



***Grange Farm, Fen Road,
Halton Holegate, Spilsby, Lincolnshire***

Earthwork Survey



*Acorn Archaeology Report Number 36.0
December 2017*

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GRANGE FARM, FEN ROAD, HALTON HOLEGATE, SPILSBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

EARTHWORK SURVEY

Acorn Archaeology Report Number 36.0
December 2017

Prepared for:

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Planning Reference Number: S/072/01678/17

Site Code: GFHH17
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GRANGE FARM, FEN ROAD, HALTON HOLEGATE, SPILSBY, LINCOLNSHIRE

EARTHWORK SURVEY

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an earthwork survey undertaken at Grange Farm, Fen Road, Halton Hologate, Spilsby, Lincolnshire. The project was commissioned by Mr J. C. Crust to fulfil a condition of planning permission (application S/072/01678/17) granted by East Lindsey District Council for the erection of an agricultural building for livestock shelter.

The site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area, with extant medieval ridge and furrow earthworks across the field in which the new building would be located. An earthwork survey was required in order that they may be preserved by record, primarily through GPS survey, supplemented by photographs.

The survey identified a possible furlong boundary which comprising a wide ridge likely to have been created by the amalgamation of two adjacent ridges.

Wider spacing of ridge and furrow at the north of the site may indicate the use of oxen, and the use of horses in the wetter, low-lying ground at the south, possibly at a slightly later date. These variations may also reflect different ownership and have aided drainage.

Possible heads (raised areas formed where the plough was turned) were recorded at the west and east of the site, although these were disturbed by later drainage and may have incorporated material from maintenance of adjacent open drains.

Later earthwork features included small ponds, possible livestock watering holes and drainage.

1.0 PROJECT AND PLANNING BACKGROUND

This report presents the findings of an earthwork survey undertaken on land at Grange Farm, Fen Road, Halton Hologate, Spilsby, Lincolnshire. The programme of archaeological investigation was commissioned by Mr J. C. Crust to fulfil a condition of planning permission (application S/072/01678/17) granted by East Lindsey District Council for the erection of an agricultural building for livestock shelter.

The works were undertaken in accordance with Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Acorn Archaeology and approved by the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Team. Fieldwork was carried out on the 2nd and 3rd December 2017.

2.0 SITE LOCATION

Grange Farm is located near the centre of Halton Hologate parish, and lies mid way between the settlements of Halton Hologate and Halton Fengate, at National Grid Reference 541985 364112. The farm and site are located on the east side of Fen Road, which links the two settlements.

The north of the parish lies on the southern tip of the Wolds, and the south of the parish lies in the fen. Heights are around 30m AOD in Halton Hologate, and the land drops to the southeast to around 3m AOD near Halton Fengate. Heights at the site itself are up to around 9m AOD at the north, and dip below 8m AOD in places at the south.

The site is located within a trapezoidal, almost triangular, plot of land, the west side of which is occupied by the farmhouse, gardens and a mixture of traditional and modern agricultural buildings along Fen Road. The survey area comprises the field to the rear of these, an area of just under 2 hectares. The field was grass pasture, used for cattle and horses.

The survey area is located on a drift geology of glaciofluvial deposits comprising Devensian sand and gravel. The mapped boundary of these deposits roughly correlates to the boundary between the survey site and the Grange Farm building complex, with till being mapped under the buildings. Solid geology in the area is mapped Kimmeridge Clay Formation Mudstone (BGS Online Viewer).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The place-name *Haltun* is recorded by the Domesday Book of 1086, and *Hauton* Hologate in 1576 (Cameron 1998, 58). Halton derives from the Old English *halh*, meaning a nook of land, as the village lies in a small valley in the rising ground on the edge of the fens. The Old English *tūn* means a farmstead or village. The affix *Hologate* 'the road running through the hollow', from the Old English *hol* and Old Norse *gata*.

The Domesday Book records that Ivo Tallboys held lands at Halton Hologate (Morris 1986). Land for 9 ploughs is recorded, along with a church, 4 mills, 120 acres of meadow, 58 freemen and 4 villagers. Count Alan also held land in Halton Hologate Hundred, formerly held by Aelfric. This included land for 3 ploughs, and Eudo, the Count's man, had 1 plough and 80 acres of meadow.

The medieval parish church of St Andrew is located approximately 1km north of the site.

Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks survive at several locations in the parish, including east-west ridge and furrow across the development site itself.

Both the topographical position of the site, on a slope down to the southwest, and the medieval landscape features within the site are apparent in open access Environment Agency lidar height data (Figure 6). Lidar reveals scattered ridge and furrow earthworks around Halton Hologate, Great and Little Steeping and Halton Fenside (Figure 6, top). Earthwork ridge and furrow also survives immediately west of Fen Road and the site, and a short distance to the southeast (Figure 6, bottom). It is presumed that the remains in the site were part of the medieval open fields of Halton Hologate.

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

6.1. The purpose of the investigation was to:

- Preserve the Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks by record, primarily through GPS survey, supplemented by photographs.
- Produce a client report which will form a record of the earthworks and which will also consider them in their context.
- Create a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum and accession to the county Historic Environment Record.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

The methodologies used in the earthwork survey followed the guidelines in the Historic England (2017) publication *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes, a Guide to good recording practice (Second Edition)*.

All extant earthworks at the site were recorded using a survey grade differential GPS system which plots to centimetre accuracy onto the Ordnance Survey Grid. Points were recorded at the tops and bottoms of all breaks of slopes, to enable plotting of the alignment, extent and scale of the earthworks and the production of an interpretive hachured plan created using CAD software. Transects were recorded

across the site to obtain profiles across earthworks. These were north-south, at right angles to the ridge and furrow earthworks, and east-west, parallel with the ridge and furrow.

A photographic record was compiled consisting of views from various points including general views showing the extent of the earthworks and shots at low angles to demonstrate the height of the surviving earthworks.

The site record was compiled in accordance with archive guidelines issued by The Collection, Lincoln.

Following the completion of fieldwork, survey data was processed using N4ce survey software and a DXF format file produced. This was then exported to Design CAD in which hachured plans of the earthworks were compiled. The survey data was also manipulated in three dimensions to produce profiles of the earthworks.

6.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the earthwork survey are depicted on Figure 3, with an interpretation of the earthwork remains provided as Figure 4. Transects across the site are included as Figure 5.

The earthwork survey identified relict landscape features of the medieval field system comprising east-west ridge and furrow, possible heads and a possible furlong boundary (Figure 4, Features A-M). Further recorded earthworks largely represented later drainage features.

Spacings between the centre of furrow bases varied (Figure 3-5), but were generally greater at the north of the site, and lesser at the south. At the north of the survey area these spacings ranged between 11m and 14m (Feature M) (Plate 6), generally narrowing near the centre of the site to approximately 9m to 11m spacing (Feature L). At the south of the site these ranged between 7m and 9m (Feature K) (Plate 1).

The height difference between adjacent furrow bases and ridge tops ranged between 0.44m and 0.06m, the latter being the most southerly recorded furrow, which was not discernible in the field, but which was identifiable in Transect 2 (Figure 5).

An apparent double-width ridge (Feature H) (Plate 5) lay between Features K and L, and may indicate the position of a former furlong boundary (Figures 3 to 5). Furrows to either side of this (Features I and J) were more pronounced than surrounding furrows, the bases being up to 0.57m below the ridge tops. It seems likely that these had been deliberately deepened, in part to aid drainage. The additional upcast material may have largely infilled an earlier central furrow between two adjacent ridges which originally made up ridge H. Although no furrow was visually discernible at the centre of this feature, Transect 1 revealed a slight dip towards its centre of up to 0.15m below the highest points of ridge H (Figure 5). The orientation of furrows to

either side of ridge H indicates that one or both original ridges within it may have been shortened compared to its neighbours (a 'gore'), and therefore less practical to work, this perhaps being a further reason for the merging of the two ridges.

The change in the spacing of ridge and furrow to the north (L) and south (K) of possible furlong boundary H might be the result of different ownership of these two plots of land. Similarly, the still wider spacing at the north of the site (M) could reflect a change of ownership. Wider spacing can be an indication of the use of oxen for ploughing, and it is possible that horses were used in the lower-lying, wetter ground at the south of the site, resulting in more closely spaced ridge and furrow here. The closer spacing of furrows towards the south of the site may have also provided improved drainage where it was required at the lowest-lying part of the site. Horse ploughing is generally a later feature than ox ploughing, and the southern part of the site may have been ploughed later than the north, perhaps following improvements to drainage of the area, making it more suitable for cultivation.

Traces of possible 'heads' (raised areas formed where the plough was turned) were recorded along the east and west boundaries of the site (Features A to G). Open ditches were noted immediately west and east of the site, and ditch maintenance appears to have truncated the earthworks at the west (Feature C). It is unclear to what extent material removed from the adjacent ditches during maintenance might have contributed to some of the possible identified heads. To some extent, material from later ditch maintenance may have created the appearance of heads by depositing material on the ridges.

A group of possible heads at the west of the site (Features A and B) (Plates 2 and 8) extended along a 41m area and were each at least 8m long east-west (Figure 4). Where one of these possible heads was recorded in Transect 3, it was approximately 0.23m higher than its associated ridge. Further possible heads were identified along two thirds of the east edge of the site (Features D-G) (Plates 3 and 7), although later drainage in this area truncated earlier earthworks and hampered the interpretation of these features. These possible heads varied from at least 4.5m wide to at least 8m wide east-west.

Possible furlong boundary H appears to align closely with an extant fragment of field boundary on the west side of Fen Road (Figure 6 & 2), which also appears to continue as an earthwork feature still further to the west (Figure 6). Similarly, the north boundary of the site is mirrored on the west side of Fen Road, and the south site boundary appears to align on a wider strip in the earthwork ridge and furrow to the west of Fen Road (Figure 6, bottom). This could indicate that the course of Fen Road adjacent to Grange Farm is a later feature, cutting across the medieval fields. However, if their interpretation is correct, traces of possible heads recorded along the west boundary of the investigation site suggest a contemporary boundary parallel to Fen Road.

A slightly deepened area was noted in each of furrows I and J. These were apparently largely formed by cattle trampling the ground while finding water in these deeper

spots, although may have been partly manmade for this purpose after the area was turned over to pasture.

A slight causeway was recorded across Feature I, at the north side of the possible furlong boundary. This may represent rather late partial infilling to facilitate vehicle access to the south of the pasture field.

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889 was briefly examined during the investigation, and the site boundaries are largely shown in their present layout, with the exception of the northwest of the site which is now occupied by 20th century and later buildings and yards. The Grange is marked on the 1889 map, with both the farmhouse and various farm buildings along Fen Road. The map shows a pond adjacent to the 19th century farm buildings, correlating to a dip noted at the north end of the west site boundary. A further small L-shaped pond is depicted in the far southeast corner of the site, which correlates to a dip recorded in the earthwork survey (Figure 4).

Discussions with the farmers during the fieldwork indicated that the lower area at the south of the field had historically been seasonally waterlogged, and that earthworks in that area would have been substantially affected by improvements to drainage within the site in the late 20th century. Ridge and furrow (K) in this area was generally less pronounced than that further the north (L), possibly partly a result of these drainage works.

The presence of buried drains close to the east boundary of the site was marked by earthwork hollows which truncated the ridge and furrow. Recent drainage associated with modern animal housing and the farmyard hardstanding was identified by manholes, one of which was associated with a recent drain trench visible as an unvegetated strip between a manhole and drainage ditch to the east of the site.

Although also close to a manhole, and so potentially reflecting the presence of another drain, two parallel hollows at the north of the site appeared to represent wheel ruts between the farmyard and gates at the northeast corner of the site, where vehicle wheels had historically sunk into the soft ground of an underlying furrow.

The area of the site adjacent to the existing farmyard was heavily trampled by cattle, and somewhat disturbed due to the construction of the extant 20th century or later farmyard buildings.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Earthwork survey was carried out at Grange Farm, Halton Hologate in order to create a detailed record of the known earthworks of medieval ridge and furrow on the site.

A possible furlong boundary was recorded, comprising a wide ridge likely to have been created by the amalgamation of two adjacent ridges.

Variations in the spacing of ridge and furrow across the site may indicate the use of oxen at the north of the site and the use of horses in the wetter, low-lying ground at the south of the site, possibly at a slightly later date. These variations may also reflect furlongs under different ownership and have aided drainage.

Possible heads (raised areas formed where the plough was turned) were recorded at the west and east of the site, although as these were disturbed by later drainage and may have incorporated material from maintenance of adjacent open drains their interpretation is uncertain.

Later earthwork features included small ponds, possible livestock watering holes and drainage.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Mr J. C. Crust who commissioned the work, arranged access, and assisted in the successful completion of the project, and Jan Allen who provided advice on the project.

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10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: GFHH17
PLANNING APPLICATION No.: S/072/01678/17
FIELD OFFICER: Vicky Mellor
NGR: TF 41985 64112
CIVIL PARISH: Halton Hologate
DATE OF INTERVENTION: 2nd to 3rd December 2017
TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Earthwork Survey
UNDERTAKEN FOR: Mr J C Crust

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION:
Acorn Archaeology, 9 New Street, Sleaford, Lincolnshire. NG34 7HG
FINAL LOCATION: The Collection, Lincoln
ACCESSION NUMBER: LCNCC:2017.208
ACCESSION DATE: April 2018

The Site Archive Comprises:

Daily record sheets	2
Photographic record sheet	1
Digital Photographs	92
Digital survey data	

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

PLATES



Plate 1 View along ridge and furrow at south of site, looking west



Plate 2 Ridge and furrow and heads along west boundary of site, looking northwest



Plate 3 View along possible heads truncated by drain at southeast of site, looking south



Plate 4 View along possible furlong boundary ridge, looking east



Plate 5 Tree in furrow 'I' at north of possible furlong boundary, looking northwest towards Grange Farm



Plate 6 General view along ridge and furrow at north of site, looking west



Plate 7 Possible heads truncated by drain at northeast of site, looking south



Plate 8 Possible heads at west boundary of site, looking south



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Figure 1 Site location map



Figure 2 Detailed site location map



Scale 1:1000

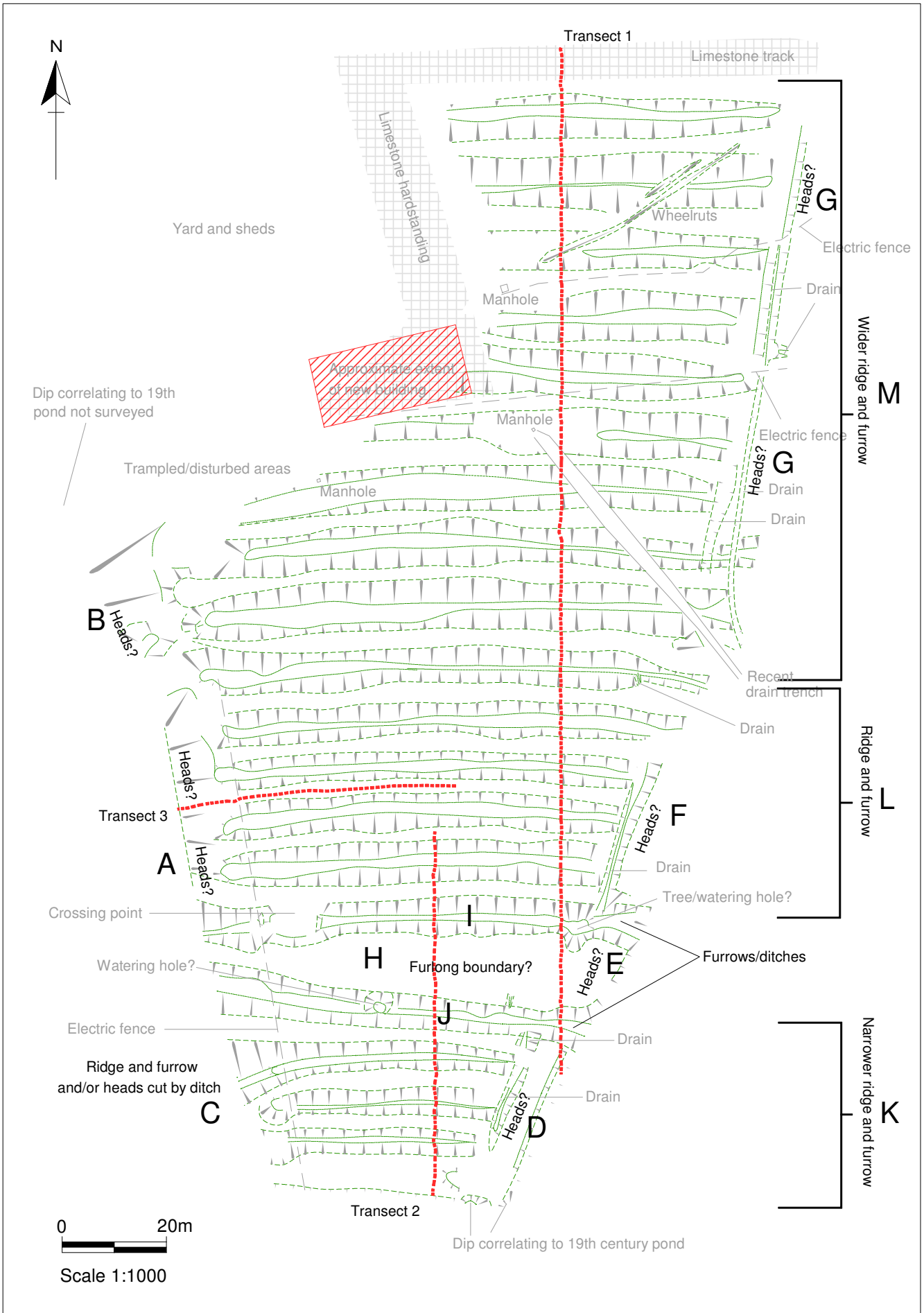
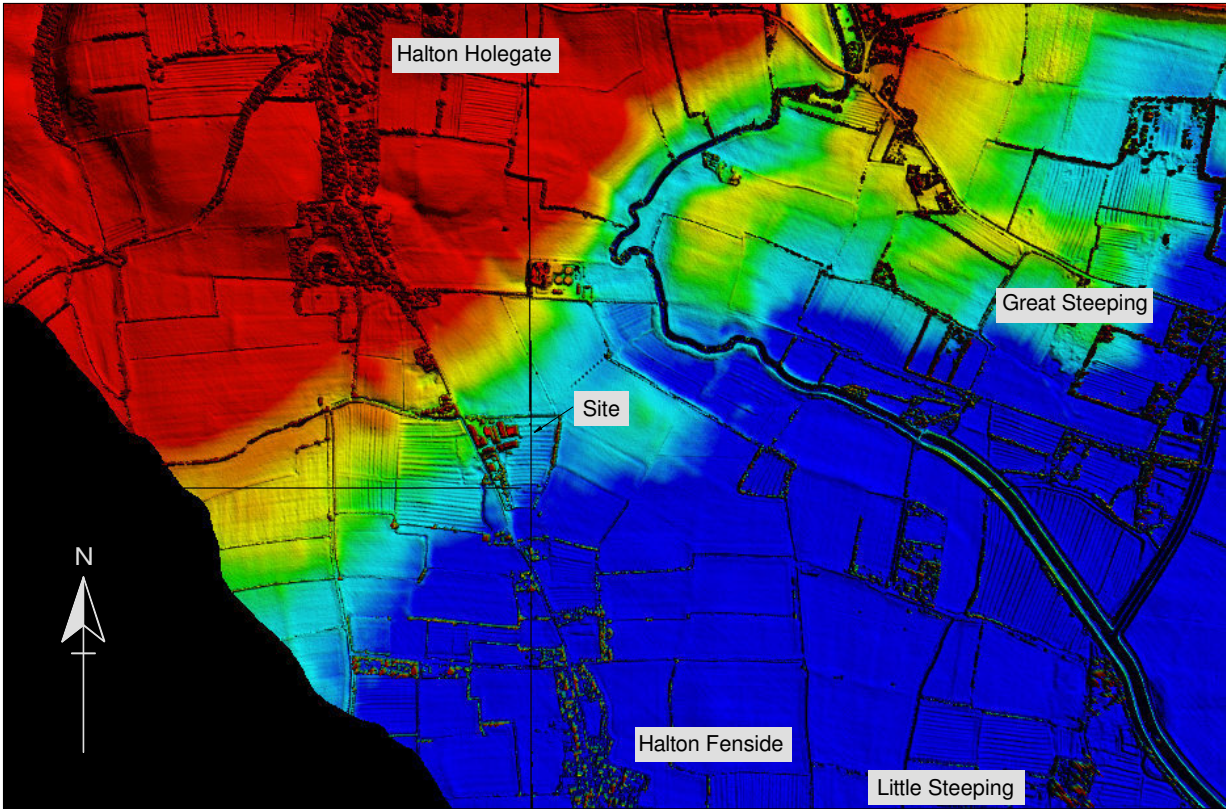


Figure 4 Interpretation of earthworks



Showing higher ground (red) and lower ground (purple) and patches of ridge and furrow earthworks
 DSM 2007 2m TF 46 SW and TF 46 NW. Not to scale, enhanced vertical scale.



Earthworks within and near site
 DSM 2007 2m TF 46 SW. Not to scale, enhanced vertical scale.

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OASIS ID: acornarc1-303122

Project details

Project name	Grange Farm, Halton Hologate, Spilsby, Lincolnshire: Earthwork Survey
Short description of the project	Earthwork survey was carried out in advance of the construction of a new livestock shelter. The site contained medieval earthwork ridge and furrow, including a possible furlong boundary and heads.
Project dates	Start: 02-12-2017 End: 03-12-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	GFHH17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC:2017:208 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	RIDGE AND FURROW Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Field observation","Full survey"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY HALTON HOLEGATE Grange Farm, Fen Road, Halton Hologate, Lincolnshire
Postcode	PE23 5PF
Study area	1.8 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 41985 64112 53.154870113222 0.123642148172 53 09 17 N 000 07 25 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Acorn Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Vicky Mellor
Project director/manager	Vicky Mellor

Project supervisor Vicky Mellor
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body Mr J C Crust

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient The Collection, Lincoln
Digital Archive ID LCNCC:2017.208
Digital Contents "none"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient The Collection, Lincoln
Paper Contents "none"
Paper Media available "Report"

Entered by Vicky Mellor (info@acorn-archaeology.co.uk)
Entered on 7 December 2017