

97/11

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL  
IMPLICATIONS OF HEDGEROW REMOVAL AT  
FEN ROAD,  
HEIGHINGTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(HHI97)**

TF 04293 69



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

neg.  
Event LI 1586  
Source LI 6389

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL  
IMPLICATIONS OF HEDGEROW REMOVAL AT  
FEN ROAD,  
HEIGHINGTON,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(HHI97)**

TF 04293 69468

Work Undertaken For  
North Kesteven District Council

Report Compiled by  
Paul Cope-Faulkner

October 1997

Application No: HRN/003/97

A.P.S. Report No: 52/97



## **1. INTRODUCTION**

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by North Kesteven District Council to assess the archaeological and historical importance of a hedgerow on land adjacent to Fen Road, Heighington, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1). The assessment was undertaken using the criteria established in the Hedgerow Regulations Act 1997 (Appendix 1) and in advance of proposed removal by the landowner. The site is centred on National Grid Reference TF 043 694.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

Compilation of the archaeological and historical data relevant to the areas described above involved examination of the primary and secondary sources available. These included;

- a) the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- b) historical documents, held in the Lincolnshire Archives Office (LAO)
- c) enclosure, tithe, parish and other maps and plans held in the Lincolnshire Archives Office
- d) published books and specialist reports

Information obtained from the above sources was supplemented by a site visit during which a visual assessment of the hedges was made and any archaeological data recorded.

## **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SETTING**

The field is situated to the east of the village of Heighington. With the exception of a prehistoric enclosure that appears on aerial photographs some 600m to the southeast, no other archaeological site is recorded in the vicinity on the County Sites and Monuments Record.

The earliest map of the area is the Washingborough and Heighington Inclosure Plan dating from 1834 (LAO Kesteven Award 82). This depicts the boundary along which the hedge to be removed is situated along with several other boundaries that have previously been removed. In the award itself, this area of Heighington parish was formerly known as Blabber Hills and, prior to the Inclosure Awards appears to have been an area of unenclosed common land.

## **4. SITE VISIT**

A site visit was made on the 4th October 1997 with the purpose of making a visual inspection of the hedge and its environs in order to determine the presence/absence of any previously unrecorded archaeological or historical features.

The hedge was planted along a slight bank c. 1m wide and 0.2m high increasing to 0.5m high towards the east. A mature sycamore tree stands 80m from the east boundary with a gated

field entry adjacent to the tree and lying southwest of it. The hedge is generally full with few gaps except for an 8m length at the eastern end.

No archaeological remains, either earthworks or artefacts, were apparent in the adjacent fields when the hedgerow was visited.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological and Historical investigations undertaken in advance of proposed hedgerow removal in Heighington have indicated no archaeological or historical significance for the hedge to be removed, except for its mention in the Inclosure Award of 1834.

The Inclosure map of 1834 for Heighington depicts the boundary, although no indication is given as to whether these were hedges. It was usually stipulated at Enclosure that those receiving allotments of land were to have them hedged, fenced or walled within twelve months of the Act coming into force (Hoskins 1970, 199). Therefore the hedge proposed for removal is likely to have been planted in the mid 1830s.

## 6. SUMMARY

The hedges surrounding the field at Heighington relate to the five criteria listed on page 11 (Schedule 1 Part II) of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 thus:-

1 The hedgerow -  
**does not** mark the boundary, or part of the boundary of at least one historic parish or township

2 The hedgerow -  
**does not** incorporate an archaeological feature and nor does it appear on the Sites and Monuments Record.

3 The hedgerow -  
**is not** situated wholly or partly within an archaeological site

4 The hedgerow -  
**do not** in current knowledge mark the boundary of a pre-1600 estate or manor or is visibly related to such an estate or manor

5 The hedgerow -  
**is not** part of a field system pre-dating the Enclosure Acts or are visibly related to any building or other feature associated with such a system

## 7. REFERENCES

Hoskins, W.G., 1970 *The Making of the English Landscape*

LAO Kesteven Award 82 *Enclosure Award and Plan, for the Townships of Washingborough  
and Heighington 1834*



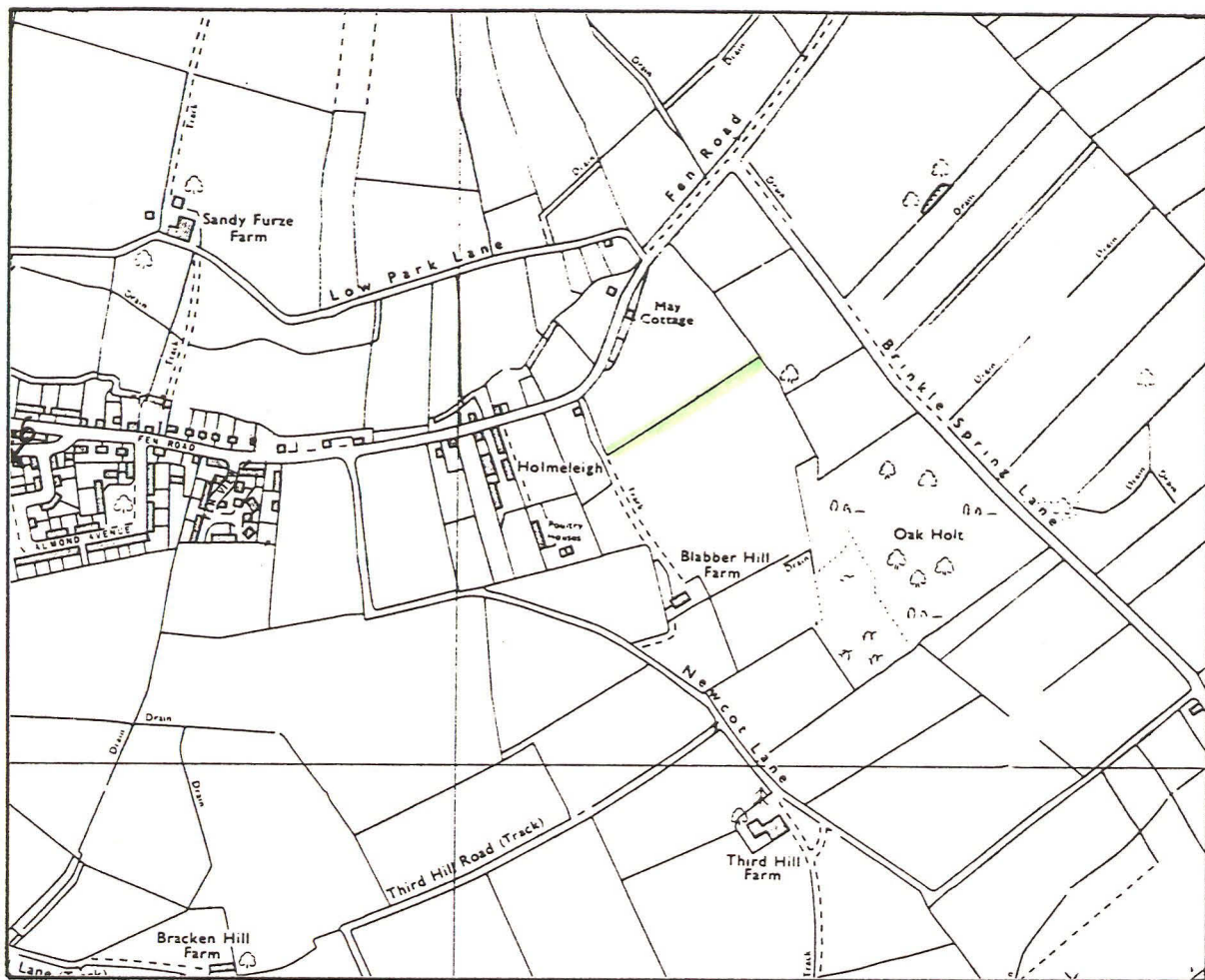


Figure 1 - Site Location Plan

Reproduced from the 1976 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office, © Crown copyright, HTL Ltd, Licence No. AL52041A0001

## Appendix 1

### EXTRACT FROM 'ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING "IMPORTANT" HEDGEROWS, Part II Criteria

1. The hedgerow marks the boundary, or part of the boundary, of at least one historic parish or township; and for this purpose "historic" means existing before 1850.
2. The hedgerow incorporates an archaeological feature which is-
  - (a) included in the schedule of monuments compiled by the secretary of State under section 1 (schedule of monuments) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979(g); or
  - (b) recorded at the relevant date in a Sites and Monuments Record.
3. The hedgerow-
  - (a) is situated wholly or partly within an archaeological site included or recorded as mentioned in paragraph 2 or on land adjacent to and associated with such a site; and
  - (b) is associated with any monument or feature on that site.
4. The hedgerow-
  - (a) marks the boundary of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor recorded at the relevant date in a Sites and Monuments Record or in a document held at that date at a Record Office; or
  - (b) is visibly related to any building or other feature of such an estate or manor.
5. The hedgerow-
  - (a) is recorded in a document held at the relevant date at a Record Office as an integral part of a field system pre-dating the Inclosure Acts(a); or
  - (b) is part of, or visibly related to, any building or other feature associated with such a system, and that system -
    - (i) is substantially complete; or
    - (ii) is of a pattern which is recorded in a document prepared before the relevant date by a local planning authority, within the meaning of the 1990 Act(b), for the purposes of development control within the authority's area, as a key landscape characteristic.