

**MAPLETON FARM, HORSINGTON,
EAST LINDSEY, LINCOLNSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

: NGR: TF 1944 6780
ELDC Planning Ref.: S/087/02239/12
PCAS job no. 1028
Site code (provisional): HMFE 13
Archive acc. code: LCNCC:2013.68

Prepared for
Lincs Design Consultancy

by
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Summary

Full planning permission was granted in January 2013 for extensions and alterations to the existing dwelling at Mapleton Farm, including a swimming pool and a changing room connected to the dwelling by a glazed link, and a brick skin to the front elevation (planning ref. S/087/2239/12).

Mapleton Farm and its neighbourhood have been identified as an area of archaeological sensitivity. The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record lists the farm as a moated site, possibly representing a medieval manor; it has been suggested that it occupies the site of a 12th-century grange of Stixwold Priory. The farm also lies within the earthwork remains of the deserted medieval settlement of Poolham.

An archaeological condition for a scheme of works was attached to the planning permission. This entailed the production of a detailed specification for the works followed by trial trench evaluation.

Trench 1 was devoid of significant archaeology (revealing only a modern posthole); Trench 2 contained a single undated gully. The nature of this gully is unclear: it appears to be roughly in alignment with the modern fence post seen in Trench 1, so may indicate an earlier form of this boundary, running northeast-southwest, but equally the gully is close to and on alignment with earthworks relating to the deserted medieval village.

Although not extensive or conclusive, the potential for survival of medieval archaeology that this gully represents suggests that further archaeological work is required on site during the groundworks for the development.

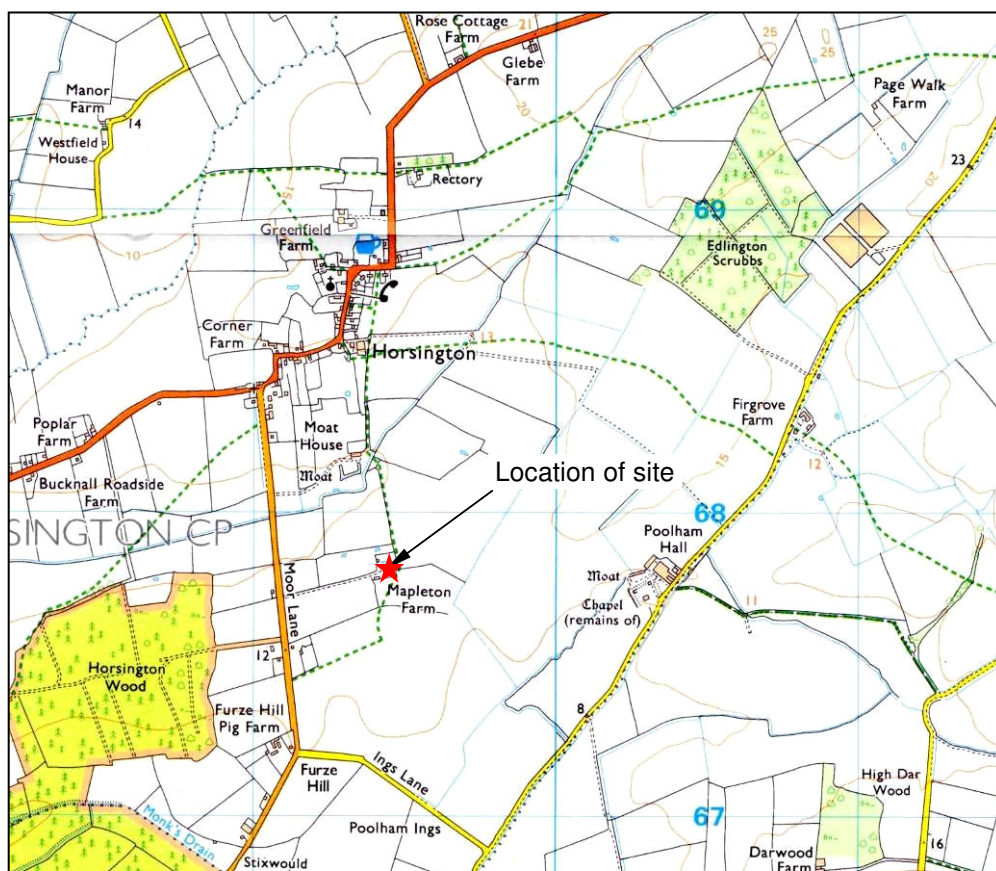


Figure 1: Location plan of the site at scale 1:25,000. The position of the proposed development site is marked in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS licence no. 100049278.

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd (PCAS) was commissioned by the Lincs Design Consultancy to undertake a scheme of archaeological evaluation trenching in advance of extensions to Mapleton Farm, near the village of Horsington, in the district of East Lindsey in Lincolnshire.

2.0 Location and description (Fig.1)

The village of Horsington is situated within the district of East Lindsey in the county of Lincolnshire; it is approximately 6km west of the town of Horncastle and 5km north of Woodhall Spa. The village is a linear development running along the B1190, which connects Horncastle and Bardney.

Mapleton Farm lies at NGR TF 1944 6780, approximately 800m to the south of Horsington village, off the east side of Moor Lane, which runs southwards out of the village to Stixwold. The farm and the village are separated by a small watercourse, flowing into the Catchwater Drain to the west; a moated site, associated with an extant building known as Moat House, stands on the north bank of this watercourse.

The farm consists of a loose group of buildings, with several adjacent ponds, potentially representing the remains of a moated site; the farmhouse subject to the planned alterations lies furthest to the north. Directly to the south-east is a range of large, modern poultry houses.

3.0 Geology

Horsington village and Mapleton Farm lie at the foot of the westward slope of the Lincolnshire Wolds down to the valley of the River Witham.

Horsington village occupies an elongated, sinuous 'island' of undivided River and Glaciofluvial Sheet Deposits of sand and gravel, probably indicating a desirable area of more reliably dry land in the surrounding drift geology of Till; the B1190, along which Horsington lies, runs along the crest of this 'island'.

Mapleton Farm lies well to the south of the sand and gravel 'island', and the drift geology here is Till, recorded as a clay-rich diamicton, commonly chalk-rich (a diamicton is a naturally deposited but very poorly sorted sediment, laid down by glaciation or other events that redistribute material over a wide area: its mixed, disturbed appearance can lead to it being mistaken for made ground).

The underlying solid geology is recorded as undifferentiated Ancholme Group clays. Between Horsington village and Mapleton Farm, the drift geology is absent along the line of the watercourse, and the moated site associated with the current Moat House is situated on the exposed solid clay (BGS, 1995).

The site is relatively flat and lies at 10m OD.

4.0 Planning background

Planning permission was granted in January 2013 for extensions and alterations to the existing dwelling to provide a living room, conservatory, entrance hall, utility room, boiler room and a WC, with three additional bedrooms with en-suites and a snug on the first floor;

to include a plant room, swimming pool and a changing room connected to the dwelling by a glazed link, and a brick skin to the front elevation (planning ref. S/087/2239/12).

This permission was subject to a number of conditions including three archaeological conditions. In summary, these required the completion of an archaeological mitigation strategy to be submitted and approved by the Local planning authority; the mitigation strategy to be carried out in accordance with this approved scheme, subject to variations agreed by the local planning authority and for a copy of the analysis and reporting to be deposited with the Local Planning Authority and the HER at Lincolnshire County Council. These conditions were set to comply with policy HE12 of the Planning Policy Statement 5.

The archaeological work specified and approved was for a scheme of trial trenching to evaluate the archaeological potential of the development footprint prior to development works.

5.0 Archaeological and historical background

The archaeological and historical background was comprehensively covered in the specification for these works. The information below was taken from this DOCUMENT (Savage 2013).

A desk based assessment undertaken by Lindsey Archaeological Services in 2003 in advance of the construction of the poultry units to the south-east of the farm complex, noted that the eastern boundary of that development site, which was formerly the parish boundary, ran along the course of a Roman road visible as an alignment of hedgerows and lanes between Furze Hill, near Stixwoud, and Hemingby (Tann, 2003; HER ref. 40074).

The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record notes that Mapleton Farm was formerly known as 'The Grange', and appears on historic mapping with an L-shaped pond, suggesting the remnants of a moat. The site has since been levelled by importation of made ground, and one of the ponds filled in. A site visit undertaken during the 2003 DBA observed a possible hollow-way and a raised area alongside the western hedge boundary, tentatively identified as a thoroughfare (Tann, 2003; HER ref. 40080). The 2003 DBA suggests that 'The Grange' may correspond to a grant of arable land at Horsington made to the nuns of the priory of Stixwoud in c. 1165, near grazing land for sheep which they already owned (Tann, 2003). A grange was an outlying farm, generally on land newly cleared or reclaimed after being gifted to a religious house (in this context, it may be significant that the land grant to Stixwoud Priory specified permission to enclose). Although organised as a small religious house in its own right, a grange was staffed and overseen solely by members of the laity.

The earthworks of the Deserted Medieval Village of Poolham extend across the fields of Mapleton Farm to the north, west and south-west: earthwork crofts, tofts, quarries and ridge-and-furrow have been recorded by the National Mapping Programme (HER ref. 44799). The earthwork enclosures of the crofts and tofts lie to the north and west of the farm buildings, while ridge-and-furrow has been identified in the two fields on the south side of the access track off Moor Lane (Tann, 2003). The former village of Poolham is now represented only by Poolham Hall, an adjacent Grade II listed chapel and a further group of earthworks, all to the east of Mapleton Farm (HER ref. 40087), and by the place-name Poolham Ings (water-meadows) to the south.

6.0 Methodology

The evaluation consisted of two trenches positioned within the areas to be impacted by the proposed development. Trench 1 was to be sited to the east of the existing building but had

to be relocated to the north due to the presence of services. It was shortened from 10m to 7m to fit within this space. Trench 2 measured 10m x 2m and was located, as stated in the specification, in the northeast of the site within the location of a proposed new swimming pool (Fig.2).

A qualified and experience archaeologist was present to supervise the opening of the evaluation trenches. These were excavated either to the first archaeologically significant horizon, or the natural geology, whichever was encountered first.

Where identified, archaeological features were examined sufficiently in an attempt to determine their date, character and survival condition and were then recorded by measured plan and section drawings at appropriate scales of 1:50 and 1:20 respectively. These drawings were supplemented by a colour photographic record, a selection from which is reproduced in Appendix 1.

A written record of each significant stratigraphic horizon and feature encountered was made on standard PCAS context recording forms. These were supplemented by a narrative account in the form of a site diary.

Unfortunately no finds were recovered during this evaluation.

The fieldwork monitoring was carried out on the 30th April 2013 by Julian Sleep.

7.0 Results (Fig. 2-4)

Trench 1

Trench 1 was devoid of any significant archaeology. The natural substrate (102) was encountered c.0.40m below ground level. This was sealed by a 0.28m thick mid greyish-brown clayey silt alluvial deposit (101) and topsoil (100). Cutting through these deposits, roughly in the centre of the trench, was a single modern square posthole [103]. This posthole could relate to numerous domestic features - fence line, washing line, garden feature etc.

Trench 2

Approximately 0.60m below ground level, a single undated gully running northeast-southwest across the trench was revealed [203]. This broadly u-shaped gully was 0.80m wide and survived to a depth of 0.24m. Its southern edge was steep while its northern edge was undulating or 'stepped', possibly indicating a re-cut. The fill of the gully was a mid yellow greyish-brown clayey silt with very occasional small stones. It was sealed by a 0.12m thick layer of yellowish-brown silty-clay alluvium (202). Sealing this was a 0.44m thick layer of mid greyish-brown clayey silt (201), same as (101), and the topsoil (200).

8.0 Discussion and Conclusion

Trench 2 indicates a potential for archaeological survival within the development footprint. Unfortunately, no dating material was retrieved from the feature, which truncated the natural substrate and was sealed by an undated alluvial deposit, so presents a somewhat 'floating' stratigraphy.

The type and date of archaeology it represents is not immediately clear; it could indicate a relatively recent boundary, or alternatively it could relate to the medieval crofts and tofts - known to survive within areas of the site. Figure 2 shows the gully to be roughly in alignment with the modern fence post seen in Trench 1, so this feature may indicate an earlier form of this boundary, running northeast-southwest. Figure 4 shows the gully to be close to and on alignment with earthworks relating to the deserted medieval village.

The exact depths of the development foundations and associated works are at present unknown, so the potential impact on further (unknown) archaeological remains is unclear. What is apparent is that this gully lies directly within the area of the proposed swimming pool and so would be destroyed by the planned development.

Although not extensive or conclusive, the potential for survival of medieval archaeology that this gully represents signifies that further archaeological work is required on site during groundworks for the development.

9.0 Effectiveness of methodology

The methodology stated in the specification was a sufficient way of evaluating the archaeology on site, the results of which will aid in the determination of appropriate further work.

10.0 Project archive

The site archive, currently in the custody of PCAS Ltd., will be deposited with a bound copy of this report at The Collection, Lincoln within 6 months. It may be consulted there by citing the global accession number LCNCC: 2013.68.

11.0 Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. would like to thank Lincs Design Consultancy for this commission.

12.0 References

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1995, Horncastle: England and Wales Sheet 115, Solid and Drift Geology 1:50 000 Provisional Series. British Geological Survey, Keyworth, Nottingham.

Ordnance Survey, 2006, Lincolnshire Wolds South, Horncastle & Woodhall Spa: Explorer Series Sheet 273, scale 1:25 000. The Ordnance Survey, Southampton.

Tann, G., 2003, Mapleton Farm, Moor Lane, Horsington, Proposed Intensive Livestock Unit and Associated Development: Archaeological Desk-based Assessment. Unpublished client report for Lindsey Archaeological Services.

Savage, R.D. 2013. *Mapleton Farm, Horsington, Eas Lindsey, Lincolnshire. Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation*. Unpublished Grey Literature Report. PCA Ltd Lincoln

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General shot looking southwest across the northern part of the site towards Trench 1.



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking southwest. The modern square posthole can be seen in the centre of the trench.



Plate 3: Northwest facing representative section of Trench 1



Plate 4: Trench 2, looking south. The unexcavated gully [203] can be seen running northeast-southwest across the trench.



Plate 5: Southwest facing section of gully [203].

Appendix 2: Context Summary**Trench 1**

| Context No | Type | Description | Dating/Finds |
|-------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|
| 100 | Layer | 0.14m thick dark brown clayey silt topsoil. | Modern |
| 101 | Layer | 0.28m thick mid greyish-brown clayey silt alluvial deposit | |
| 102 | Layer | Mid brownish orangey grey clay with chalk and stone flecks- Natural | |
| 103 | Cut | Roughly Square 0.40m x 0.60m modern post hole | Unexcavated. Modern |
| 104 | Fill | Dark greyish brown clayey silt | Modern |

Trench 2

| Context No | Type | Description | Dating/Finds |
|-------------------|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 200 | Layer | 0.16m thick dark brown clayey silt topsoil. | Modern |
| 201 | Layer | 0.44m thick mid greyish-brown clayey silt, same as (101). | |
| 202 | Layer | 0.12m thick layer of yellowish-brown silty-clay alluvium | |
| 203 | Cut | Gully running northeast-southwest across the trench. U-shaped 0.80m wide and survived to a depth of 0.24m. Its southern edge was steep while its northern edge was undulating or 'stepped', possibly indicating a re-cut | Undated |
| 204 | Fill | Mid yellow greyish-brown clayey silt with very occasional small stones | No finds. Undated |
| 205 | Layer | Mid Brownish orangey grey clay with chalk and stone flecks- Natural | |

Appendix 3: Oasis Form**OASIS ID: preconst3-154358****Project details**

Project name Mapleton Farm, Horsington, Lincolnshire

Short description of the project Full (conditional) planning permission was granted in January 2013 for extensions and alterations to the existing dwelling at Mapleton Farm, including a swimming pool and a changing room connected to the dwelling by a glazed link, and a brick skin to the front elevation (planning ref. S/087/2239/12). Mapleton Farm and its neighbourhood has been identified as an area of archaeological sensitivity. The Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record lists the farm as a moated site, possibly representing a medieval manor; it has been suggested that it occupies the site of a 12th-century grange of Stixwould Priory. The farm also lies within the earthwork remains of the deserted medieval settlement of Poolham. An archaeological condition for a scheme of works was attached to the planning permission. This scheme of works entailed the production of a detailed specification for the works followed by trial trenching consisting of 2 trenches. Trench 1 was devoid of archaeology containing only a modern posthole and Trench 2 contained a single undated gully. The nature of this gully is unclear, it appears to be roughly in alignment with the modern fence post seen in Trench 1, so may indicate an earlier form of this boundary, running northeast-southwest, but equally the gully is close to and on alignment with earthworks relating to the deserted medieval village. Although not extensive or conclusive the potential for survival of medieval archaeology that this gully represents signifies that further archaeological work is required on site during the groundworks for the development.

Project dates Start: 30-04-2013 End: 30-04-2013

Previous/future work No / Yes

Any project codes associated reference HMFE13 - Sitecode

Any project codes associated reference LCNCC:2013.68 - Museum accession ID

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Residential 1 - General Residential |
| Monument type | GULLY Uncertain |
| Monument type | POSTHOLE Modern |
| Monument type | LAYERS Uncertain |
| Significant Finds | NONE None |
| Methods techniques | & "Sample Trenches" |
| Development type | Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.) |
| Prompt | Planning condition |
| Position in the planning process | After full determination (eg. As a condition) |

Project location

Country England

Site location LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY HORSINGTON Mapleton Farm,
Horsington, Lincolnshire

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TF 1944 6780 53 0 53 11 36 N 000 12 43 W Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
Organisation

Project brief Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
originator

Project design Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd
originator

Project Will Munford
director/manager

Project supervisor Julian Sleap

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive No
Exists?

Paper Archive The Collection, Lincoln
recipient

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet", "Diary", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
available

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Mapleton Farm, Horsington, Lincolnshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Keal, L

Date 2013

Issuer or publisher PCA Ltd

Place of issue or Lincoln
publication

Description A4 heatbound grey literature report.

Entered by laura (laura@pre-construct.co.uk)

Entered on 3 July 2013



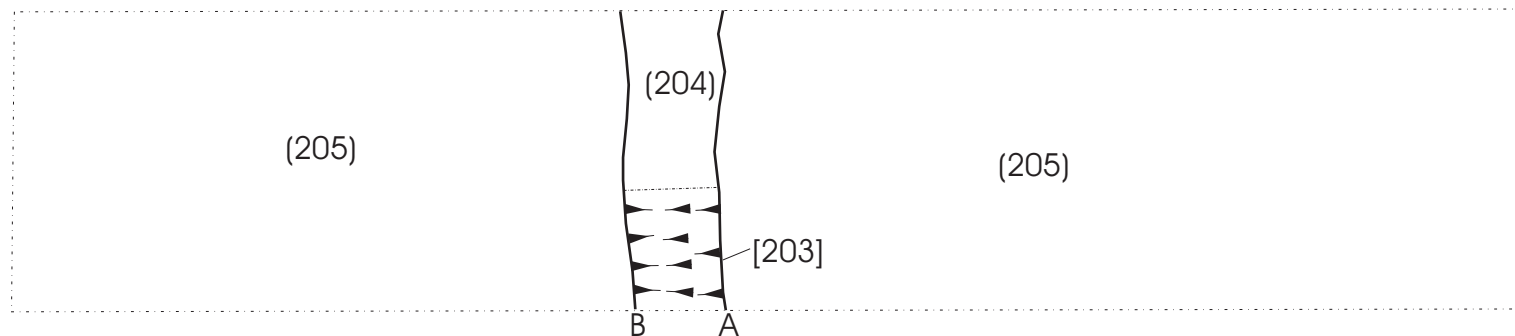
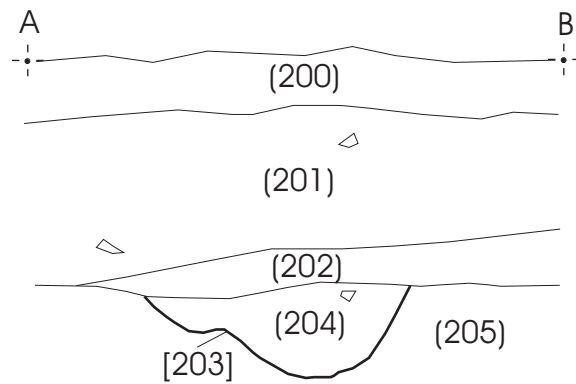
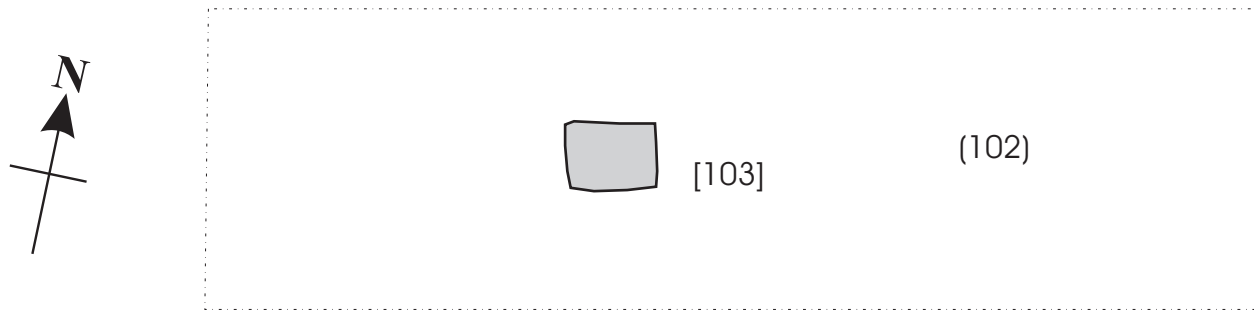


Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2 plans and section.
Plans 1:50, section 1:20 @ A4

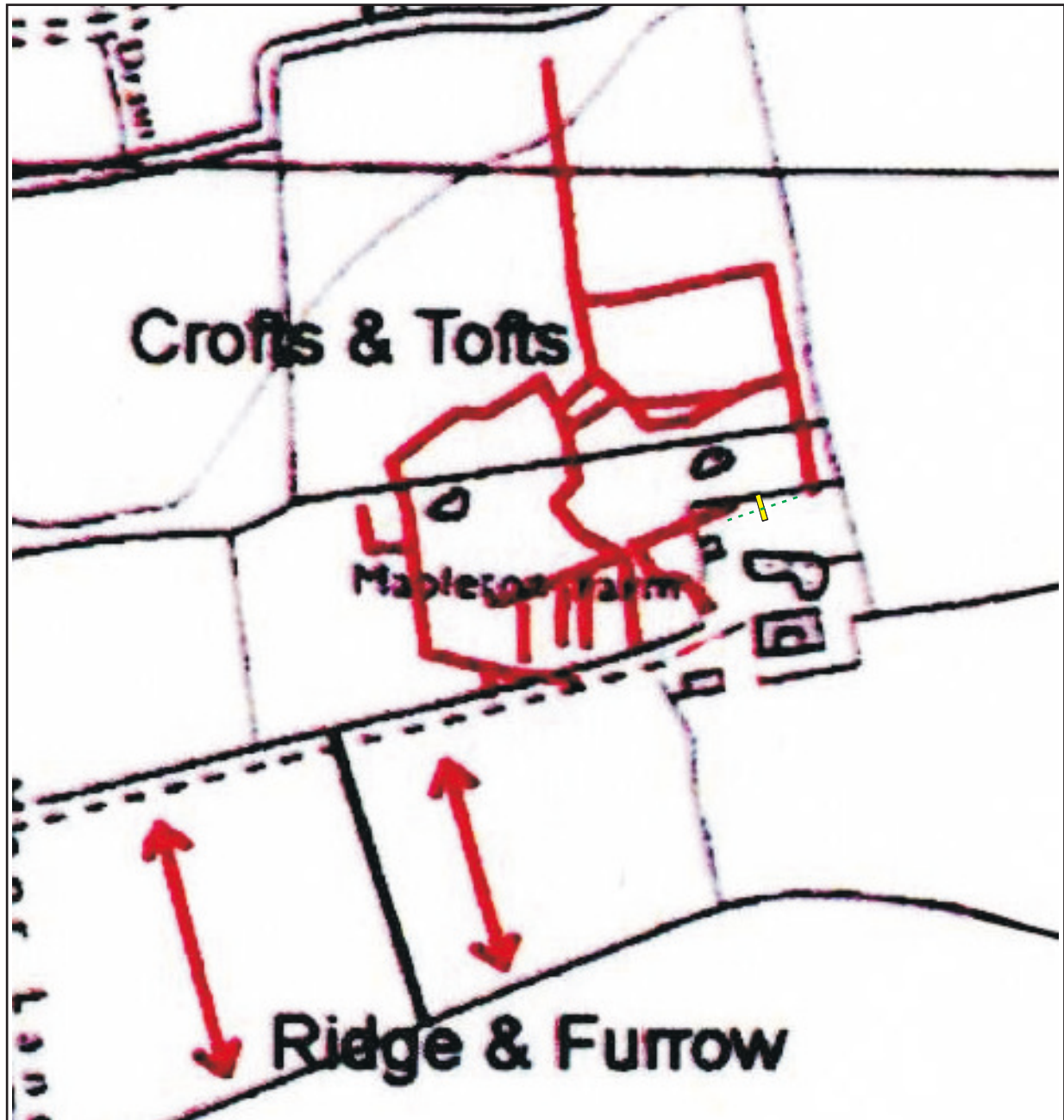


Figure 4: Plan of Mapleton Farm showing the location of the earthworks of Poolham Deserted Medieval Village, highlighted in red. Trench 2 is superimposed over this, highlighted in yellow, with the gully location and projected alignment indicated in green. Plan reproduced from Tann 2008. Scale 1:2500@ A4