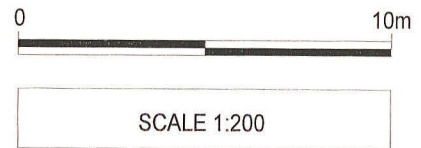


Figure 5: Profiles across Ridge and Furrow (Exaggerated vertical scale)

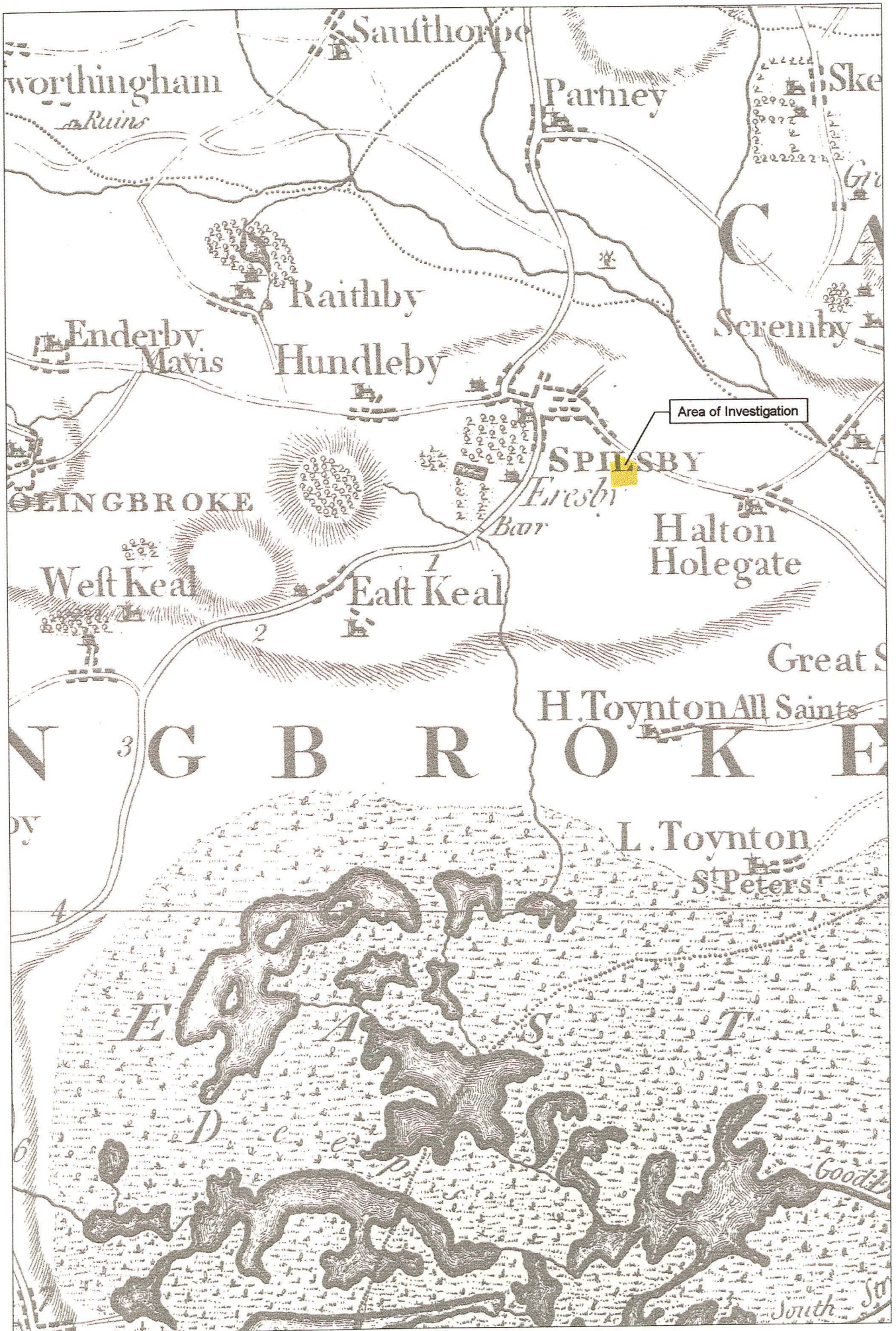


Figure 6: Extract from Armstrong's 1779 map, showing investigation area

Appendix 1

LAND AT HALTON ROAD, SPILSBY, LINCOLNSHIRE - SPECIFICATION FOR AN EARTHWORK SURVEY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

- a. *An earthwork survey and a watching brief are required prior to and during development works at Halton Road, Spilsby, Lincolnshire.*
- b. *The site contains earthwork remains of ridge and furrow of probable medieval date. Iron Age and medieval remains area also known in the Spilsby area.*
- c. *The earthwork survey will take place prior to development and will make an accurate record of topographic features within the site. A watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the residential development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

1. INTRODUCTION

- a. This document comprises a specification for an earthwork survey and archaeological watching brief prior to and during groundworks connected with residential development on land at Halton Road, Spilsby, Lincs. The site is located at National Grid Reference TF 4065 6565.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
 - i. Overview.
 - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
 - iii. List of specialists.
 - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project

2. SITE LOCATION

- a. Spilsby is located at the southern end of the Lincolnshire Wolds, approximately 15km southeast of Horncastle in the East Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The site is at the eastern edge of the town, on the south side of Halton Road, centred on National Grid Reference TF 4065 6565.

3. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- a. A planning application (S/165/1763/98) was submitted to East Lindsey District Council for proposed residential (estate) development. Permission is subject to conditions requiring a topographic survey prior to development and the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

4. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

- a. The site is at a height of c. 35m OD on the north side of a northwest-southeast stream valley, the partially canalised stream flowing just south of the site. Local soils are the Cuckney 2 Association typical brown sands (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 152). These soils are developed on upper Jurassic Spilsby Sandstone which overlies Kimmeridge Clay.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

- a. Prehistoric artefacts, including a flint axe and a socketed axe, have been found in the area and a major Iron Age settlement is known as an artefact scatter with numerous coins of the period.
- b. An Anglo-Saxon glass bead and medieval pottery has previously been found in the parish. Spilsby was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. Old Spilsby, which Domesday may refer to, is located over 1km to the north. The investigation area is in New Spilsby, a settlement that is a medieval planned town which retains much of its original layout. Previous investigations have suggested the limits to the planned town (Archaeological Project Services 1999); the present development site is approximately 0.5km southeast of the limits of the planned medieval town.
- c. Earthworks of ridge and furrow agricultural remains occur on the site. These are considered to be late medieval in date.

6. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aim of the work will be to identify and record archaeological features and deposits present on the site in advance of and during the groundworks.
- b. The objectives of the work will be to:
 - i. Record earthworks within the application area.
 - ii. Establish the type of archaeological remains that may be present within the site.
 - iii. Determine the likely type and extent of archaeological remains within the site.
 - iv. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological remains present within the site.
 - v. Determine whether the surrounding archaeological remains extend into the application area.
 - vi. Establish the way in which the archaeological remains identified fit into the pattern of occupation and land-use in the surrounding landscape.
 - vii. Determine the date and function of the archaeological remains on the site.
 - viii. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

7. TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- a. A topographic survey of the earthwork features will be undertaken within the main area of site operations (Fig. 1). The survey will be carried out to Level 3 as specified in *Recording Archaeological Monuments: A Descriptive Specification* (RCHME 1999). Providing measured drawings representing the form and complexity of the site, at an appropriate scale, together with a written account.
- b. Reasoning for this technique
 - i. Topographical survey allows an accurate, measured record to be made of earthwork remains, aiding the understanding and interpretation of the features.
- c. General Considerations
 - i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in

operation at the time of the evaluation.

- ii. The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practice issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation (No. 21).

d. Methodology

- i. The survey will be undertaken using a Geodolite Total Station EDM with a Psion datalogger using NSS datalogging software. The NSS datalogger allows definition of a range of codes and symbols to represent various types of surveyed features.
- ii. The survey will be located with reference to features identified on current Ordnance Survey maps. All recorded levels within the survey will be related to Ordnance Survey datum heights. Survey accuracy will be maintained throughout the project by measurement against established control points.
- iii. Data will be captured in a manner consistent with the output of scaled 1:1250 drawing (Level 3 RCHME). Ridge and furrow earthworks will be surveyed by plotting the crests of ridges and bases of furrows and represented in standard format. Other earthworks will be represented by hachures created during the manipulation of the DesignCad drawings.
- iv. A photographic record of the earthwork remains will be compiled consisting of black and white prints (reproduced as contact sheets) and colour slides.
- v. The data will be downloaded to a PC using a Survpro package, DesignCad drawings will then be created from the raw data. Manipulation of the drawings in DesignCad allows the production of the final, scaled drawings. The features will be represented in a standard format on the final drawings (RCHME 1999). DesignCad allows the creation of standard digital drawings if required.
- vi. Drawings will be reproduced in the final report at a suitable scale and will be referenced to the National Grid (eight figure grid reference). Drawings will include relevant heights OD, metric scale bars and appropriate annotations.

8. **SITE OPERATIONS**

a. General considerations

- i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
- ii. The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
- iii. Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.

b. Watching Brief Methodology

- i. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.

- ii. Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
- iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis. A metal detector may be used to assist artefact recovery.
- iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
 - (1) the site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the trench.
 - (2) groups of features where their relationship is important
- v. Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

9. **POST-EXCAVATION**

a. Stage 1

- i. On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- ii. All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

b. Stage 2

- i. Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- ii. Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

c. Stage 3

- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- ii. This will consist of:
 - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
 - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
 - (3) Description of the topography of the site.

- (4) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
- (5) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
- (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
- (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
- (8) Sections of the trenches and archaeological features.
- (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
- (10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.
- (11) Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10. **REPORT DEPOSITION**

- a. Copies of the report will be sent to the client; East Lindsey District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11. **ARCHIVE**

- a. The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives for long term storage and curation.

12. **PUBLICATION**

- a. A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the *Journal of the Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13. **CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- a. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Officer. They will be given written notice of the commencement of the project.

14. **VARIATIONS**

- a. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

15. **PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

- a. Survey fieldwork is expected to be undertaken by 2 staff, a supervisor and an assistant, and to take up to three days. Archaeologists with experience of topographic survey will undertake the work
- b. The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours

for the archaeological site work. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.

- c. Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16. SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT

- a. The following organisations/persons will, in principle and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

<u>Task</u>	<u>Body to be undertaking the work</u>
Conservation	Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln
Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

17. INSURANCES

- a. Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000; Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000; and Professional Indemnity insurance. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

18. COPYRIGHT

- a. Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- b. Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- c. In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for the client to pass any

report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 and may result in legal action.

- d. The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

19. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Specification: Version 1, 14-04-00

Appendix 2

Glossary

Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Earthworks	Alterations to the natural landscape by human action. Normally, earthworks are evident as elevations ('bumps') or depressions ('hollows') in contrast to the general trend of the land surface.
Iron Age	The final part of the prehistoric period (<i>q.v.</i>) in Britain, dating from <i>c.</i> 700 BC to AD 50. The period is characterised by the introduction and use of iron for tools and weapons, the development of coinage and the construction of hillforts.
Medieval	Pertaining to the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.