

Fig. 1

Late Saxon brooch found during fieldwalking and metal-detecting survey (winter 1996/97) near the site of the Mid-Late Saxon settlement and Saxo-Norman cemetery, Sedgeford.

Scale 1:1

(application forms are available from Janet Hammond, Project Co-ordinator, Hill Farm, Church Lane, Sedgeford, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5NA).

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BLOODGATE HILL, SOUTH CREAKE: A RECENTLY DISCOVERED EARLY SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY MAP

by Andrew Rogerson *and* Steven Ashley

An important and hitherto unrecorded map of the north-west part of South Creake parish, which shows the Iron Age hill fort on Bloodgate Hill (Co. no. 1910), has recently been brought to Norfolk Landscape Archaeology's attention and saved for posterity, through the vigilance of Philip West who has deposited it at the Norfolk Record Office (NRO NC 691/1).

Measuring 910mm by 720mm and drawn at a scale of 1" to 20 perches (1:3960), the newly discovered map is contemporary with, and exactly conjoins, another one which depicts most of the north-east segment of the parish (NRO BL 35). Although neither is signed or dated, Robert Silvester, who is making a study of William Haiwarde, considers that they are working copies in

that great cartographer's hand and that they date to c.1610. An important paper on medieval field systems and land tenure in South Creake which makes extensive use of these maps is soon to appear in this journal (Hesse forthcoming). The purpose of this note is to present the earliest accurate cartographic representation of a prehistoric enclosure yet to come to light in Norfolk (Fig.1).

Bloodgate Hill fort is an unexcavated, and almost entirely levelled, univallate enclosure under permanent arable exploitation. Its history has been admirably summarised by Robert Rickett (1992, 62-3). It was levelled at the start of the nineteenth century.

The Haiwarde map shows the fort's defences as a circle in green, presumably denoting a ditch with perhaps some surviving internal rampart, interrupted only by a small gap, an entrance, on the east. Four roads, coloured yellow, converged on the monument and to the south a windmill, shown in black, stood at the northeastern corner of a 2.5-acre piece next to Lyhowe gate. The interior of the fort (diameter c.200 metres) was divided into two furlongs or *quarentenae*, numbered 36 and 37 within a sequence used in a terrier of 1590 (Raynham Hall Box 20). Furlong 36 was extremely small and consisted solely of one 2-acre piece of tenanted land. Furlong 37 was divided into seven east-to-west parcels, three of which were part of the lord's demesne ("Dns" = *dominus*), and one of which had previously been subdivided into three. According to the acreages given on the map the total area of the fort's interior amounted to 9.125 acres, although the actual area shown within the green circle is slightly less than 8 acres.

The acreages and order of the individual parcels depicted on the map agree with the 1590 terrier in which furlong 36 was said to lie *infra* (ie. within) *Burghedyke* with a headland on the east, while furlong 37 was described merely as butting west on the said headland. The parcels at the northern and southern ends were said to lie next to the *fossat. de Burghedykes* on the north and south respectively. The parcels listed in a terrier of 1536 (Raynham Hall Box 20) broadly concur with the map and the later document, although the most southerly strip in furlong 37 was then in two pieces of 1 and 0.5 acres. There are also two divergences. The area of the most northerly parcel in furlong 37 was given as 5 roods (ie. 1.25 acres) rather than 1.5 acres, and headings have been misplaced so that the two (unnumbered) furlongs *infra le Burghdykes* were given an equal number of parcels.

This muddle may have been the result of an earlier change in the lay-out of the two furlongs, which is evidenced by the headland between them. This was shown by Andrew Lawson's 1973 contour survey (Rickett 1992, fig.45) to have traversed the full width of the fort's interior and must have been ploughed over by westward extensions to the four most northerly strips. Somewhat strangely the headland is at its most obvious over the northern stretch. A ring-ditch, which probably surrounded a Bronze Age barrow, may also be seen in aerial photographs (*ibid.*, pl.XX). The mound, lying at the highest point of the hill, may well have been lowered long before the establishment of the medieval field system.

Although these sources are all early modern they are important indicators of the long history of conflict between arable agriculture and field monuments in Norfolk. It is very unlikely that the field system of which furlongs 36 and 37 form a part can have come into being after c.1300, indeed Mary Hesse has recently argued that this landscape is the result of a pre-Conquest, perhaps 10th-century, phase of large-scale planning (Hesse 1992). If this is correct then the present sorry condition of the Bloodgate Hill fort, set then as now within an ocean of ploughland, is the result of a millennium of damage from arable farming. What a contrast with the earthworks of Warham camp (Co. no. 1828) which remain wonderfully preserved by virtue of their riverside meadow location (Rickett 1992, 59-61).

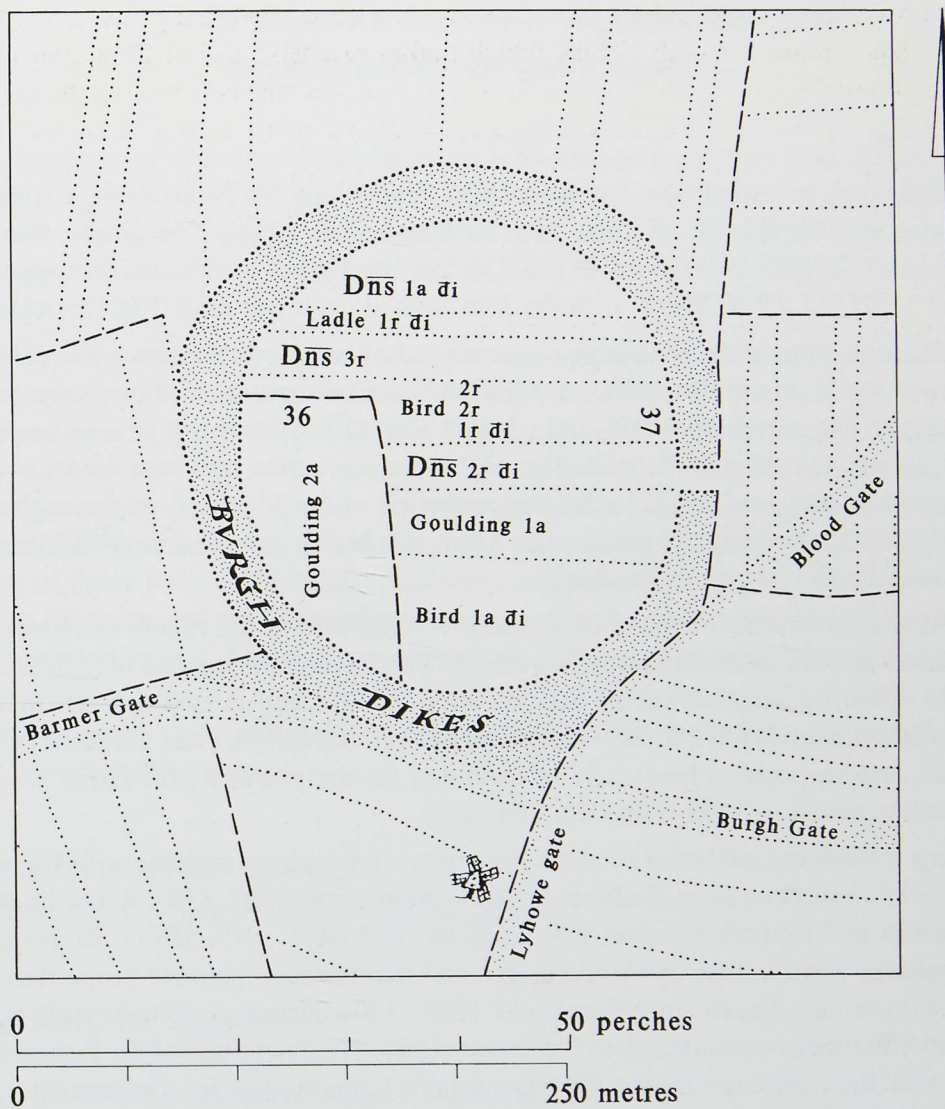


Fig. 1

Detail of map redrawn to show details of strips and furlongs within the hill fort only. Areas of darker stipple denote green on original, and areas of light stipple yellow. Scale 1:3960.

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