CORNBOROUGH FARM, BPTSEP PLOT 49.8

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EARTHWORK SURVEY
OSA REPORT No. 99ES01

National Grid Reference: SE 6125 6583

October 1999.

OSA

ON SITE ARCHÆOLOGY

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Report Summary

REPORT NO:	OSA99ES01
SITE NAME:	Cornborough Farm (BPTSEP Plot 49.8)
COUNTY:	North Yorkshire
PARISH:	Sheriff Hutton with Cornborough
NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE:	SE 6215 6583
PLANNING APPLICATION No:	N/A
ON BEHALF OF:	BP Chemicals Limited Building 134/307 Chertsey Road Sunbury on Thames Middlesex. TW16 7LN
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PLANNING APPLICATION No:	N/A
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PERIODS REPRESENTED:	Medieval.

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1.0 Abstract

An Archaeological Earthwork Survey was carried out by On-Site Archaeology on behalf of BP Chemicals Ltd between the 19th and 20th October 1999.

The survey was carried out on an area of extant, though poorly preserved, rigg and furrow adjacent to Cornborough Farm in the parish of Sheriff Hutton with Cornborough, in North Yorkshire.

Features visible in the field were surveyed using an electronic distance measurer (EDM), and further measurements were recorded in order to produce a contour plot of the field to provide a less subjective record of the earthworks. The results of the survey are presented as a contour plot, and an interpretative hachure plan, both produced at a scale of 1:1000.

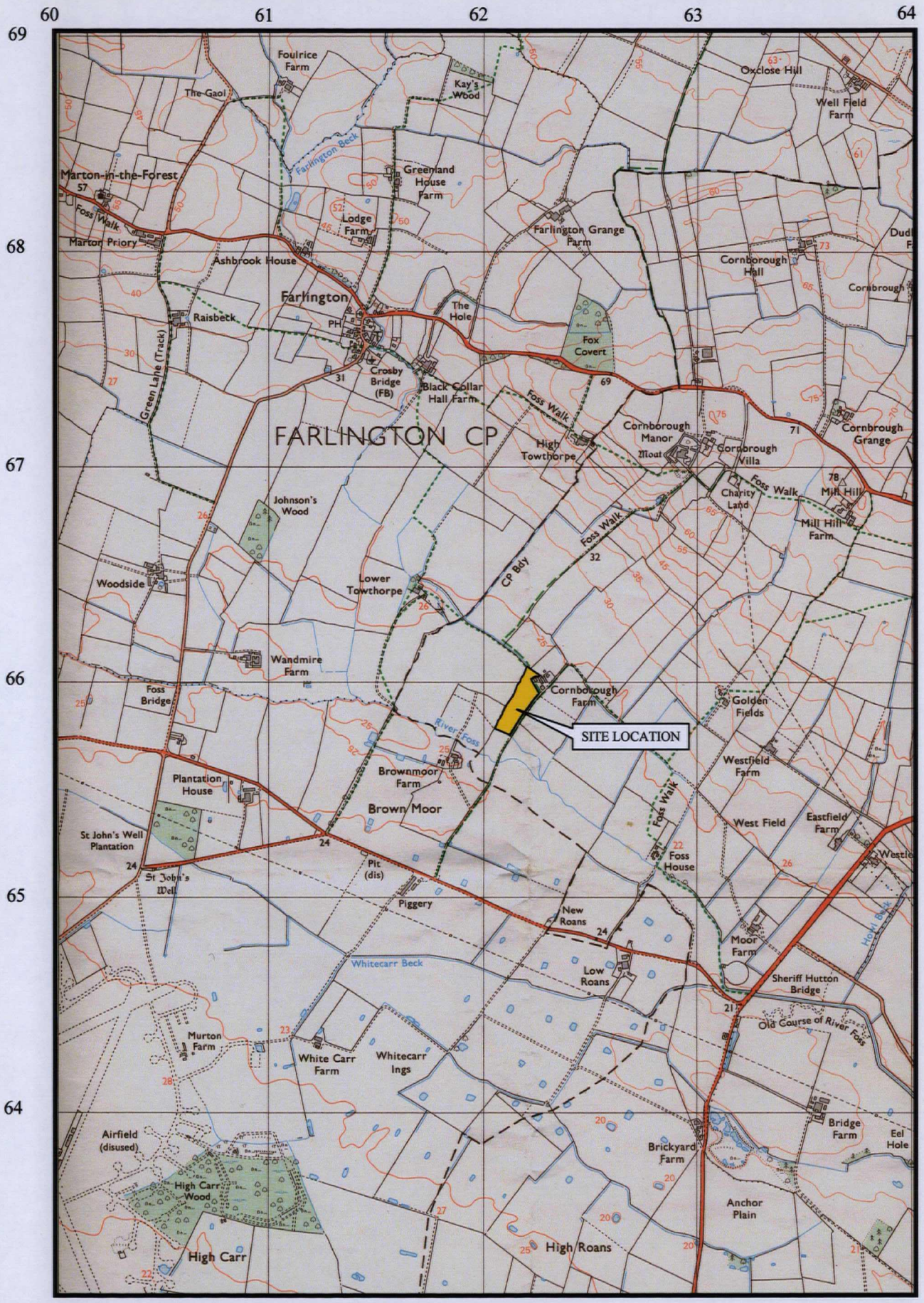


Figure 1. Site Location (NGR SE 6215 6583)

2.0 Site Location, Geology, Topography and Land Use

The site is located at National Grid Reference SE 6215 6583, immediately to the southwest of Cornborough Farm and in the parish of Sheriff Hutton with Cornborough, North Yorkshire.

The site is situated on a band of warp and lacustrine clay which runs on a northwest-southeast alignment between boulder clay to the northeast and sand and gravel to the southwest. The band of clay is separated from the sand and gravel by a narrow strip of alluvium (see Figure 2 below). These deposits overly Bunter and Keuper Sandstone.

There are a number of slight topographical variations within the survey area, but generally the area is flat and at an elevation of between 22 and 23.50 metres above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The site is currently under pasture.

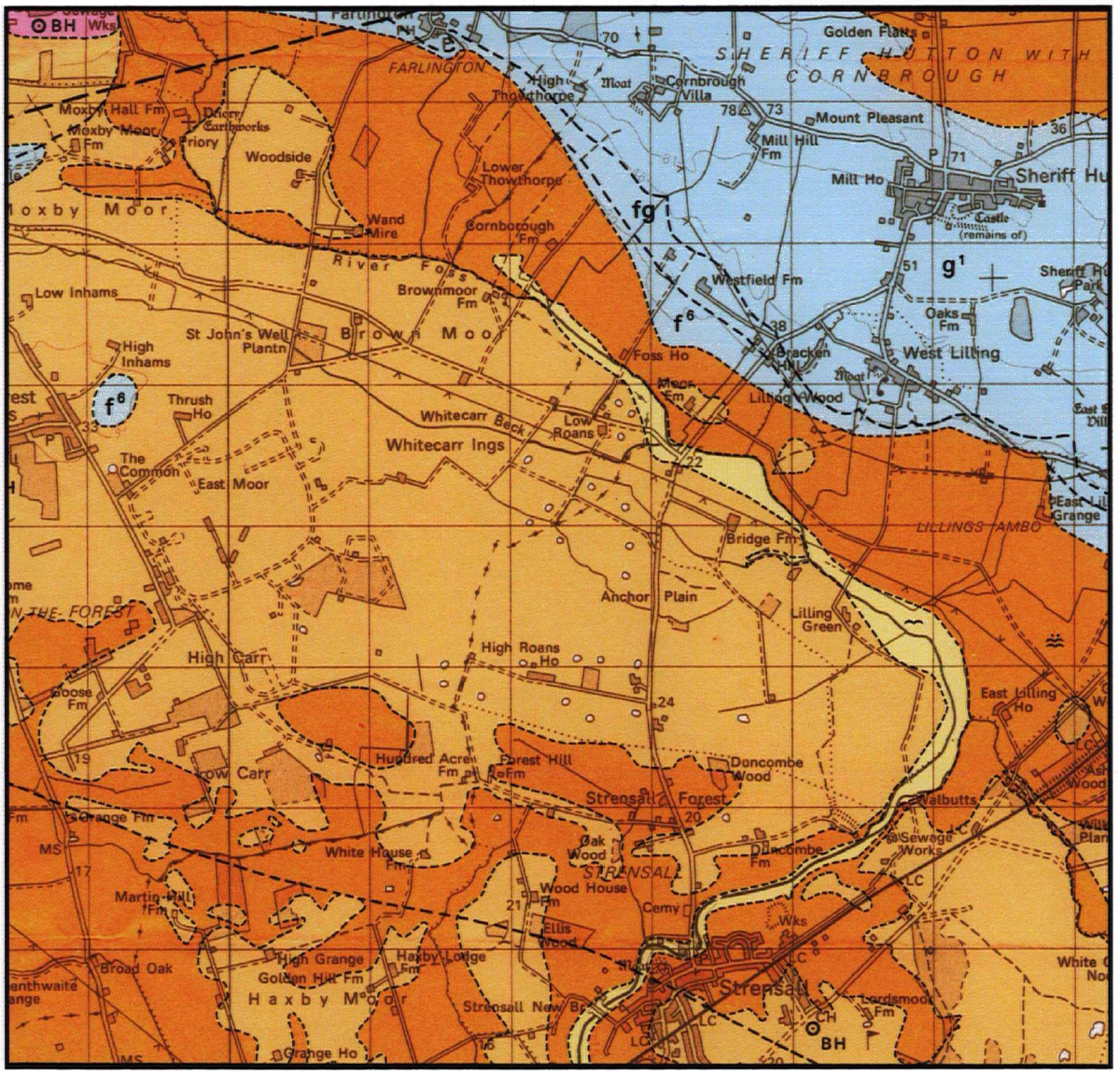


Figure 2. Extract from British Geological Survey Sheet 63. Scale 1:50,000.

3.0 Methodology.

The proposed methodology was to survey the alignment of the earthworks using an Electronic Distance Measurer (EDM), following the course of each rigg and furrow. Due to the poor preservation of the earthworks, however, it proved quite hard to locate some of the features. It was therefore decided that a basic contour survey should also be produced in order to give a less subjective record of the extant features.

Height measurements were taken along rough transects across the survey area, the density of which were determined by the nature of the topography being recorded. Where extant features were evident readings were taken at small intervals, while over large flat areas of the field readings were taken at much larger intervals. The height measurements were tied in to a spot height on the track outside Cornborough Farm, as the Ordnance Survey benchmark was located on private property to which access had not been granted.

The data was downloaded into *Model Maker* for initial processing, and then into *AutoCAD* to produce the final drawings as illustrated in this report.

4.0 Results

The results of the survey are presented in Figures 3 and 4, both produced at a scale of 1:1000.

Figure 3 shows the basic contour plot of the field. Contours are drawn at 0.10m intervals.

Figure 4 gives a subjective interpretation of the data, based on the contour data in Figure 3 and on observations made in the field.

Figure 3. Contour plot of survey area.
Contours at 0.10m intervals.

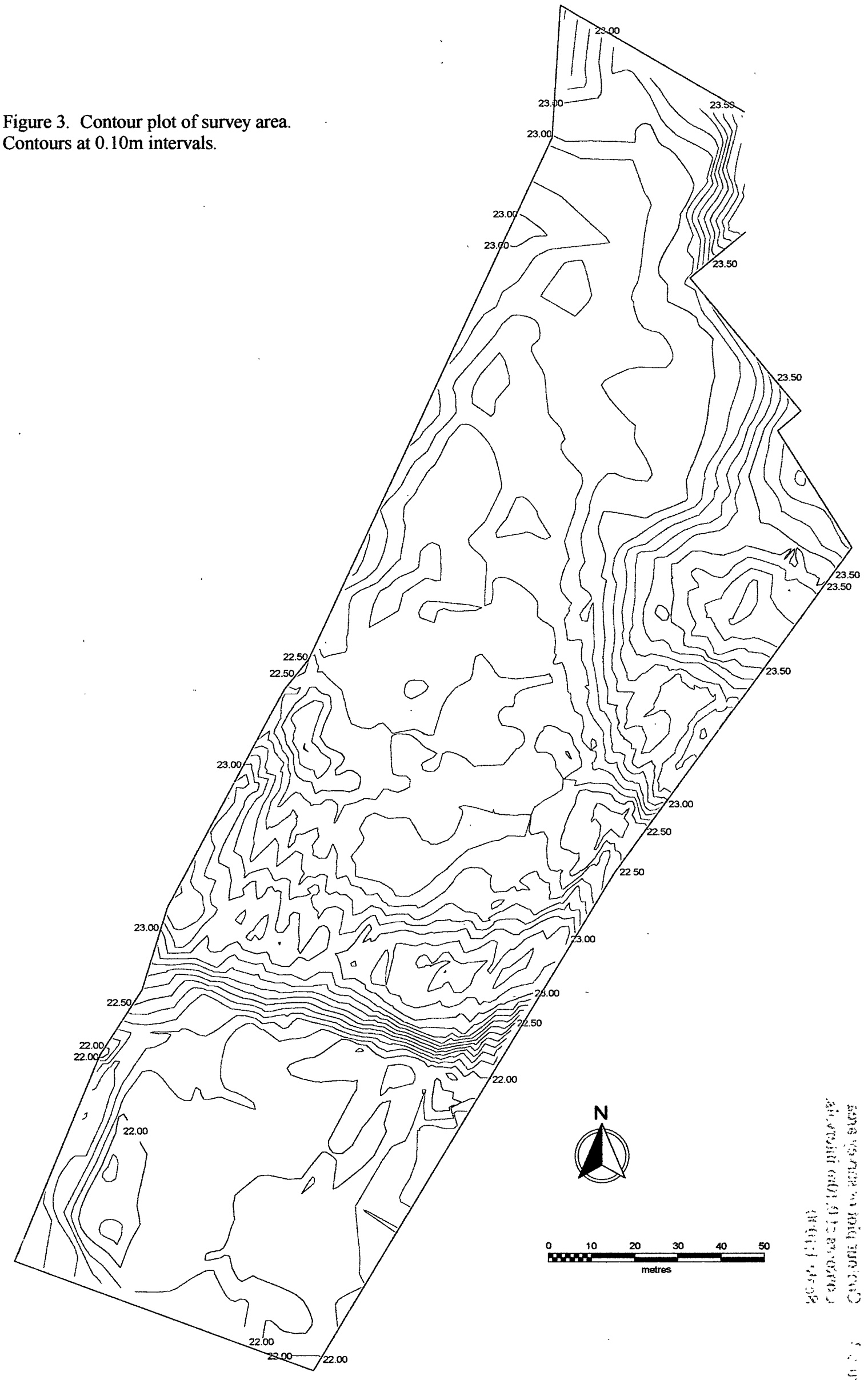
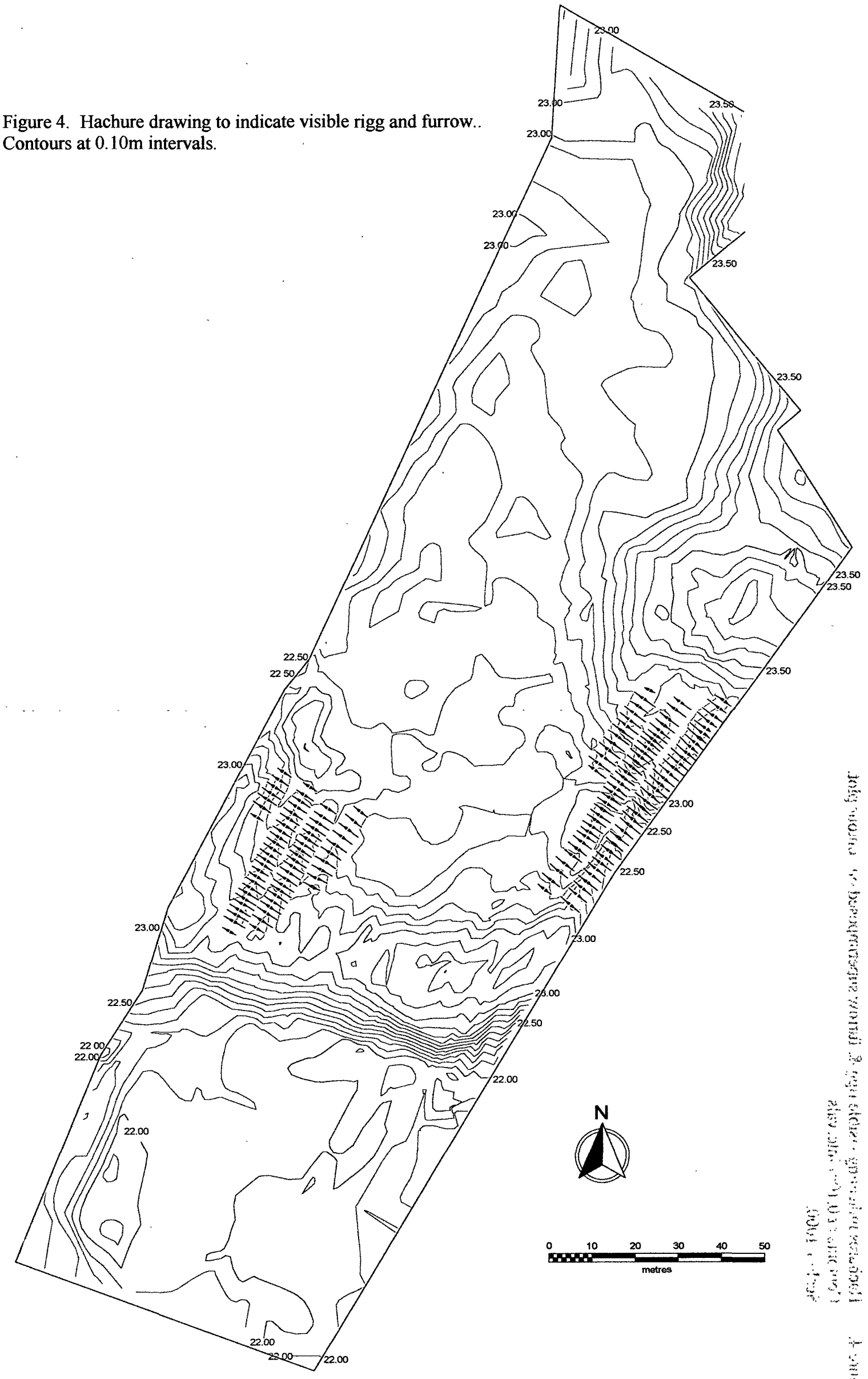


Figure 4. Hachure drawing to indicate visible rigg and furrow..
Contours at 0.10m intervals.



5.0 Discussion & Conclusions

Despite the poor preservation of the earthworks, a number of lengths of rigg and furrow were visible, as indicated by the hachures shown in Figure 4.

The contour plot of the area, however, would seem to indicate the presence of further lengths of rigg and furrow adjacent to the two areas illustrated in Figure 4. These were not discernable in the field, and only became apparent once the contour plot was produced. The land between the two areas of extant rigg and furrow appeared featureless, and the contour survey did not indicate otherwise.

A steep bank towards the southwestern end of the field appeared to be of natural origin. This bank may be related to a former course of the River Foss, as the British Geological Survey map for the region clearly shows a band of alluvial material at this location (see Figure 2). While it was initially thought that the bank might have formed a headland to the rigg and furrow, the contour plot suggests that the cultivation pattern actually continues some distance down the bank. A slight mound at the northeastern end of the field is of unknown origin.

The work carried out was non-intrusive, and it will be necessary to undertake further work when the pipe trench is cut in order to fulfil the full requirements of North Yorkshire County Council Heritage Unit (see Appendix 1).

6.0 Appendix 1 ~ NYCC Guidelines, Recording Rigg and Furrow.

1. The general character of earthworks, level of degradation, presence of headlands or other contemporaneous earthworks, and the presence of other non-contemporaneous landscape features and their relationship to the earthworks should be identified by rapid field survey.

2. The historical and archaeological events or processes contributing to the formation of the particular earthworks should be summarised.

3. Measured plans of the earthworks at 1 :1000 or 1 : 2500 scale should be drawn.

4. A measured profile or section across a representative part of the earthworks to record original height and width of lynchets or ridges, depth of furrow or scarp, and soil stratigraphy should be drawn.

5. Soil samples for palaeo-environmental analysis should be collected every 100 - 200 m apart from old land surfaces or deposits buried under the earthworks.

6. Where feasible, low level (less than 1500 m) vertical or oblique aerial photographs to record the character of the earthworks and their wider landscape setting should be obtained.