

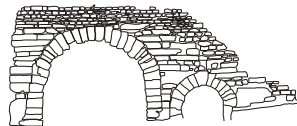
**A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION (EARTHWORK SURVEY)
ON LAND AT FENLAKE FISHERIES,
FEN LANE, METHRINGHAM, LN4 3AQ**

Site Code: FLFL 11
NGR: TF 507365 361710
Planning Ref: 11/0080/FUL
Accession No: LCNCC 2011.361

Report prepared for
Mr and Mrs Simpson
By

Dr Ben Edwards
&
Steve Williams

October 2011



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Summary

- A programme of archaeological evaluation and recording (earthwork survey) was undertaken on land at Fenlake Fisheries, Fen Lane, Methringham, Lincolnshire, LN4 3AQ This was conducted by Midland Archaeological Services prior to development of the site.
- The survey concluded that ridge-and-furrow with an associated headland were present throughout the site area, although past ploughing regimes, as well as the construction of the railway and bridge had truncated the remains and making it difficult to ascertain the original extent of the earthworks.



Fig.1 Site Location. Scale 1:25 000

1.0 Introduction

Midland Archaeological Services (MAS) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Simpson to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation and recording (earthwork survey) prior to development of land at Fenlake Fisheries, Fen Lane, Methringham, Lincolnshire, LN4 3AQ henceforth called the site, (figs. 1 & 2).

The work was undertaken at the request of the Planning Archaeologist for North Kesteven District Council to make a record of the known earthworks prior to their removal and to establish where, or if, preservation *in situ* was required.

This approach is consistent with the *Planning Policy Statement 5* (Planning for The Historic Environment 2010), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), (English Heritage, 2008), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (IFA, 2008 as revised).

2.0 Location and description

Methringham is situated in the administrative district of North Kesteven, approximately 13km south-south-east of central Lincoln. The site is located on the east side of the village, to the east of the Lincoln/Peterborough Railway Line and to the immediate south of Fen Lane (figs. 1 & 2).

The site at Fen Lane lies to the east of the village of Methringham, OS grid reference TF 507365 361710. The site is under rough pasture, having been grazed in the recent past, but is now lying fallow and is becoming overgrown. The triangular field is bordered to the south-west by a railway line, to the north-west by a minor road, to the north-east by a small fishery beyond a small drain. At its greatest extent the field measures 280m NW-SE by 90m NE-W. To the south east it narrows to a point. A footpath parallels the north-east boundary.

The local geology consists of Jurassic deposits of undivided Lincolnshire Limestone (British Geological Survey, 1973).

3.0 Planning background

North Kesteven District Council has granted planning permission for the construction of a fishing lake, raised earth banks and parking and erection of new toilet block, planning reference: 11/0080/FUL.

Permission was subject to conditions, and by the recommendation of the Planning Archaeologist to North Kesteven District Council that a programme of archaeological evaluation and recording (earthwork survey) was undertaken prior to the removal of the known earthworks and to establish where, or if, preservation *in situ* was required.

4.0 Archaeological and historical background

Few formal archaeological investigations have taken place within Methringham parish. However, the Historic Environment Record for Lincolnshire records a number of sites and findspots.

Aerial photography has identified a number of possible prehistoric cropmarks and enclosures in the west of the parish. A further area of prehistoric activity has been identified approximately 1.5km to the south-east of the site; a single Neolithic polished stone axe has been recovered from this area, although the main focus of activity is the Bronze Age. Three round barrows from this period have been identified, as well as four cremation urns, an axe-hammer and a socketed axe.

Romano-British material has been recovered from a number of locations within the village. A coin of Gallienus (253-68AD) has been found to the south of Prince's

Street, approximately 1km south- west of the site, the base of a Romano-British greyware pottery vessel was also found on Prince's Street, 800m south-west of the site. The 2nd century AD Car Dyke canal runs approximately 5km to the east of the village.

The Domesday Book records the village as *Medric(h)*esham, an Old English name meaning 'the homestead, estate of Medric's people (Cameron, 1998). At this time, the land was in the ownership of Earl Hugh, Walter of Aincourt, Robert of Stafford and Svartbrandr (Morgan & Thorn, 1986). Svartbrandr was one of very few English landowners to acquire property after the Norman Conquest, and his estates in Methringham included a church. Walter of Aincourt's property included two mills (probably water mills on the Witham), and Earl Hugh owned another.

5.0 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the earthwork survey was to accurately record and interpret the earthworks prior to their removal/partial removal during the development of the site, effectively preserving them by record.

6.0 Methodology

The survey was undertaken with a Leica TCR705 total station. Points were logged in infrared mode using a Leica circular prism. The survey data was collected as a series of points, recorded so as to characterise the shape of earthwork features. Points were logged at the top and bottom of every slope. Pathways and any disturbances were also recorded where they impacted upon a site.

Georeferencing was undertaken in advance using known heights and grid references for local features. The equipment was then located in relation to these features via resection.

The collected data was downloaded in *.dxf format using Leica Geo Office, and the plans prepared in AutoCAD 2012. Base mapping (where used) is taken from OS Mastermap multi-scale data.

The site was surveyed over two days during 13th and 14th October 2011 by the authors. The weather was overcast but dry, and none of the conditions presented any difficulty for the survey.

7.0 Results

The visible archaeological remains in the field comprise a series of ridge-and-furrow earthworks of indeterminate date. They vary between 8m and 10m in width, ridge to ridge, whilst their full length is not available due to recent disturbance (see below, 3.3). They vary in height, but never exceed a difference of 0.3m between depth of furrow and the height of the ridge. The northern and southern extremes of the visible remains are the most clearly defined, with the ridges in the centre of the field appearing the most denuded (see remarks 3.3, below). There appears to be the remains of a potential headland running 70m along the north-eastern perimeter of the field, though this identification remains provisional and, if correct, the feature

cannot be considered fully extant. Where the field narrows to a point to the south, there is no evidence of either ridges or furrows, though this area is now heavily disturbed and overgrown (fig.5, plates 1, 2, 3, 4).

8.0 Discussion and conclusion

There is some doubt as to whether any of the current boundaries of the field bear any relation to those in existence during the use of the ridge-and-furrow, the earliest historical mapping available of the site is after the construction of the Great Northern and Great Eastern Joint Railway constructed in the early 1880's. Certainly that provided by the railway cannot be of historic significance, whilst the drainage ditch that defines the north-eastern boundary is of indeterminate date, though the potential headland would seem to parallel it for a short distance.

The survey has highlighted several issues surrounding archaeological preservation at the site. The most obvious of these is the disturbance created by the railway to the south-west, and its associated bridge to the north; this has effectively removed any archaeological traces. The field itself, despite now being given over to rough pasture, appears to have been ploughed at some point in the past, as the earthworks themselves are very slight, to the extent that it was often difficult to determine their position beneath the scrub vegetation. In some places the ridge-and-furrow cannot be located, but this is most likely the result of removal rather than true absence. A footpath parallels the north-eastern boundary and has caused a limited amount of erosion perpendicular to the direction of the earthworks (figs. 2, 3, 4, 5).

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology required the topographical survey of the site area containing the known ridge-and-furrow. This was undertaken using a Leica TCR705 total station. Points were logged in infrared mode using a Leica circular prism. Sufficient time was given by the developer to insure that complete recording of the earthworks was possible, thus enabling preservation by record.

10.0 Acknowledgements

Midland Archaeological Services would like to thank Mr and Mrs Simpson for this commission.

11.0 Publication

A summary of the findings will be prepared for inclusion in the annual round of archaeology in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology.

12.0 Site archive

An archive of written, drawn and photographic elements is in preparation and will be deposited at the Lincolnshire Archives on 5th December 2011; access may be gained to it by quoting reference LCNCC 2011.361

13.0 References

Archaeological Data Services 2011 (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>)

Cameron, K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*. The English Place-Name Society, Nottingham.

Taylor, C., 2000, *Fields in the English Landscape*. Sutton Publishing Ltd, Gloucestershire

Williams, A. and Martin, G. H. (eds.), 1992, *Domesday Book: A Complete Translation*. Penguin Books, London.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: Site looking N.



Plate 2: Site looking S.



Plate 3: Railway truncating site to the SW.



Plate 4: Detail of ridges looking N.

Appendix 2: Written Scheme of Investigation

Contractor: Midland Archæological Services

Application: 11/0080/FUL

Site: Methringham Fishing Lake, Fen Lane, Methringham, LN4 3AQ

NGR: TF 507365 361710

Type: Archaeological Evaluation and Recording (Earthwork Survey)

Date: 9th September 2011

Archive: The Collection

Site Code: FLFL 11

Accession no: LCNCC 2011.361

Client: Mr & Mrs Simpson



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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Midland Archaeological Services (MAS), have been commissioned by Mr & Mrs Simpson to undertake a programme of Archaeological Evaluation and Recording (Earthwork Survey) on land at Fenlake Fisheries, Fen Lane, Methringham, Lincolnshire, LN4 3AQ (507365 361710), henceforth called the site.
- 1.2 North Kesteven District Council has granted permission to construct a fishing lake, raised earth banks, parking and erection of new toilet block at Fenlake Fisheries, Fen Lane, Methringham, Lincolnshire, LN4 3AQ, planning ref: **11/0080/FUL**.
- 1.3 Permission is subject to conditions imposed by North Kesteven District Council that the applicants secure the implementation of an agreed written specification that sets out a programme of work to mitigate the impact of construction to known archaeological remains and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing. A copy of the Archaeological Evaluation and Recording (Earthwork Survey) report shall be submitted for approval by the Local Planning Authority within six months of completion of the development.

2.0 Location and Description

Methringham is situated in the administrative district of North Kesteven, approximately 13km south-south-east of central Lincoln. The site is located on the east side of the village, to the east of the Lincoln/Peterborough Railway Line and to the immediate south of Fen Lane. The proposed development area is to the west of the existing fishing lake and comprises of a triangular parcel of land which is laid to pasture and measures approximately 4ha in area.

The local geology consists of Jurassic deposits of undivided Lincolnshire limestone (British Geological Survey, 1973).

3.0 Archaeological/Historical background

Few formal archaeological investigations have taken place within Methringham parish. However, the Historic Environment Record for Lincolnshire records a number of sites and findspots.

Aerial photography has identified a number of possible prehistoric cropmarks and enclosures in the west of the parish. A further area of prehistoric activity has been identified approximately 1.5km to the south-east of the site; a single Neolithic polished stone axe has been recovered from this area, although the main focus of activity is the Bronze Age. Three round barrows from this period have been identified, as well as four cremation urns, an axe-hammer and a socketed axe.

Romano-British material has been recovered from a number of locations

within the village. A coin of Gallienus (253-68AD) has been found to the south of Prince's Street, approximately 1km south-west of the site, the base of a Romano-British greyware pottery vessel was also found on Prince's Street, 800m south-west of the site. The 2nd century AD Car Dyke canal runs approximately 5km to the east of the village.

The Domesday Book records the village as *Medric(h)esham*, an Old English name meaning 'the homestead, estate of Medric's people (Cameron, 1998). At this time, the land was in the ownership of Earl Hugh, Walter of Aincourt, Robert of Stafford and Svartbrandr (Morgan & Thorn, 1986). Svartbrandr was one of very few English landowners to acquire property after the Norman Conquest, and his estates in Metheringham included a church. Walter of Aincourt's property included two mills (probably water mills on the Witham), and Earl Hugh owned another.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aim of this Archaeological Evaluation and Recording (Earthwork Survey) is to accurately record and interpret the earthworks, effectively preserving them by record.
- 4.2 This will be attained through the following objectives: to produce a fully detailed drawn and photographic record of the earthworks supplemented by a full written description and interpretation.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 This document represents a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) and has been based on the guidelines set out in Planning Policy Statement 5 (Planning and The Historic Environment).

The Archaeological Evaluation and Recording (Earthwork Survey) will be carried out in accordance with current best practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines, including:

Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2008 as revised).

Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990).

Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (revised 2010)

Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation, (Institute for Field archaeologists 2008 as revised).

- 5.2 The archaeological advisor to North Kesteven District Council will be given 14 days prior notice of when work is due to commence and will be free to visit the site by arrangement with the site archaeologist.
- 5.3 Prior to the start of any fieldwork an OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) online record will be initiated.
- 5.4 An accession number and a site code for the project has been initiated and approved.
- 5.5 MAS shall inform the archaeological advisor to North Kesteven District Council verbally or in writing of completion of the Archaeological Evaluation and Recording (Earthwork Survey) within three calendar days of such completion.

6.0 Recording Techniques

- 6.1 A full written analysis of the earthworks shall be undertaken, supported with detailed scaled drawings and high quality photographs.
- 6.2 Recording will be undertaken on pro-forma record sheets, including:
 - MAS Earthwork Record Sheet
 - MAS Photographic Register
 - MAS Survey Points Information Sheet/Log
- 6.3 A full photographic survey shall be undertaken in 35mm monochrome and colour slide formats, supplemented by digital photography. It will include general shots of the site and more detailed photography of standing earthwork features if required. Photographic scales, information board and north arrow shall be used in photographs when and if appropriate.
- 6.4 A Leica TCR 705 Total Station will be used to conduct the earthwork survey.
- 6.5 Drawings will include a scale and be annotated with standard archaeological drawing conventions.
- 6.6 Drawings will be at a scale of 1:500.
- 6.7 The written element will comprise both quantitative and qualitative data to cover physical descriptions and dimensions of the earthworks, layout and condition; together with an account of their setting contribution to the local scene.

7.0 Report and Dissemination

- 7.1 A report presenting the survey and supporting text will be prepared on the completion of site works and will consist of:

- a title page detailing site address, site code and accession number, NGR, author/originating body, client's name and address
- the date of the record, name of the recorder
- archive location
- a full bibliography
- full contents listing
- a non-technical summary of the findings
- a description of the historical background, including map regression
- a description of the methodologies employed;
- supporting illustrations and text
- a consideration of the importance of the earthworks on the site in local, regional and national terms
- location plan 1:10 000 scale
-

7.2 Draft copies of the report will be sent in the first instance to the client for approval and then to the archaeological advisor to North Kesteven District Council.

7.3 Approved copies x2 will be deposited with the HER, a further x2 copies will also be deposited with the Lincolnshire Archive and further copies with other public third-parties if appropriate and will include licence for the use of the material for all purposes, reference and commercial included, on the understanding that MAS will be fully credited and that no charge will be levied for such use; notwithstanding any privacy terms requested by the client.

8.0 Archive

8.1 The project archive will be prepared according to the recommendations in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990), *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), (English Heritage, 2008).

8.2 The date for archive deposition with the Lincolnshire Archive depository will be the first full week of October 2011.

8.3 Upon completion of the fieldwork an OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed for the project. A print-out of the form will be included as an appendix to the final report.

8.4 Any digital files relating to the site will be saved in a compatible format for inclusion in the County Historic Environment Record.

9.0 Timetable and Personnel

- 9.1 The combined duration of site works and reporting are expected to take 32 person hours. Field survey will take 16 person hours, while a further sixteen will be required for reporting/research. It is anticipated that a first draft copy of the report will be available within 30 working days of completion of site works.
- 9.2 Steve Williams (Principal Archaeologist) will direct, manage the project and conduct the fieldwork and also be first point of contact. Dr Ben Edwards (Senior Project Officer) will assist with the fieldwork survey.

10.0 Contingency

- 10.1 Contingency has been sought that is relevant to the costs involved should unforeseen discoveries be made; this contingency has been approved by the client. No element of the contingency funding shall be used without permission of the client (following negotiations between the Client Company, Midland Archaeological Services and the archaeological advisor to North Kesteven District Council. The contingency will cover: extra person hours in relation to the fieldwork/reporting requirement of this project.

11.0 Health and Safety

- 11.1 It is the policy of Midland Archaeological Services to conform fully to the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act (1974).

Health and Safety must take priority over archaeological requirements. It is essential that all projects be carried out in accordance with safe working practices and under a defined Health and Safety Policy. A Risk Assessment for the project will be prepared prior to the commencement of work and all relevant health and safety regulations will be adhered to.

12.0 Insurance

- 12.1 Midland Archaeological Services holds the following insurance levels:

Public Liability	£5m
Professional Indemnity	£250 000
Employers Liability	£10m

References

Cameron, K., 1998, *A Dictionary of Lincolnshire Place-Names*. The English Place-Name Society, Nottingham.

Code of Conduct (Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1994 *as revised*).

Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990).

Health and safety at work act 1974.

Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council, 2010 revised).

Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), (English Heritage, 2008).

Morgan P. and Thorne C., (eds.), 1986, *Domesday Book vol. 31: Lincolnshire*. Phillimore & Co. Ltd, Chichester.

Appendix 3: Oasis Documentation

OASIS ID: midlanda1-112897

Project details

Project name	Earthwork Survey at Fenlake Fisheries, Fen Lane, Methringham, LN4 3AQ
Short description of the project	Topographical survey of risdge-and-furrow earthworks.
Project dates	Start: 13-10-2011 End: 14-10-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC 2011.361 - Museum accession ID
Any associated project reference codes	FLFL 11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
Monument type	EARTHWORK Medieval
Monument type	EARTHWORK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Topographic Survey'
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

process

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE NORTH KESTEVEN METHERINGHAM Fenlake Fisheries, Fen Lane, Methringham, LN4 3AQ
Postcode	LN4 3AQ
Study area	4.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 507365 361710 52.9014582951 0.241373039382 52 54 05 N 000 14 28 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 11.30m Max: 11.60m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Midland Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Midland Archaeological Services
Project director/manager	S.L.W Williams
Project supervisor	Dr Ben Edwards
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	The Collection Lincoln

Digital Archive recipient The Collection Lincoln

Digital Archive ID LCNCC 2011.361

Digital Contents 'Survey'

Digital Media available 'Survey'

Paper Archive recipient The Collection Lincoln

Paper Archive ID LCNCC 2011.361

Paper Contents 'Survey'

Paper Media available 'Report'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title A Programme of Archaeological Evaluation (Earthwork) Survey on Land at Fenlake Fisheries, Fen Lane, Methringham, LN4 3AQ

Author(s)/Editor(s) Dr Ben Edwards and Steve Williams

Other bibliographic details 332/11

Date 2011

Issuer or publisher Midland Archaeological Services

Place of issue or publication Midland Archaeological Services Lincolnshire Office

Description A topographical survey of standing ridge-and-furrow earthworks.

URL <http://www.oasis.ac.uk>

Entered by steve williams (steve@midlandarchaeologicalservices.co.uk)

Entered on

31 October 2011

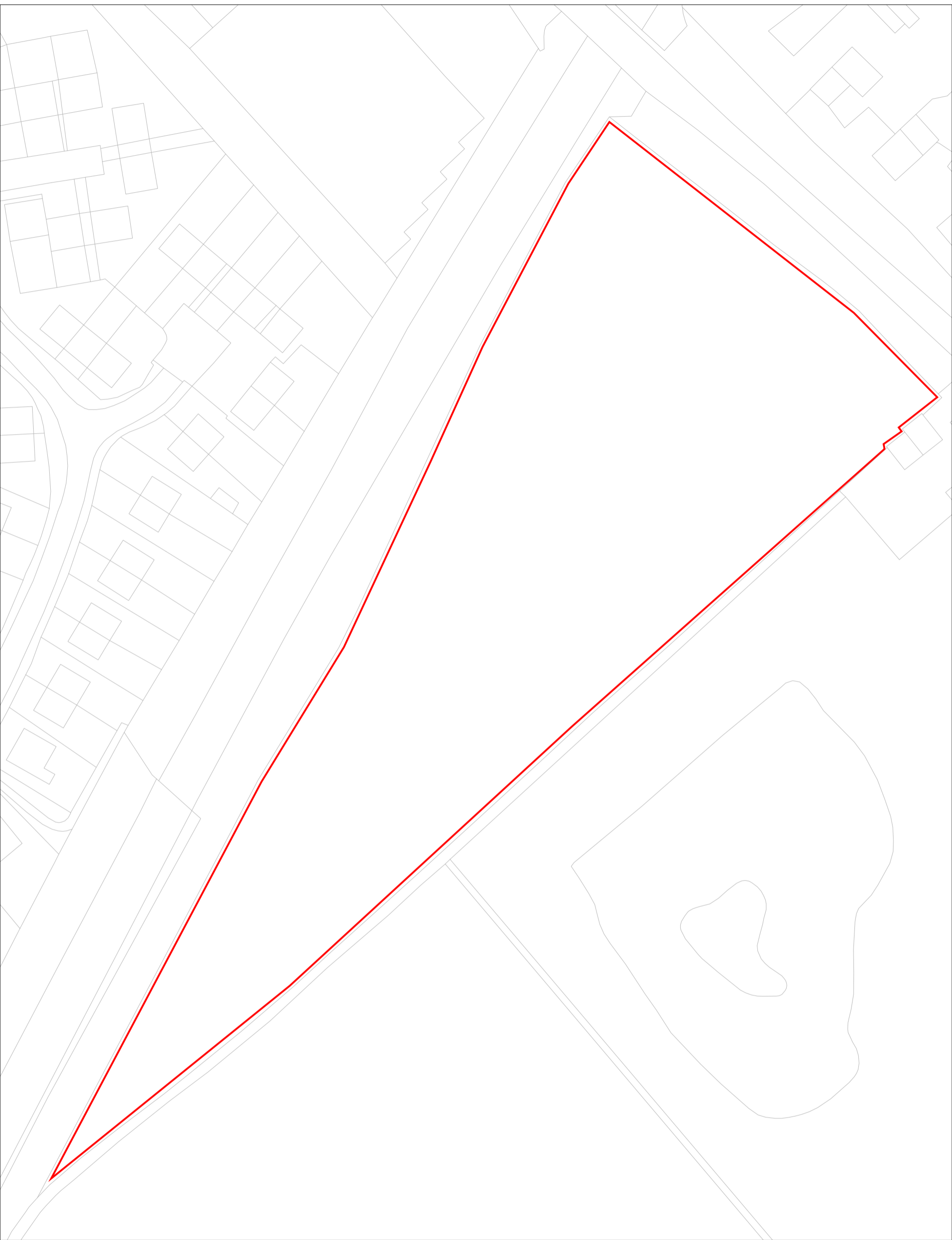


Fig. 2: Location



Fig.3 Site on 1888 Ordnance Survey. Scale 1:2500



Fig. 4 Site on 1905 Ordnance Survey Scale 1:2500



Survey of Ridge & Furrow at Fen Lane, Metheringham



Artificial Slopes

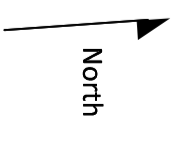


Paths & Boundaries



Break of Slope

Topographic survey of earthworks visible in a field adjacent to Fen Lane, Metheringham, Lincolnshire. The site contains several parallel lines of ridge and furrow, now much eroded, standing on average 0.2m in height. There is a potential headland along part of the north-eastern edge of the field, and several areas of heavy disturbance, particularly in association with the railway along the south-western perimeter of the site.



North

Grid ref. at centre: 507400.3
361709.1



20m

Fig. 5