

LAND SOUTH OF 57 HORNCastle ROAD, LOUTh, LINCOLNSHIRE

TOPOGRAPHIC (EARTHWORKS) SURVEY REPORT

NGR: TF 32259 86545 (centre)
ELDC Planning Ref.: N/105/00008/15
PCAS job no. 1563
Site code: LHRT 15
Archive acc. code: LCNCC 2015. 206

Prepared for

C & L Fairburn Properties Ltd

by

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March 2016



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Plate 2: General shot of hedge-ditch boundary separating the two fields (looking N).

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Summary

- Conditional planning approval to erect two houses with attached double garages and an internal access was granted on 30th April 2015 (application ref. N/105/00008/15); subject to a scheme of archaeological investigation – a topographic survey to record areas of ridge and furrow earthworks.
- *The survey recorded two distinct areas of medieval ridge and furrow, separated by a hedge-ditch ditch. The ridge and furrow displayed the typical reverse 'S' curve in plan and had ridges spaced approximately 8m apart.*
- *The survey has demonstrated that the application area was formerly three distinct fields within a wider medieval agrarian landscape; it did not identify any evidence for domestic occupation such as closes or building platforms.*



Fig. 1: location of proposed development, at scale 1:25,000. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS Licence No. 100049278

1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd. (PCAS) was commissioned by C & L Fairburn Properties Ltd. to undertake a topographic survey of land adjacent to no. 57 Horncastle Road, Louth. The site is centred on NGR TF 32259 86545.

The application site contains ridge and furrow earthworks relating to medieval and post-medieval agriculture. The Historic Environment Officer for ELDC has advised that an earthwork survey should be carried out to preserve these remains by record prior to development. The results of which are presented in this report.

2.0 Location and Description (figs. 1 and 2)

Louth is a market town and civil parish in the East Lindsey District of Lincolnshire, lying where the A16 is met by the A157, A153 and A631. The application site lies opposite Louth Golf Club on the south side of Horncastle Road, on the southwestern periphery of Louth. Horncastle Road is the extension of the A153 Horncastle Road within the A16 by-pass of Louth.

The site consists of c. 0.7 hectares of open ground along the road side, the northwest end of two fields which extend back from the road in a medieval strip field pattern. It measures c.60m x 130m. At the time of writing it is understood the hedgerow field boundary between the two fields remains intact, although at the extreme northwest end the hedgeline is interrupted. A treeline and fence mark the boundary between the site and the roadside verge – the treeline will be retained by the development proposals.

Access to the site is via a wooden gate off Horncastle Road. This access point will be retained and formalised into the new access road to the new dwellings, with the new road branching to the southeast and northeast parallel to Horncastle Road.

Central National Grid Reference: TF 32259 86545.

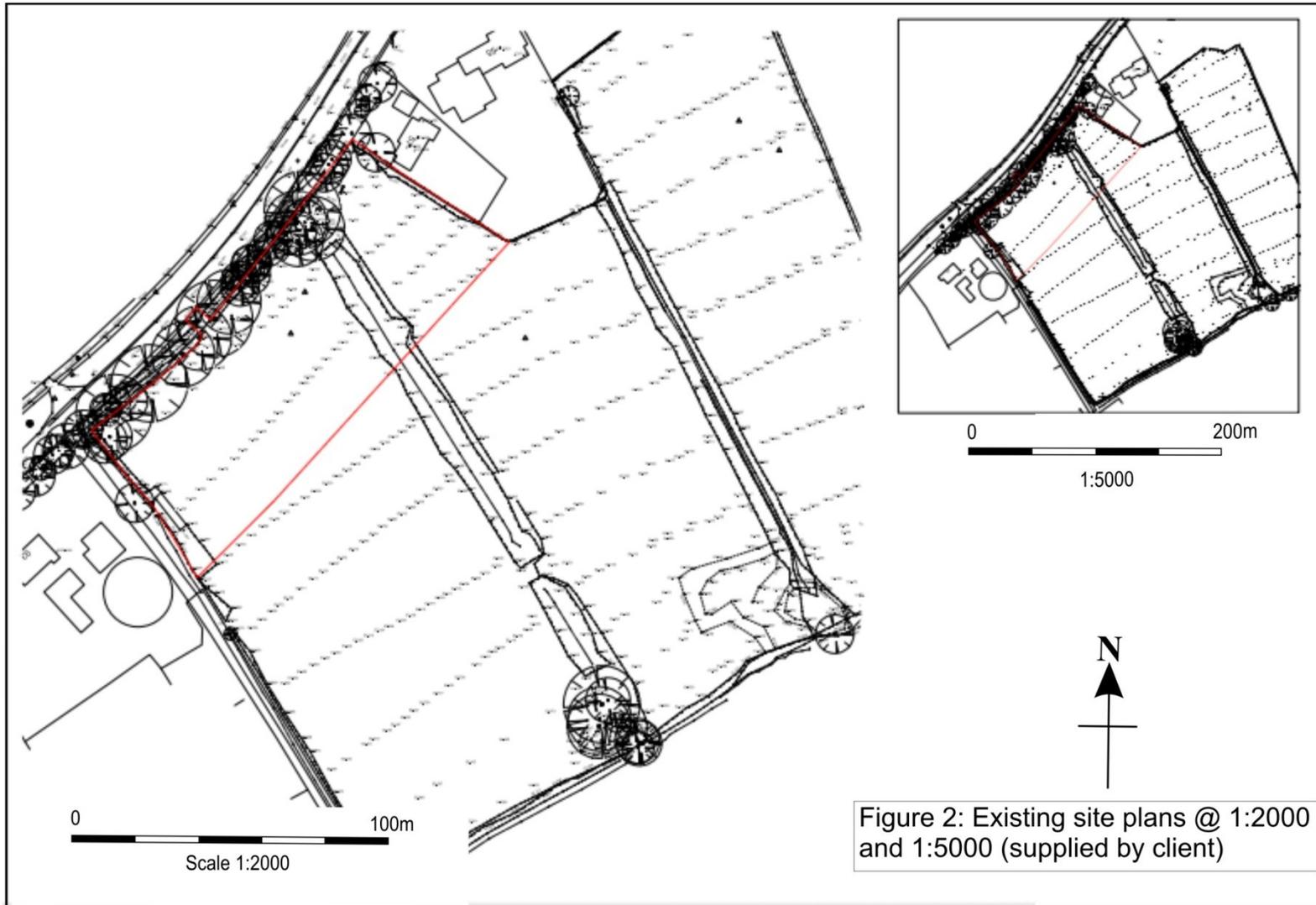
3.0 Topography and Geology

Louth lies on the eastern edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, on a spur of higher ground overlooking the coast towards Theddlethorpe St. Helens and Mablethorpe. Horncastle Road runs across and down the natural slope to the southwest of the town, with the site lying close to the top of the rise at a height of 65mOD.

The BGS online Geology of Britain viewer shows the solid geology of the site and surrounding area as Welton Chalk Formation Chalk. Overlying deposits are recored as being Devensian Till - Diamicton. (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

4.0 Planning Background

A planning application for the erection of 2 houses each with attached double garages and 2 houses each with detached double garages and construction of an internal access road, was approved on 30th April 2015 (application ref. N/105/00008/15) with conditions (11-13) for a scheme of archaeological investigation at the site, in the form of a topographical survey of the earthworks present within the development area.



5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The Historic Environment Officer for the Historic Environment Team at Lincolnshire County Council, acting as advisor to ELDC, commented that,

Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks survive within this proposal area. Earthworks are by nature very friable and easily destroyed, and heritage assets are a non-renewable resource with earthworks in particular becoming rarer. Indeed earthworks are constantly under threat, not just from development but from land erosion due to normal land management practices such as grass cutting.

If consent is forthcoming I would advise an earthwork survey be carried out in order to preserve by record the medieval ridge and furrow within the proposal area prior to development, and recommend that a condition to record the earthworks and put them into their context should be attached to any consent.

This should be secured by appropriate condition to enable any remaining archaeology which currently survives on this site to be recorded prior to its destruction.

NPPF states that local planning authorities should 'require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible' (para 141).

Ridge and furrow earthworks have been identified on the site on aerial photographs and recorded on the Lincolnshire HER (ref: 45630). They are part of a wider landscape of similar agricultural features which extend to the south and east of the site. These features are all associated with the medieval ad post-medieval town of Louth, the core of which lies c.1km northeast in the historic centre of Louth.

6.0 Methodology

The survey was carried out on 2nd November 2015. This work was undertaken using a Leica GNSS full RTK GPS. After a rapid walkover survey, the areas of ridge and furrow were surveyed (fig. 3). Two transects were also surveyed in order to produce typical profiles across the areas of surviving ridge and furrow (figs. 4 and 5). Weather conditions were foggy early in the day with brighter spells towards the end of the day, whilst ground conditions were clear with both fields being in rough pasture.

Colour photographs complement the survey (Appendix 1).

7.0 Results (Figs. 3-5)

The site consisted of two distinct areas of medieval ridge and furrow earthworks separated by a hedge-ditch boundary and headlands (see fig. 3).

Across, both the southern and northern fields the ridge and furrow was prominent and orientated NW-SE, as was the hedge-ditch boundary. Two transects were recorded in each of the fields, in order to preserve by record the profile of the ridge and furrow (figs. 4 and 5). A total of 11 ridges were recorded in the southern field, whilst a total of 6 ridges were recorded in the northern field. All of these displayed a typical slight reverse 'S' curve in plan and with ridges (or lands) spaced approximately 8m apart.

8.0 Discussion and Conclusions

The survey has demonstrated that the application area was formerly two distinct fields within a wider medieval agrarian landscape. These fields are characterised by ridge and furrow of fairly regular intervals, separated by a hedge-ditch boundary, which is still present on site.

The survey did not identify any evidence for domestic occupation such as closes or building platforms.

The earthwork survey has mitigated the loss of landscape features that will result from the proposed development.

9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The methodology employed has allowed the rapid and accurate preservation by record of the earthworks present in the development area.

10.0 Project Archive

The project archive, consisting of the raw GPS data and digital photographs, will be deposited with printed copies of this report at The Collection, Lincoln; following deposition, it will be available for public consultation under the LCNCC archive accession number 2015.206. A copy of the full report will also be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS) database, where it will be publicly accessible online.

11.0 Acknowledgements

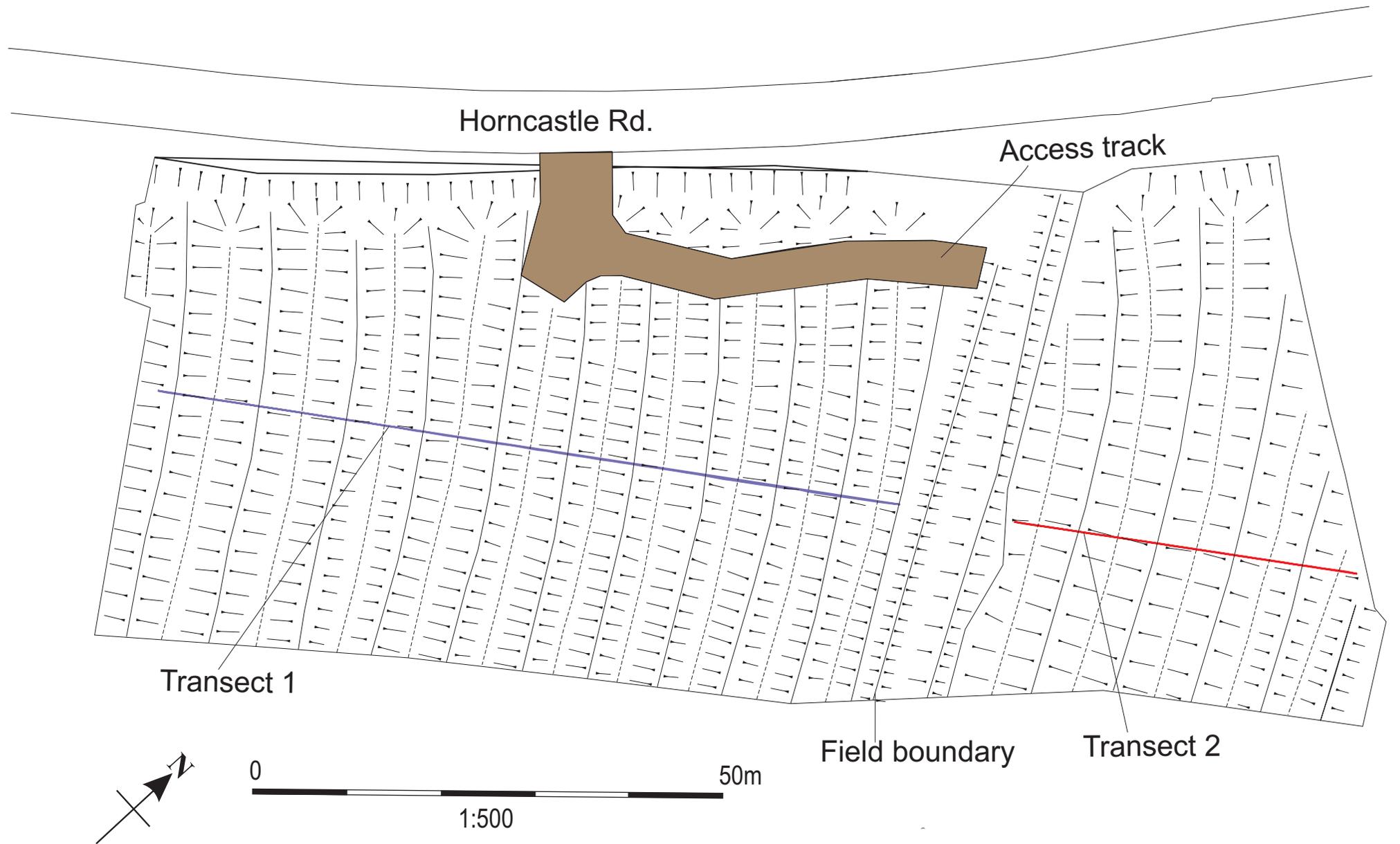
Pre-Construct Archaeological Services would like to thank C & L Fairburn Properties Ltd. for this commission.

12.0 References

British Geological Survey (BGS), <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.

Savage, S.A. and Lane, A. 2014. Written Scheme of Investigation: Topographic Survey. Land South of 57 Horncastle Road, Louth, Lincolnshire. PCAS (unpublished)

Figure 3: Plan of the results of the survey at scale 1:500



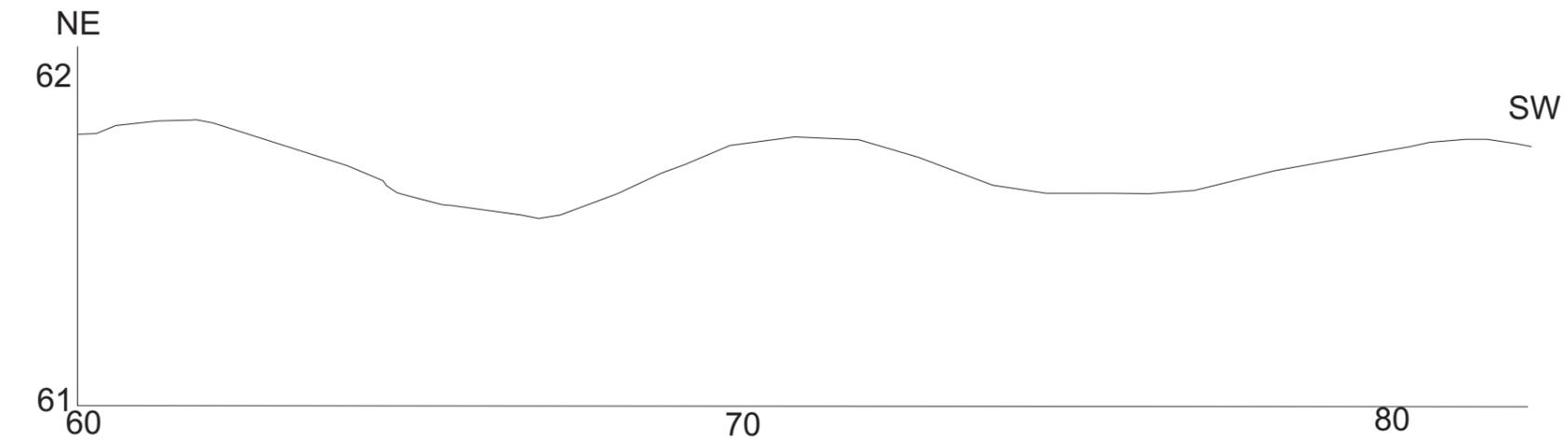
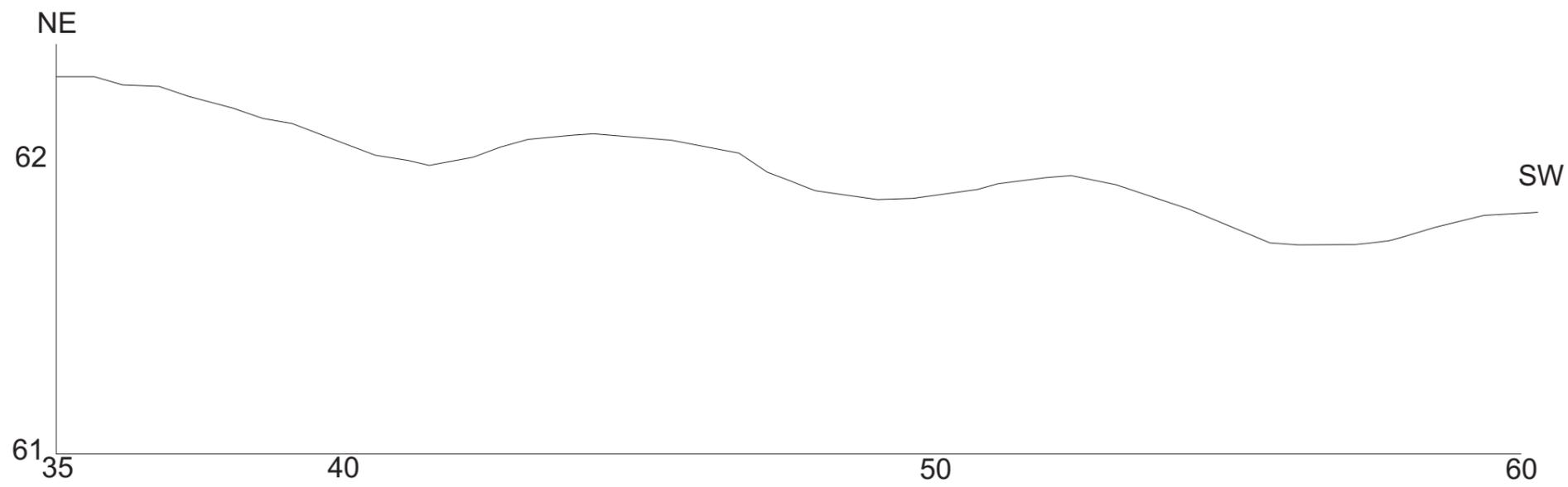
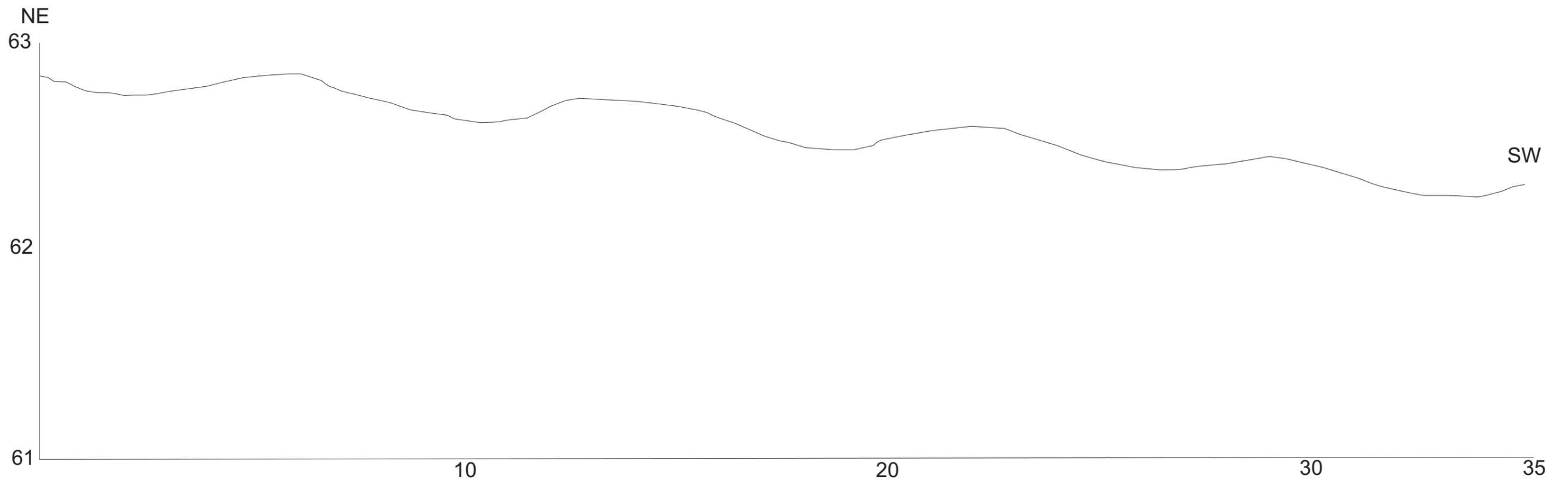


Figure 4: SW-NE Transect 1 across the ridge and furrow in the southern field (1:20 vertical; 1:100 horizontal).

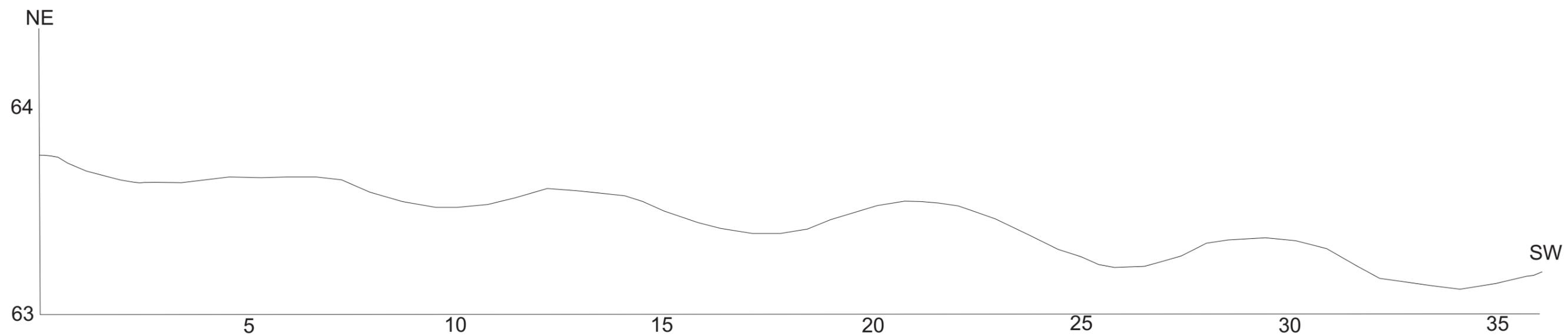


Figure 5: SW-NE Transect 2 across the ridge and furrow in the northern field (1:20 vertical; 1:100 horizontal).

Appendix 1 – Colour Plates



Plate 1: Shot of ridge and furrow in southern field (looking ENE).



Plate 2: General shot of hedge-ditch boundary separating the two fields (looking N).



Plate 3: Shot of ridge and furrow in northern field (looking NE).



Plate 4: Shot of headland in northern field (looking NE).



Plate 5: General shot of ridge and furrow in southern field (looking SW).

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OASIS ID - preconst3-246036

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View 1	1	Alison Lane	alison@pre-construct.co.uk	18 March 2016

Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
No	No	No	No	0/1

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