

# **Witham** Archaeology

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A Report to Mr K Holland

May 2021



## **LAND AT 'WELBOURN', MAIN ROAD, STICKNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

### **Archaeological Topographic Survey**

*C. Moulis*

# LAND AT 'WELBOURN', MAIN ROAD, STICKNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE

## Archaeological Topographic Survey

### PROJECT QUALITY CONTROL DETAILS:

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#### Report Production Details:

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# LAND AT 'WELBOURN', MAIN ROAD, STICKNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE

Site Code: MRST21  
LCCM Accession No.: LCNCC : 2021.94  
Planning Application No.: S/169/00368/20  
NGR: TF 34425 57405

## *Archaeological Topographic Survey*

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# LAND AT 'WELBOURN', MAIN ROAD, STICKNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

### **SUMMARY**

*This report describes the results of an archaeological topographic survey undertaken by Witham Archaeology on land at 'Welbourn', Main Road, Stickney, Lincolnshire. The project was commissioned to meet the requirements of a condition of planning permission granted by East Lindsey District Council for residential development at the site.*

*Information provided in comments by the Historic Environment Officer, East Lindsey District Council, indicated the site to lie within a surviving medieval field system comprising ridge and furrow earthworks and field boundaries. The earthworks are recorded in the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record and are visible on Bing satellite imagery.*

*The survey confirmed the presence of low earthworks within the site area. The earliest features possibly represented continuation of the pattern of ridge and furrow earthworks apparent east of the site. Other anomalies, on a different alignment, did not offer an obvious interpretation. They may indicate subsequent disturbance, possibly associated with occupation of the cottage still extant at the Main Road frontage at the time of the survey.*

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report describes the results of an archaeological topographic survey undertaken by Witham Archaeology on the site of a proposed housing development on land east of Main Road, Stickney, Lincolnshire. The proposal comprises the demolition of an existing dwelling (Welbourn) and the construction of two new houses each with a double garage. The topographic survey was commissioned by Mr K. Holland in response to a condition of planning permission issued by East Lindsey District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

### **2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (see Figs. 1 & 2)**

The village of Stickney in the parish of the same name is located approximately 13km north of Boston and 14km south-east of Horncastle in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire. The site, located north of the village core and east of Main Road at site centre TF 34425 57405, comprises a plot of approximately 2,450 sq. m including the existing derelict dwelling at the north-west corner adjacent to the road.

The area is mostly under grass with shrubs and trees around the northern and southern boundaries (Plate 1, Plate 2 and Plate 3). Vegetation along the west side adjacent to the A16 has been cleared recently (Plate 4 and Plate 5). and the east side is bounded by a newly established hedge and wire fence.

The geology of the area is Jurassic Period West Walton Formation, Ampthill Clay Formation and Kimmedidge Clay Formation mudstone, sandstone and siltstone overlain by Diamicton Till (<https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/>).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Stickney is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, having 38 households and with the Tenant in Chief named a Ivo Tallboys. Stori of Bolingbroke was listed as the lord in 1066 (<https://opendomesday.org/place/TF3456/stickney>).

The place-name is believed to derive from the Old English *sticca* for stick, rod or branch and the Anglian *ēg* denoting an island. Stickney is on a long, narrow island between two streams (<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/place/Lincolnshire/Stickney>).

The parish church of St Luke's is 13th century with 15th century additions (Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record No. 41060). The building is listed Grade II\* (Heritage List No. 1063538). It is located approximately 350m south of Welbourn.

The site lies within ridge and furrow earthworks (LHER 49240) extending both sides of Main Road. Identified through LIDAR assessment on the route of a new waterpipe, the earthworks are mostly aligned east to west, with some elements aligned north to south. Another block of ridge and furrow (LHER 49239), also extending both sides of the road, was recorded to the north.

Trial trench evaluations and an excavation to the west of St Luke's parish church have revealed an Early Bronze Age pit containing fragments of a collared urn (LHER 48536), a small quantity of residual Roman pottery, evidence of later Saxon and early medieval occupation (LHER 48531 and 48536), and evidence of medieval activity (LHER 48532) including probable high-status occupation (LHER 44564).

The first edition 1in OS map of 1824, although lacking in detail, indicates a trackway on the eastern side of Main Road at approximately the location of the modern track.

The OS 1:2500 map of 1888 shows the site as part of agricultural land at the western end of an east to west plot. A building at the north-west corner of the area coincides with the derelict building scheduled for demolition under the current scheme. A track appears to run east from Main Road, just inside the southern boundary of the area. The site is largely unchanged on later OS mapping.

### **4.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

Planning permission (S/169/00368/20) has been granted by East Lindsey District Council for demolition of the existing dwelling at the north-west corner of the site and for the construction of two new houses and associated double garages.

A condition attached to planning permission requires that a survey of earthworks present on the site should be carried out in advance of development groundworks.

The scope of the recording was set in a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the historic environment adviser to the local planning authority.

### **5.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification of 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021, were to:

- Record any surviving earthworks on the site to ensure their continued preservation by record.
- Produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum together with a client report.
- Provide information for accession to the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record.

## **6.0 METHODOLOGY**

All surviving earthworks on the site were recorded using a survey grade Topcon GPS. The Topcon GPS receiver was linked to a Topcon tablet computer on which the results were shown in real time.

The survey recorded the changes in slope of all identified earthworks at the site. These were represented in the field by dotted lines. Earthworks defined by linear smooth ridges were recorded by plotting the alignments of their crests and the bases of adjacent hollows. All levels are accurate to within 30mm of Ordnance Datum.

All earthworks were sketched, recorded, and numbered. If relevant, descriptive notes were made of each numbered feature.

As part of the site survey, a series of overlapping aerial photographs were taken of the development area using a small multi-rotor drone. In combination with known reference points established through the GPS survey, these photographs were sufficient to enable a digital surface model to be created through processing with Structure from Motion (SfM) software.

Lidar height data, freely available under the open government license, were also consulted to inform interpretation of the surveyed earthworks.

## **7.0 RESULTS (Fig. 3)**

### ***The Topographic Survey***

The results of the survey are described below, with reference to identification numbers assigned in the field to the various earthwork anomalies.

In the most general terms, the topography of the site is defined by bands of higher ground along its southern and western boundaries. At the western side, the level has been built up to around +6.6m OD alongside Main Road (the A16 Trunk Road) and falls away to an elevation of around +4.95m at the eastern boundary of the site (Plate 4 and Plate 5). The trackway along the southern boundary of the site is also comparatively elevated, rising at its western end to meet the level of Main Road.

Within the lower ground defined by these raised bands, seven specific topographic anomalies were identified and recorded as features. Along the southern side of the area, north of the trackway, linear depression (004) was approximately 10m wide and was at least 40m long, extending through most of the site area (Fig. 7, Section 3. Plate 6). The form and alignment of (004) correlated with that of low extant ridge and furrow earthworks in the pasture field east of the site (Fig. 6), and the feature may represent former continuation of the southernmost furrow across the site area. Feature (007) (see below) could indicate the truncated remains of a ridge on the north side of (004). The trackway itself appears to be long established; it is certainly there on Ordnance Survey mapping from 1888 and may well be that depicted in this approximate location on the first edition 1in Ordnance Survey map of 1824.

Towards the eastern end of the area, feature (001) was a shallow north north-west to south south-east aligned linear depression up to around 0.35m to 0.4m deep (Fig. 7, Section 1. Plate 7). The feature was up to approximately 10m wide and became less well defined towards its southern end, where it merged into feature (004). Along its base were a series of small hummocks resulting from relatively recent dumping (see Fig. 5), and a localised mound at the northern end of its western side was similarly interpreted as a modern dump. The current landowner recalled previous works to remove topsoil from this area of the site, and the feature is interpreted as of relatively recent origin.

Approximately 10m west of (001), anomaly (002) comprised a faint low north north-west to south south-east aligned scarp, less than 0.2m high and identified over a length of 6m (Plate 8). Beyond (002), a further 12m to the west, irregular north north-west to south south-east aligned elongated depression (003) was around 6m wide and appeared to be around 10m long; definition of the feature was lost towards its northern limit (Fig. 7, Section 2. Plate 9). Between features (002) and (003), feature (007), comprised an area of relatively elevated ground which may have originated as a former open field ridge on the northern

side of (004). North of (007) the ground falls away very gently by around 0.2m to a point approximately 22m north of the base of feature (004). The alignments of features (002) and (003) correlated with neither that of the modern road, nor with the postulated former open field pattern.

Towards the western side of the site, at the south-eastern corner of the former small garden plot associated with the old cottage (Plate 10), depression (005) was noted around the 'outside' of the garden fence, particularly at the south-east corner (Plate 11). The presence of mature fruit trees at the cottage garden boundary renders this part of the field especially attractive to cattle (pers. comm., Mr Holland), and damage through the passage of cattle may account for the formation of feature (005).

Feature (006) (Fig. 4) identifies an area of rough grass and vegetation which marks the former location of a modern spoil heap, removed relatively recently (Plate 12). Like (001), it reflects episodes of modern disturbance at the site.

## **8.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION**

Low earthwork feature (004) indicates possible former continuation of the trend of east north-east to west south-west aligned ridge and furrow from the pasture field to the east. Further traces of direct continuation are ephemeral and (if present) have been severely truncated through subsequent disturbance by features (001), (002) and (003). Comparable disturbance also seems to have occurred in land adjacent to the east side of Main Road just to the north of the site (Fig. 6).

Interpretations of features (002) and (003), the alignments of which appear to relate neither to the trend of the agricultural boundaries nor to that of Main Road, are entirely speculative. It may be significant that both features align with the location of the cottage at the north-west corner of the plot, suggesting some association with it. The features may relate to drainage of the area immediately around the cottage or may have been generated through passage to and from the dwelling from the trackway at the southern edge of the site.

Modern earthmoving is apparent in the topography around feature (001), confirming comments from the landowner regarding relatively recent excavations in this part of the site. Similarly, feature (006) represents a scar from more recent landscaping works. The activity of cattle offers a convincing explanation for the generation of feature (005).

## **9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Witham Archaeology would like to thank Mr K Holland for his cooperation in ensuring the successful completion of this project, particularly regarding background information provided about the recent history of the site. The contribution of Jan Allen of Lincolnshire County Council, whose advice initiated the project, is also acknowledged, and appreciated.



## **10.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs. Defra Survey Data Download (for lidar data)  
<https://environment.data.gov.uk/DefraDataDownload/?Mode=survey>

Heritage Gateway  
<https://heritagegateway.org.uk>

Key to English Place-names  
<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/place/Lincolnshire/Stickney>

Open Domesday  
<https://opendomesday.org/place/TF3456/stickney>

Ordnance Survey 25in map: Lincolnshire XC.10. Surveyed: 1887, Published: 1888

Ordnance Survey 1in map: Sheet 69, Published 1824

## **11.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS**

### **11.1 Project Information**

SITE CODE: MRST21

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: S/169/00368/20

FIELD OFFICER: C. Moulis

NGR: TF 34425 57405

CIVIL PARISH: Stickney

SMR No.:

DATE OF INTERVENTION: 20/04/2021

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Archaeological Topographic Survey

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr K. Holland

### **11.2 Archive Details**

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology Ltd, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire, NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln]

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: LCNCC : 2021.94

ACCESSION DATE: - October 2021

#### ***The Site Archive Comprises:***

Context Register	1
Context Records	7
Plan Register	1
Sketch Plan (on paper)	1

Digital Photographs	22 shots (22 image files)
SfM Register	1
SfM Digital Photographs	74 image files
Daily Record Sheet	1
GPS Survey Data	3 data files

*It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.*

## ***COLOUR PLATES***



*Plate 1: Aerial view, looking west*



*Plate 2: View across the site, looking north-west*



*Plate 3: View across the site, looking south-west*



*Plate 4: West boundary of the site, looking north. 2m scale*



*Plate 5: West boundary of the site, looking south. 2m scale*



*Plate 6: Feature (004), looking west north-west. 2m scale*



*Plate 7: Feature (001), looking north north-west. 2m scale*



*Plate 8: Feature (002), looking north-west. 2m scale*



*Plate 9: Feature (003), looking north north-west. 1m scale*



*Plate 10: Derelict cottage 'Welbourn', looking north-west. 2m scale*

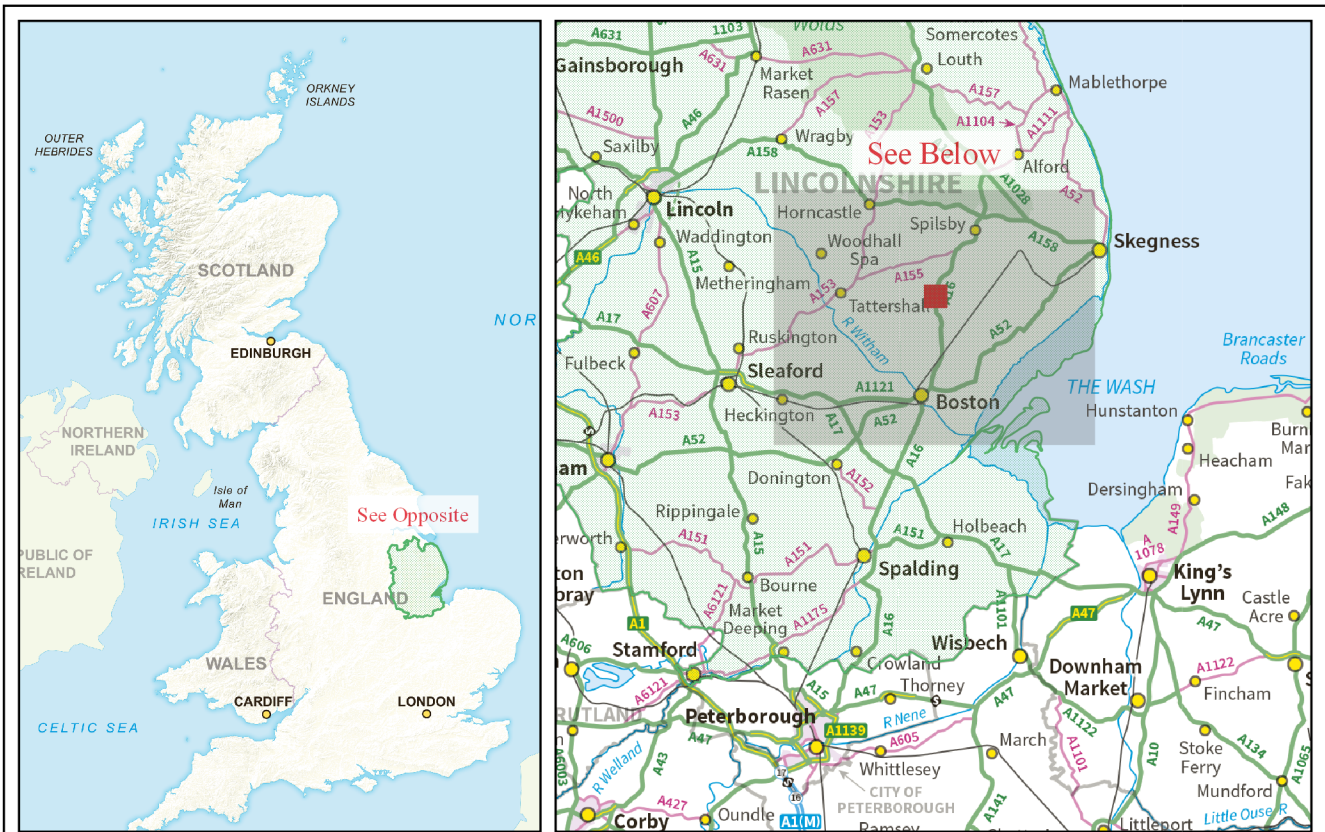


*Plate 11: Feature (005), looking north-west. 1m scale*

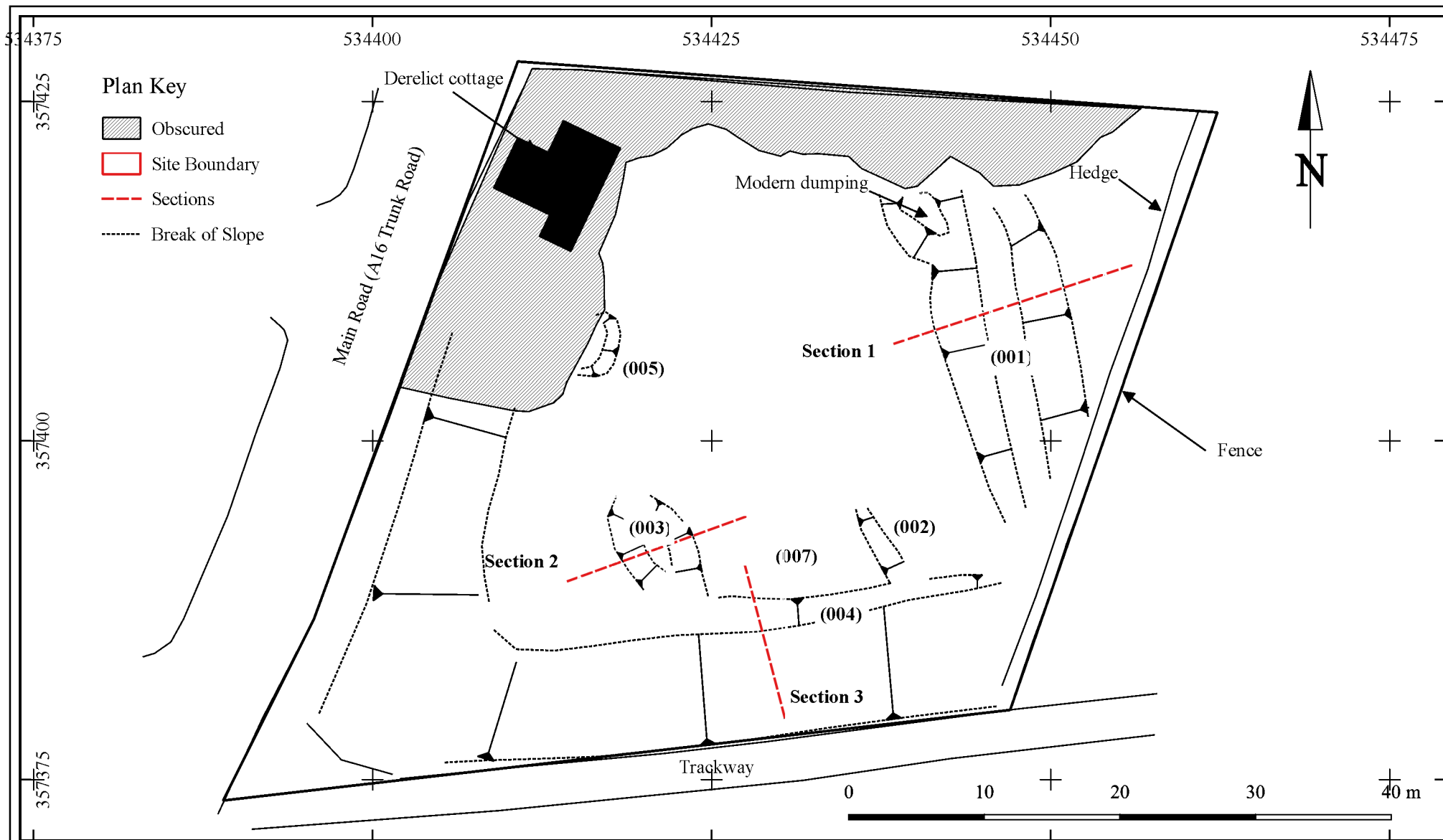


*Plate 12: Rough vegetation (006), looking south. 2m scale*

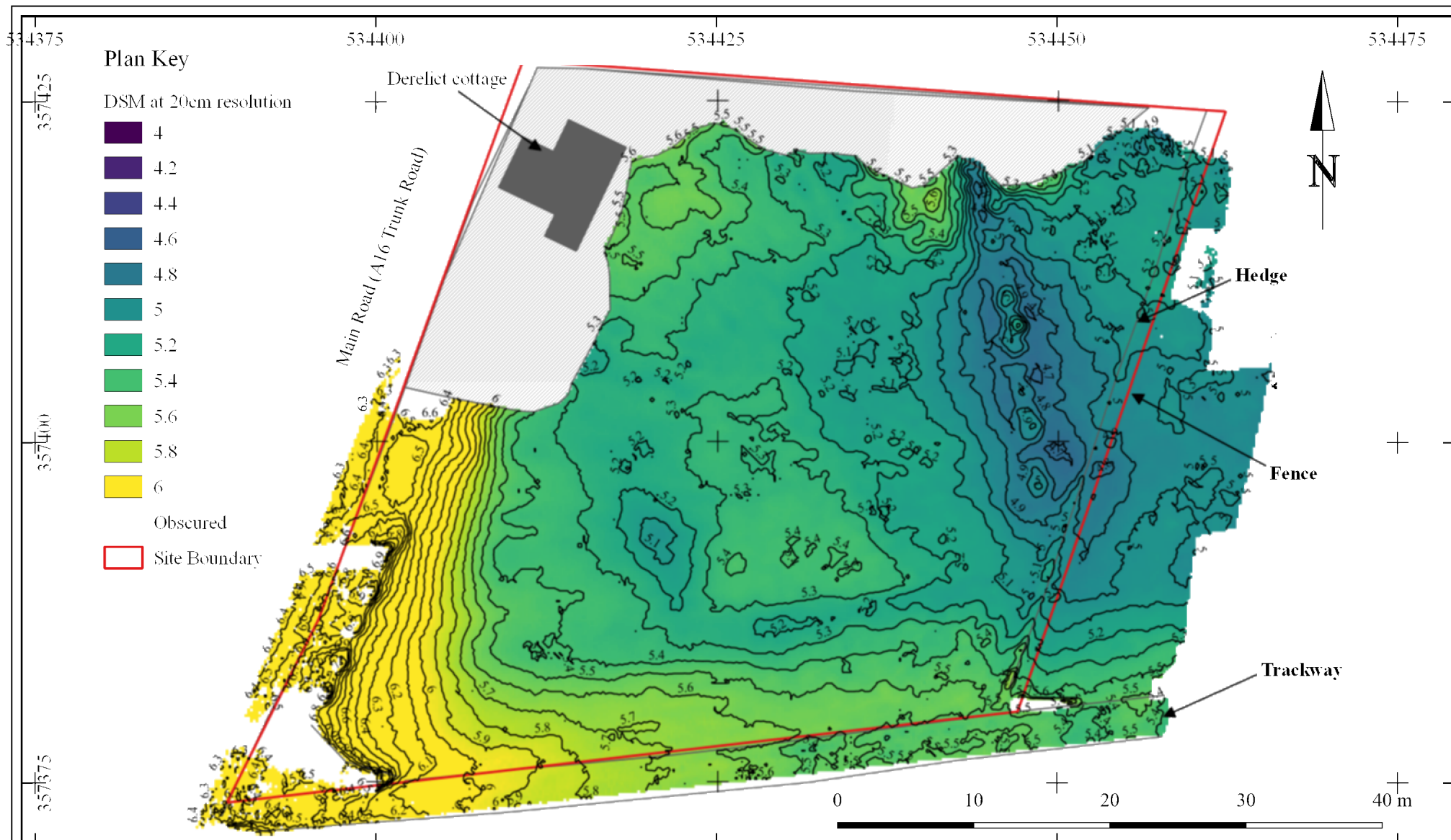


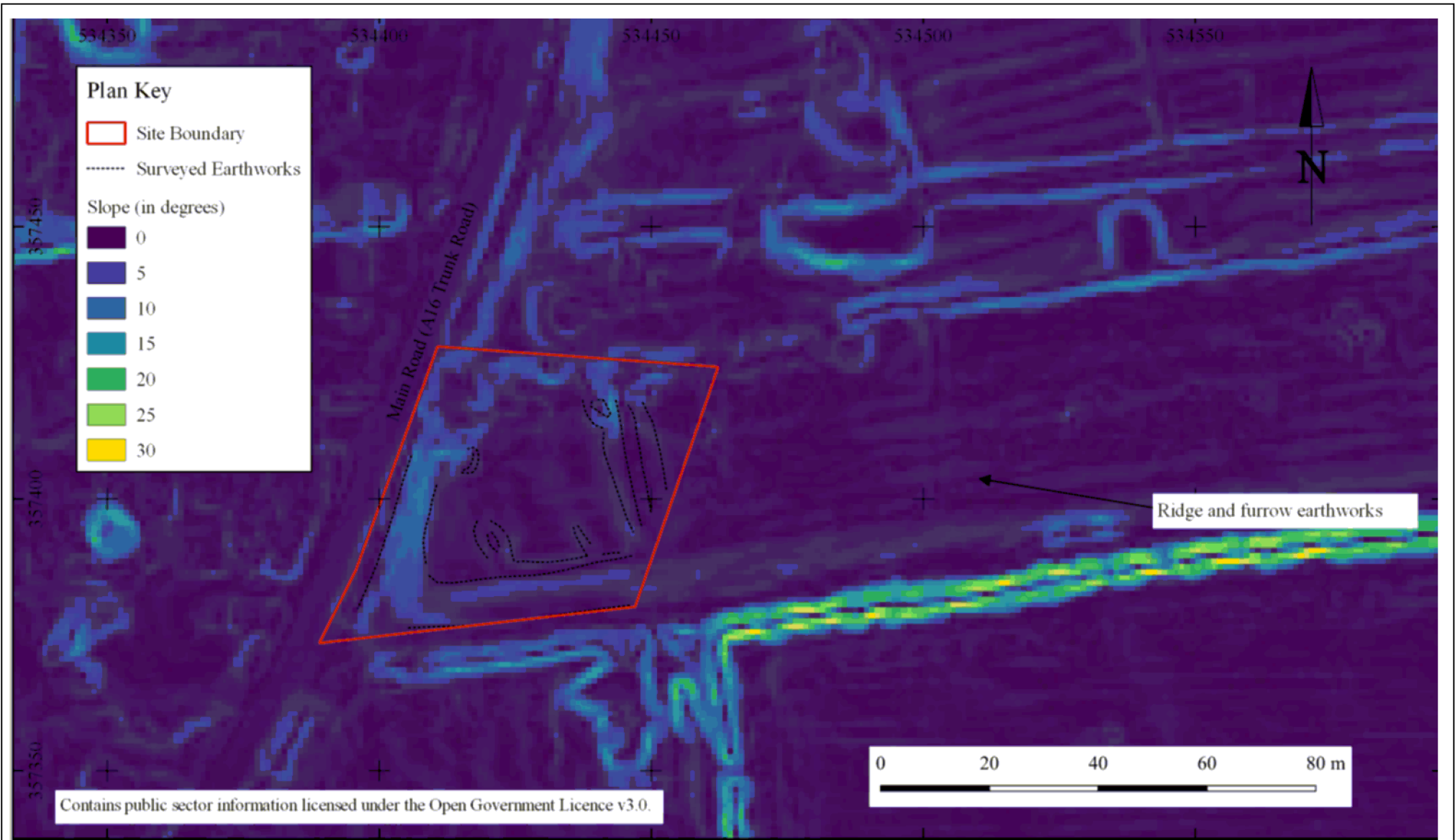




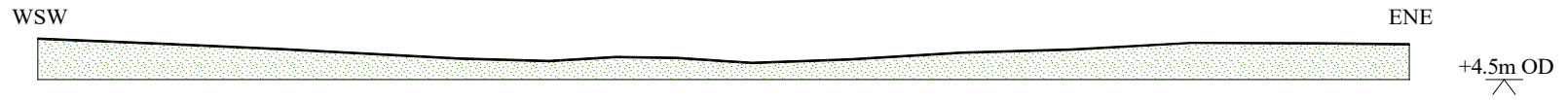




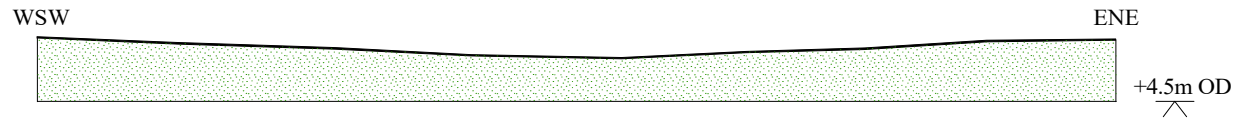




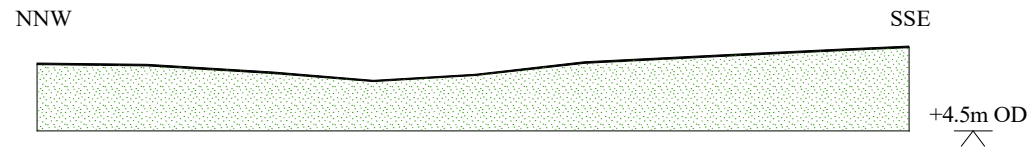
Section 1. Feature (001)



Section 2. Feature (003)



Section 3. Feature (004)



**APPENDIX A**  
**OASIS SUMMARY FORM**



# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: withamar1-421514**

## Project details

Project name	Land at Welbourn, Main Road, Stickney, Lincolnshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological topographic survey was undertaken by Witham Archaeology on land at 'Welbourn', Main Road, Stickney, Lincolnshire. The project was commissioned to meet the requirements of a condition of planning permission granted by East Lindsey District Council for residential development at the site. Information provided in comments by the Historic Environment Officer, East Lindsey District Council, indicated the site to lie within a surviving medieval field system comprising ridge and furrow earthworks and field boundaries. The earthworks are recorded in the Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record and are visible on Bing satellite imagery. The survey confirmed the presence of low earthworks within the site area. The earliest features possibly represented continuation of the pattern of ridge and furrow earthworks apparent east of the site. Other anomalies, on a different alignment, did not offer an obvious interpretation. They may indicate subsequent disturbance, possibly associated with occupation of the cottage still extant at the Main Road frontage at the time of the survey.
Project dates	Start: 20-04-2021 End: 20-04-2021
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MRST21 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2021.94 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	FURROW Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Field observation""
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

## Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY STICKNEY Land at Welbourn, Main Road, Stickney
Postcode	PE22 8EE
Study area	2450 Square metres
Site coordinates	TF 34425 57405 53.096578030813 0.007835378497 53 05 47 N 000 00 28 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4.7m Max: 6.6m

## Project creators

Name of	Witham Archaeoloav
---------	--------------------

Organisation	
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Russell Trimble
Project director/manager	Russell Trimble
Project supervisor	Chris Moulis
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr K. Holland

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
Digital Archive ID	LCNCC: 2021.94
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	The Collection, Danes Terrace, Lincoln LN2 1LT
Paper Archive ID	LCNCC: 2021.94
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Miscellaneous Material", "Plan"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at 'Welbourn', Main Road, Stickney, Lincolnshire. Archaeological Topographic Survey
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Moulis, C
Date	2021
Issuer or publisher	Witham Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication	Ruskington
Description	A4 Comb-bound report
Entered by	Christopher Moulis (info@withamarchaeology.co.uk)
Entered on	15 July 2021

**OASIS:**

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