

ICKNIELD HEATH

(Part)

Archaeological Earthwork Rapid Identification Survey

Suffolk Archaeology Service Refs ESF 22969 & HER IKL199

For The Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Brian Cushion
Archaeological & Cartographical Surveyor

March 2015

Icknield Heath (Part)

Archaeological Earthwork Rapid Identification Survey

CONTENTS

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Summary
- 3 Results, with map (Fig 1)
- 4 Conclusions
- 5 Bibliography
- 6 Acknowledgements
- 7 Appendices



1 Introduction

The survey was undertaken to provide information for an Environmental Stewardship Scheme (Higher Level Stewardship), which is to involve heathland restoration of a c.40 hectare block in the parish of Icklingham, and within an extensive Forestry Commission area.

A brief was supplied by Suffolk Archaeology, and a method statement agreed with the contractor, both documents held by all parties, the main points of methodology being noted below:

“The area to be systematically inspected using c.50m transects, vegetation and topography allowing. Features considered to be of archaeological interest would be identified, located on a 1:10,000 map provided by the client, and given an analytical description. Hand-held GPS would assist in the siting of features. The Historic Environment Records (HER) of Suffolk Archaeology Service, archive maps at the Suffolk Record Office and early published maps would be inspected, and suitable references included in the text. Digital and hard-copy reports to be provided to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Suffolk Archaeology.”

The existing archaeological record contains two relevant sites, both linear features. A bank flanks the Icknield Way along the south-east boundary, IKL 105, and a bank is just inside the south-western boundary, IKL 164.

Hodskinson's Map of Suffolk of 1783 does not specifically show the land as heath, the normal depiction is not there, but the track layout would indicate an open landscape. It names the Icknield Way, a continuation of what was then termed “The Old London Road”, further to the north-east, whilst the only other relevant feature was a track leading from Elveden Gap to the north-east, south-westwards to Icklingham, this cutting through the north-western part of the area. It is not on current maps. By the time of the Enclosure Act in 1816, the area was called Weather Hill Heath, and on the Tithe Map and Award of 1839 it is described as heath. Air photographs indicated no likely significant earthwork features.

The surface vegetation at the dates of survey, March 12th & 22nd 2015, consisted of c.2 hectares of extant conifers in the north, an area of c.6 hectares of mown grass in the south, with the remaining area of longer grass with existing stumps and brash.

2 Summary

The two existing boundary features were identified, along with two additional boundary features to the west, probably post-medieval. The other features noted are various depressions, some extraction pits, others of likely military origin. Much of the area is relatively even ground, suggesting that before original Forestry Commission planting, the area was ploughed. The area of mown grass covers a naturally gently undulating even surface, indicating a likely more recent ploughing.

3 Results

The area of survey is banded in green on Fig 1.
Features described are marked in red and numbers correspond to those in the text.

Existing Sites:

IKL 105 Icknield Way boundary, confirmed as a bank as on HER.

IKL 164 The western most section of this bank is still shown on Ordnance Survey maps, but the easternmost section is not. This latter is a barely visible gentle south-facing scarp of c.0.3m high on the cut grass area noted above. This eastern section is not shown on the early 19thC maps and is probably a modern feature.

New sites:

Site 1 TL80307619 to 80467634 Photo see Appendix A

A 5m wide spread bank up to 0.6m high, continuing to north and south. Shown on the early 19th C maps, most likely to be of post-medieval origin. C.40m from the southern end, at TL80347622, a 4m diameter depression 0.3m deep, encroaches into the south-eastern flanks of the bank.

Site 2 TL80307619 to 80557592

A south-west facing scarp up 0.6m high, but tapering considerably to the north-west. The difference in level from the heath to the south-west may be the result of ploughing. Boundary as on the early 19thC maps, again probably post medieval line, but current form may be modern.

Site 3 TL80377619

An irregular depression, c.10m by 7m, up to 1.5m deep, with a spoil mound to its south. Considered modern, but origin unclear as the spoil roughly mirrors the depression.

Site 4 TL80477629

A group of three small irregular sub-circular depressions up to 0.5m deep, maximum dimensions 3m. Spaced roughly 4m apart forming a rough triangle. Origin unclear, maybe remnants of extraction, partially infilled.

Site 5 TL80517617 Photo see Appendix A

A near circular 5m diameter depression, c.0.6m deep. Unclear origin, probably extraction remnant of post-medieval/modern date. 4m to its east is a smaller, 3m diameter, 0.3m deep depression, barely noticeable in the long grass.

Site 6 TL80567622 Photo see Appendix A

A near circular 6m diameter depression, c.0.6m deep. Origin as Site 5.

Site 7 TL80627616

An irregular depression up to 0.8m deep, with max dimensions 12m by 10m, with slight spoil evidence. Considered an extraction remnant of post-medieval/modern origin.

Site 8 TL80987597

A shallow irregular depression up to 0.5m deep, with max dimensions 9m by 7m. A probable extraction remnant, partially infilled, of likely post-medieval/modern origin

Site 9 TL81087593

A steep sided oval depression, c. 4m by 3m up to 1.5m deep in centre, with slight flanking spoil.

Site 10 TL81107591

A steep sided oval depression, c.4m by 3m up to 1m deep, with slight flanking spoil.

Site 11 TL81137590

A steep sided rectangular depression, 4m by 2m, up to 1m deep, with slight flanking spoil.

Site 12 TL81177588 Photo see Appendix A

As Site 11.

Sites 9-12 are in line alongside an access track. This, along with their form, suggests a likely origin as military trenches, possibly 1939-1945 War training?

NB. Similar depressions were seen to the north of the access road to the east from the B1106.

Site 13 TL80497629

20m to the east of Site 4 are two depressions, one 5m diameter, 0.7m deep, the other 4m diameter and 0.3m deep. Similar to Site 5.

Sites 1, 6 & 7 are within the wooded area, the remainder within the longer grassed areas.

4 Conclusions

The boundary features noted are of considerable interest due to their likely age. With the exception of Sites 9 to 12 which may well be of military origin, the others are probably remnants of post-medieval extraction pits, but the proximity of sites 4 to 7 and 13 to the track noted on Hodskinson may indicate an earlier origin, as they are in a relatively isolated location. Due to the likely ploughing of the whole area, the depressions, with the exception of sites 3 and 9 -12, are likely to be of a considerably degraded form, perhaps removing any spoil, although the possibility exists that sites 5 & 6 and 13 are small explosion craters.

As with many earthwork sites, ground level photography here has not provided any great insights into interpretation or description.

5 Bibliography

1783 Hodskinson's Map of Suffolk, Larks Press Edition 2003

1816 Enclosure Award Map SRO QRI/23

1839 Tithe Award Map, Icklingham All Saints, SRO T55/2

6 Acknowledgements

Thanks to staff at The Norfolk Wildlife Trust for providing the appropriate maps and for facilitating access onto the site, and to staff at Suffolk Archaeology for providing sight of relevant air photographs and existing archaeological records.

7 Appendices

A Location of Sites

B Photographs of Sites 1, 5, 6 & 12

C OASIS report

Appendix A



Appendix B



Site 5 looking E



Site 1 looking N



Site 12 looking SW



Site 6 looking E

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: brianus1 204449

Project details

Project name	Icknield Heath RIS
Short description of the project	Earthwork RIS over c.40 hectares of heath/woodland with the intention of restoring heathland habitats. Survey recorded banks, extraction pits and probable trenches, all considered post-medieval or modern.
Project dates	Start: 19-02-2015 End: 22-03-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ESF22969 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	IKL 199 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	PITS Post Medieval
Monument type	TRENCHES Modern
Monument type	BANKS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure""
Development type	Estate management (i.e. maintenance of existing structures and landscape by capital works and on-going maintenance)
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH ICKLINGHAM Icknield Heath

Study area	40.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 808 759 52.3508643498 0.654931602975 52 21 03 N 000 39 17 E Polygon
Height OD / Depth	Min: 45.00m Max: 52.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Norfolk Wildlife Trust
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Local Auth Archaeologist
Project director/manager	Local Auth Archaeologist
Project supervisor	Local Auth Archaeologist
Type of sponsor/funding body	Other Charitable Trust
Name of sponsor/funding body	Norfolk Wildlife Trust

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Contractor
Digital Archive ID	Icknield RIS
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Contractor
Paper Archive ID	Icknield RIS
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Map","Photograph","Plan","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Icknield RIS
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cushion,B.
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	B Cushion
Place of issue or publication	Weston Colville

Description A4 Format report with maps, text and photographs

Entered by Brian Cushion
(brian_cushion@btinternet.com)

Entered on 23 March 2015

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

© ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham and Jen Mitcham](#), [email](#) Last modified

Wednesday 9 May 2012

Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page