

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EARTHWORK SURVEY REPORT:
LAND OFF OSTERFEN LANE, CLAYPOLE, LINCOLNSHIRE**

Planning Application: S15/0502/FULL
NGR: 485312 349141
AAL Site Code: CLOF 15
Museum Accession Number: LCNCC: 2015.151
Oasis Number: allenarc1-227943



Report prepared for Claypole Parish Council

By
Allen Archaeology Limited
Report Number AAL 2015173

December 2015



Allenarchaeology



Contents

Executive Summary	4
1.0 Introduction	5
2.0 Site Location and Description	5
3.0 Planning Background	5
4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background	5
5.0 Methodology.....	6
6.0 Earthwork Survey Results	6
7.0 Discussion and Conclusion	7
8.0 Effectiveness of methodology	7
9.0 Acknowledgements.....	7
10.0 References	8

List of Plates

Plate 1: General view of ridge and furrow [1] looking west southwest	9
Plate 2: General view of ridge and furrow [1] looking west	9
Plate 3: General view of site looking southeast.....	9
Plate 4: View northeast, along eastern boundary across features [7] and [4]	10
Plate 5: General view of ridge and furrow [1] looking northwest	10
Plate 6: View west-southwest, across southern part of site	10

List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Colour Plates	9
Appendix 2: Figures.....	11

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location outlined in red.....	11
Figure 2: Site location outlined in red showing location and orientation of photos	12
Figure 3: Site boundary in red with outline of earthworks and ridge and furrow.....	13

Document Control

Element:	Name:	Date:
Report prepared by:	Rob Evershed BSc (Hons) and Dan Connor BA (Hons)	07/12/2015
Illustrations prepared by:	and Dan Connor BA (Hons)	07/12/2015
Report edited by:	Chris Clay BA MA (Hons)	08/12/2015
Report reviewed by:	Gavin Glover BA (Hons)	09/12/2015
Version no:	1.0	09/12/2015

Allen Archaeology reports are printed double sided on 100% recycled paper to reduce our carbon footprint.

Cover image: General view of the site, looking southwest

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Claypole Parish Council to undertake a topographical survey on land adjacent to Osterfen Lane, Claypole, Lincolnshire to fulfil a planning condition associated with the construction of a proposed playing field at the site.
- The site lies in an area of archaeological interest, close to the historic core of the settlement, with evidence for medieval settlement and agriculture recorded in numerous locations around the village.
- The earthworks present on the site can be divided into two broad areas, with the northern half of the site dominated by the remains of ridges and furrows indicative of medieval strip farming, and therefore indicating an agricultural zone on the periphery of the settlement.
- Earthworks in the southern half of the site largely comprise a series of linear and rounded hollows and raised, potentially including a headland, ponds or quarry pits and boundary features. These features are likely to represent activity of medieval or later date, associated with the settlement of Claypole.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Claypole Parish Council to undertake a topographical survey on land adjacent off Osterfen Lane, Claypole, Lincolnshire to fulfil a planning condition associated with the proposed construction of a playing field at the site.
- 1.2 The site works and reporting conform to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (CIfA 2014), Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015), the local guidelines in the *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook* (LCC 2012), and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2015).

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 Claypole is situated approximately 6.5km to the southeast of Newark and 4.2km to the northeast of Long Benington in the administrative district of South Kesteven. The proposed development area is on the northeastern edge of the village with playing fields, gardens and open areas to the west, houses and gardens to the south and east and the Newark to Grantham railway to the north. It is a trapezoidal shaped parcel of land and is centred on NGR 485312 349141.
- 2.2 The local bedrock geology comprises the Lias Group of mudstone, siltstone, limestone and sandstone. No overlying superficial deposits are recorded on the site (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 The site is the subject of an application to turn the present agricultural land into a playing field (Reference S15/0502/FULL). Planning permission has been granted subject to conditions including for the undertaking of a programme of archaeological investigation and recording in advance of development, comprising a topographic survey of the surviving earthworks.
- 3.2 The approach is consistent with the *National Planning Policy Framework* paragraph 128 (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012) and is in accordance with Policy EN1 of the adopted South Kesteven Core Strategy (July 2010).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 Evidence of activity at Claypole prior to the medieval period is, in general, poorly represented, although two Roman coins have been found on School Lane to the west of the site (HER ref. 30220).
- 4.2 Claypole is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002) as '*Claipol*' when it had a church and one mill and as such the village must have at least Saxon period origins. The name Claypole combines the Old English *clæg* and *pōl* meaning clay or clayey soil and pool (Cameron 1998, 30), further attesting to the pre-Norman origins of the village.

- 4.3 The present church, dedicated to St Peter, is located on the western edge of the village and dates to at least the 14th century (HER ref. 30214).
- 4.4 Evidence of medieval activity is relatively plentiful around the village, where the remains of late medieval ridge and furrow (HER ref. 36739) is extant in several places, including the site itself. A watching brief undertaken during groundworks at School Lane to the west of the site recorded further ridge and furrow and a medieval ditch (HER ref. 36573).

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The survey was based on a Level 2 record of the earthworks (English Heritage 2007) and adhered to guidance contained within the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (LCC 2012).
- 5.2 The earthwork survey was undertaken by a team of experienced archaeological surveyors over a period of one day, on 8th September 2015. The survey was undertaken using a Leica GS08 GPS unit receiving RTK corrections to produce an accuracy of c. +/- 20mm, supported where necessary by the use of a Leica TS12 total station theodolite. Earthworks were surveyed to allow an interpretation plan to be produced, illustrated as a hachure plan, or in the case of ridge and furrow earthworks, depicted using a line convention (English Heritage 2007, 34).
- 5.3 A full photographic record was made of the site, capturing images of both the earthworks themselves and of ground conditions at the time of the earthwork survey. The location of all photographic views was recorded. A selection of these photographs is included in Appendix 1 and their locations shown in Figure 2.

6.0 Earthwork Survey Results (Figure 3)

- 6.1 Across the northern part of the field, running roughly northeast to southwest, are linear earthwork features, [1], of alternating banks and hollows consistent with the distinctive ridges and furrows of an open field agricultural system (Plates 1, 2 and 5). The distance between the bottoms of the hollows is approximately 8 to 9 metres, typical for medieval ridge and furrow.
- 6.2 At the southern end of the field the ridges and furrows give way to a series of hollows, plateaus and ditch-like features. Two areas of slightly raised, roughly level ground [2] and [3] (Plate 6), measuring 18m x 24m and 18m x 40m respectively, formed the southern limit of the ridges and furrows and could be the remnants of a headland. At the eastern edge of the field the ground slopes down slightly to form an approximately rectangular hollow [4], reminiscent of a building platform, which measures approximately 20m x 25m (Plate 4).
- 6.3 Close to the western boundary of the site a roughly circular, slight depression [5] (Plate 6) is apparent which measures approximately six metres in diameter. Local anecdotal information suggests that the feature could be the remains of a small pond filled in within living memory.
- 6.4 There is a slight linear hollow [6] (Plate 6) close to the southern limit of the surveyed area which appears to be the remains of a ditch whilst in the southeast corner of the site a further hollow, [7] (Plate 4), extended beyond the limit of the surveyed area and appears to be a more substantial ditch or large pit. In between [6] and [7] is a slightly raised area at the southern edge of the field [8].

7.0 Discussion and Conclusion

- 7.1 The earthwork survey results identified a small number of features of potential archaeological interest.
- 7.2 The northern half of the surveyed area is dominated by ridge and furrow aligned broadly north-northeast to south-southwest. The site most is likely to have previously formed part of a larger field, now bisected by the adjacent railway line, as further ridges and furrows extend the alignment of those on the site into modern fields to the north of the railway. Further fields of ridge and furrow are located to the north and northeast of the site and during the medieval period the site may have been in an agricultural zone on the periphery of the medieval settlement.
- 7.3 The series of hollows, ditch-like features and areas of raised ground to the south of the ridge and furrow are likely to represent features more directly associated with medieval and/or later activity. Raised areas [2] and [3] may be elements of a former headland, but could conceivably represent later landscaping. A number of sunken features; [4], [5] and [7] may be former ponds, building platforms or quarry pits, whilst feature [6] appears to be a ditch and feature [8] a slightly raised area. They presently lie immediately beyond the eastern boundary of gardens associated with the 17th century Old Rectory on Rectory Lane, but if these gardens were once more extensive the earthworks may represent garden features once associated with that property.
- 7.4 The features in the southern half of the site are not closely dateable on the basis of their morphology alone, and the lack of dating evidence from intrusive investigation limits any further interpretation of the nature and significance of these features.

8.0 Effectiveness of methodology

- 8.1 The earthwork survey methodology was appropriate to the scale and nature of the development. It has allowed for a permanent record of the existing earthworks on the site to be made prior to the construction of a playing field on the site.

9.0 Acknowledgements

- 9.1 Allen Archaeology would like to thank Claypole Parish Council for this commission.

10.0 References

AAL, 2015, *Specification for an Earthwork Survey: Land off Osterfen Lane, Claypole, Lincolnshire*. Unpublished Allen Archaeology document

Cameron K., 1998, *A dictionary of Lincolnshire place-names*, English Place-Name Society, University of Nottingham, Nottingham

CIfA, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*. London, Department for Communities and Local Government

English Heritage, 2007, *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes. A guide to good recording practice*. English Heritage Publishing

Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, London

LCC, 2012, *Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook: A manual of archaeological practice*, Lincolnshire County Council

South Kesteven District Council, 2010, *Core Strategy*. Pages 38-40

Williams, A. and Martin, G.H., 2002, *Domesday Book: a complete translation*, Penguin, London

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of ridge and furrow [1] looking west southwest



Plate 2: General view of ridge and furrow [1] looking west



Plate 3: General view of site looking southeast



Plate 4: View northeast, along eastern boundary across features [7] and [4]



Plate 5: General view of ridge and furrow [1] looking northwest



Plate 6: View west-southwest, across southern part of site

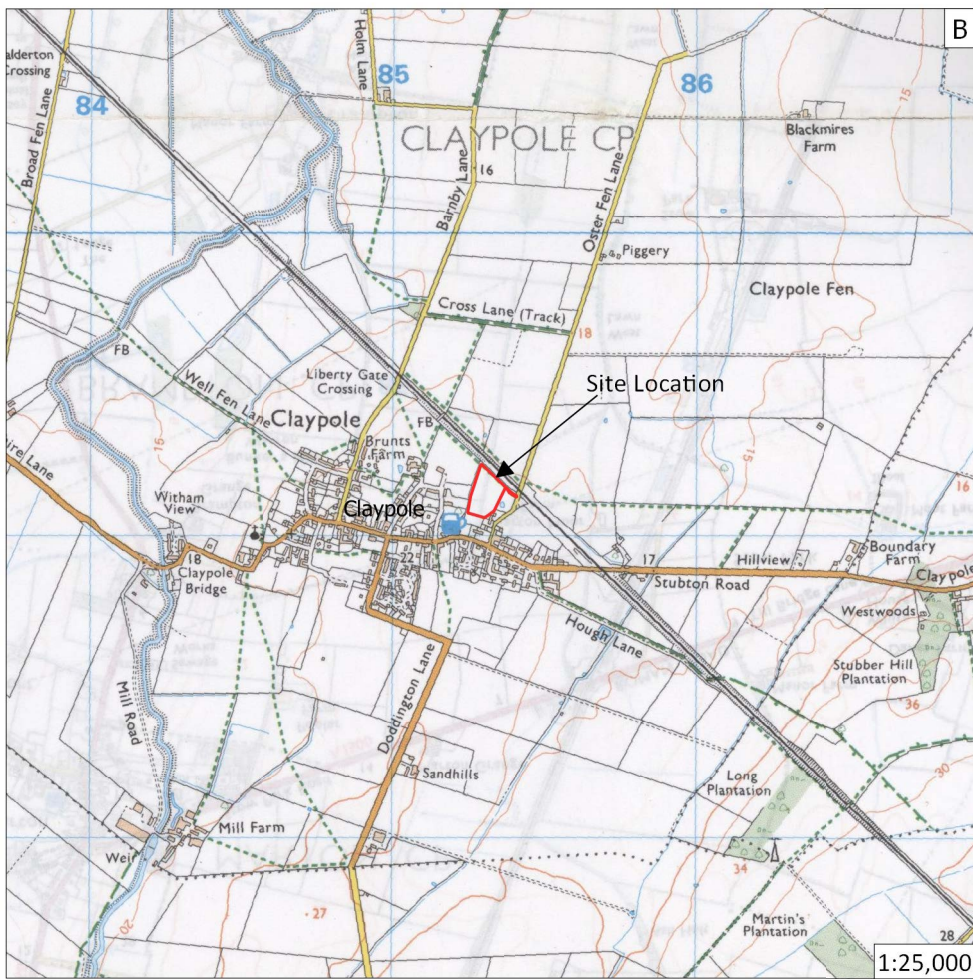


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

© Crown copyright 2000. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100047330

Site Code	CLOF 15
Scale	1:10,000,000
	1:25,000 @ A4
	1:1,000,000
Drawn by	D Connor
Date	27/10/15

Allenarchaeology

- Lincoln
- Birmingham
- Cambridge
- Southampton

www.allenarchaeology.co.uk



Site Code	CLOF 15
Scale	1:2500 @ A4
Drawn By	D Connor
Date	27/10/15

Allenarchaeology

Lincoln
Birmingham
Cambridge
Southampton

www.allenarchaeology.co.uk



Figure 3: Site boundary in red with outline of earthworks and ridge and furrow

Site Code	CLOF 15
Scale	1:1250@ A4
Drawn By	D Connor
Date	27/10/15

Allenarchaeology

Lincoln
Birmingham
Cambridge
Southampton

www.allenarchaeology.co.uk