

Land between Dance Common and The Forty Cricklade Wiltshire

Archaeological Earthwork Survey



for
RGS Technical

on behalf of
Green Square Group

CA Project: 6201
CA Report: 17152

March 2017



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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	3
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	4
4. METHODOLOGY	5
5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3).....	5
6. DISCUSSION.....	6
7. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	7
8. REFERENCES.....	7
APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	9

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:125000)
- Fig. 2 The site, showing LiDAR data (1:1000)
- Fig. 3 The site, showing earthwork survey (1:1000)

SUMMARY

Project Name: Land between Dance Common and The Forty
Location: Cricklade, Wiltshire
NGR: SU 09784 93041
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 8th March 2017
Planning Reference: Wiltshire Council (WC); 13/07132/OUT and
APP/Y3940/A/14/2223354
Location of Archive: Devizes Museum
Site Code: DCF 17

An archaeological earthwork survey was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during prior to groundworks associated with the development of 70 residences at land between Dance Common and The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire.

Ridge and furrow was identified in two fields. While a definitive judgement cannot be made, their form appears to be consistent with post medieval agricultural activity.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2017 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological earthwork survey for RGS Technical, on behalf of Green Square Group, at land between Dance Common and The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire (centred on NGR: SU 09784 93041; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 Consent for the construction of 70 residences and associated infrastructure was granted on appeal (ref APP/Y3940/A/14/2223354), following an application to Wiltshire Council (WC; planning ref: 13/07132/OUT). The archaeological work, of which the earthwork survey reported herein forms one aspect, was secured by Condition 7 of the planning appeal. Following consultation with Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger (County Archaeologist, WC), a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by CA (2017), and approved by Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, with reference to the earthwork survey. The fieldwork also followed *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes, A good guide to recording practice* (EH 2007), Section 6 of *Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage* and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

The site

- 1.3 The site comprises two adjacent fields located at the southern extent of Cricklade. The eastern field measures 1.46ha in extent and the western measures 1.48ha in extent. The site is bounded to the north by dwellings facing The Forty, to the south by pasture fields, Purton Road to the east and farm buildings to the west. The site lies at approximately 80m AOD and is fairly level.
- 1.4 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Oxford Clay of the Jurassic Period. No superficial deposits were noted (BGS 2017).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site has previously been subject of a heritage desk-based assessment (RPS 2013), geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014) and archaeological evaluation (WA 2014). Below is a summary of their findings.

- 2.2 Roman evidence is known throughout Cricklade, and it has been posited that the town served as a river port for Corinium (Cirencester). Along The Forty itself, pottery and building debris have been recovered. To the north of the site, along the southern part of the High Street, artefacts including 2nd-4th century pottery sherds, wall plaster, tesserae and tile fragments were recovered. Recovery of Roman material along the alignment of the B4553 may indicate that it follows an earlier road (RPS 2013).
- 2.3 Cricklade was noted as a crossing point across the Thames in 903, and was likely held by Malmesbury Abbey as part of the royal forest of Braydon (RPS 2013).
- 2.4 An area of medieval settlement is located between The Forty and the site, likely extending into the north-east corner of the western field.
- 2.5 A ridge and furrow field system remains visible within the site, and is likely to have been established in the medieval period. Mapping from 1824 confirms that the east and west boundaries of the site were established (RPS 2013). Mapping from 1875 illustrates the boundaries between the site's component fields, and also the southern boundary of the site.
- 2.6 During the evaluation, residual worked flint was recovered. At the centre of the eastern field, two pits and a series of ditches associated of probable Roman date were identified. At the north of the west field, a series of Medieval or post medieval structures were identified. A post medieval ditch also identified in the eastern field correlated with a geophysical anomaly. An undated ditch was recorded in the western field (WA 2014).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;

- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2017). Detail data was captured using the GPS instruments to log coded points and string lines, using CA's comprehensive code list. Where obvious topographical features such as earthworks were visible, these were surveyed on the basis of break-of-slope. Two traverse lines were also undertaken perpendicular to the earthworks to get a profile across the site.
- 4.2 Detailed survey was supported by hand measurement, field notes and digital photographs
- 4.3 LiDAR data was obtained from the Environment Agency (EA) through the Government Open Data portal (environment.data.gov.uk) for further topographical analysis of the site. The methodology as detailed within the WSI was followed in terms of site interpretation.
- 4.4 The archive from the earthwork survey is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble and will be deposited with Devizes Museum. A summary of information from this project set out within Appendix A will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-3)

- 5.1 During an initial walkover of the fields ridge and furrow earthworks were visually observable; they were shallow but well defined, with standing water evident within the furrows. Headlands were observed in both fields. The ridge and furrow was straight, broad, shallow and aligned northwest-southeast. No evidence was seen for features predating the ridge and furrow.

Field A

- 5.2 The axis of the observed rig in this field was consistent with the surrounding field boundary. The ridge and furrow observed was divided by northeast-southwest aligned ditch within the field. The rigs were evenly spaced and were typically 130m in length, divided to the west of their centre line by the ditch. With the exception of the southern extent, the ridge and furrow earthworks comprised the complete rig and turning sections at each end. . The distance between rigs was typically 6.5m, with each ridge typically 4m in width. The furrows were up to 0.2m below the crests of the ridges.
- 5.3 The northern area of the field consisted of a headland divided by northeast-southwest aligned shallow U-shaped ditch. Within the western part of the headland a C-shaped ditch was observed, which measured 1.2m in width and up to 0.2m in depth.

Field B

- 5.4 The ridge and furrow comprised sections of rig and turning sections. The western and eastern extents appear to be complete, and moreover consistent with the field boundary. The ridge and furrow may have extended further north, but this could not be established due to modern development. To the south, ridge and furrow was visible. The ridges were typically 6.5m apart, and measured 120m in length. The ridges were typically 4m in width, and the furrows were up to 0.35m below the crests of the ridges.

LiDAR

- 5.5 The LiDAR data was compared with the field survey and was seen to match the field observations. Moreover, the LiDAR data confirmed that the ridge and furrow extended into adjacent fields.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The visual inspection, earthwork survey and LiDAR data review confirm the present of upstanding ridge and furrow across both fields. Each applied methodology produced results consistent with the others, in addition to corroborating the geophysical survey results.

- 6.2 The ridge and furrow was noted to extend beyond the surveyed area to the south and be truncated by modern development to the northeast, while respecting the existing field boundaries to the west and east. These field boundaries are illustrated on historic mapping from 1875 onwards. No evidence was seen for narrower S-shaped ridge and furrow typical of the medieval period.
- 6.3 Earthworks were visible within the north western headland in Field A, which are most likely to relate to agricultural activity.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Luke Brannlund, assisted by Anthony Beechey. The report was written by Luke Brannlund. The illustrations were prepared by Esther Escudero. The archive has been compiled by and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Ian Barnes.

8. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2017 *Geology of Britain Viewer*
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 1 March 2017

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 *Land between Dance Common and The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire; Written Scheme of Investigation for an Earthwork Survey*

Davis, Oliver 2012 *Processing and working with LIDAR DATA in ARCGIS: A practical guide for archaeologist*, Royal Commission of the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

EH (English Heritage) 1991 Section 6 of *Metric Survey Specification for English Heritage*

EH (English Heritage) 2007 *Understanding the Archaeology of Landscapes, A good guide to recording practice*

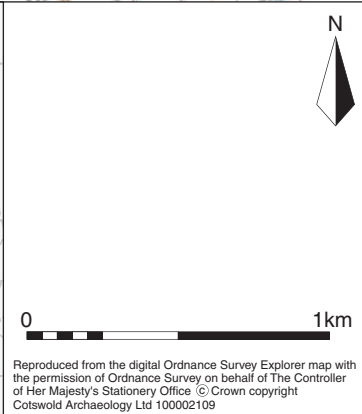
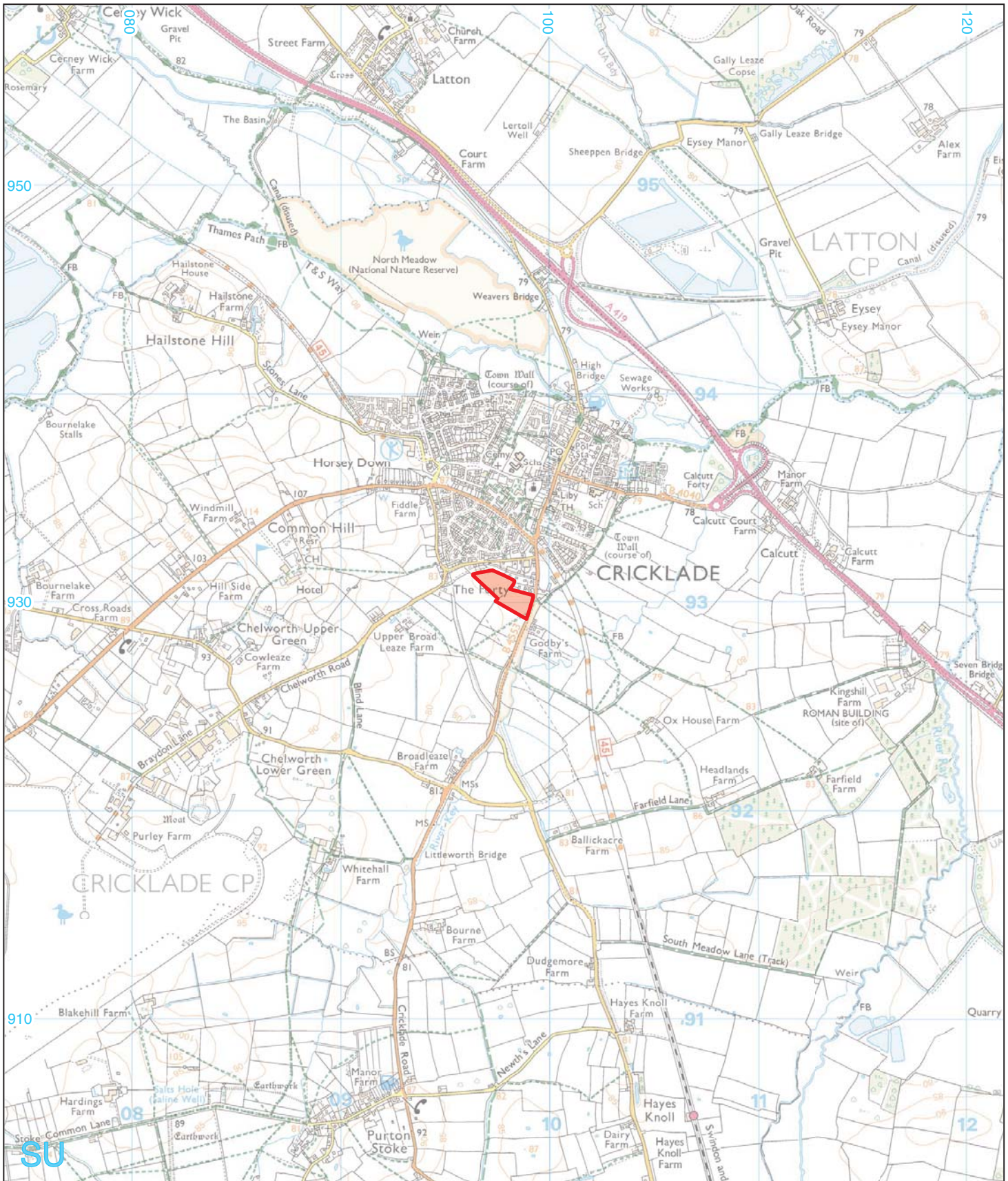
RPS (RPS Planning and Development) 2013 *Land south of The Forty. Heritage Assessment, Cricklade, Wiltshire*

Stratascan 2014 Geophysical Survey Report. Cricklade, Wiltshire

*WA (Wessex Archaeology) 2014 Land south of The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire.
Archaeological Evaluation Report*

APPENDIX A: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land between Dance Common and The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire	
Short description	An archaeological earthwork survey was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during prior to groundworks associated with the development of 70 residential units at land between Dance Common and The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire. Ridge and furrow was identified in two fields with corresponding headlands and ditches.	
Project dates	8th March 2017	
Project type	Earthwork Survey	
Previous work	Desk Based Assessment (RPS 2013) Geophysical survey (Stratascan 2014) Field evaluation (WA 2014)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Land between Dance Common and The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)	2.94ha	
Site co-ordinates	SU 09784 93041)	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ian Barnes	
Project Supervisor	Luke Brannlund	
MONUMENT TYPE	Ridge and furrow	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical		
Paper	Devizes Museum	Field notes/ plans
Digital	Devizes Museum	digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2017 <i>Land between Dance Common and The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire: Archaeological Earthwork Survey</i> . CA typescript report 17153		



Cotswold Archaeology

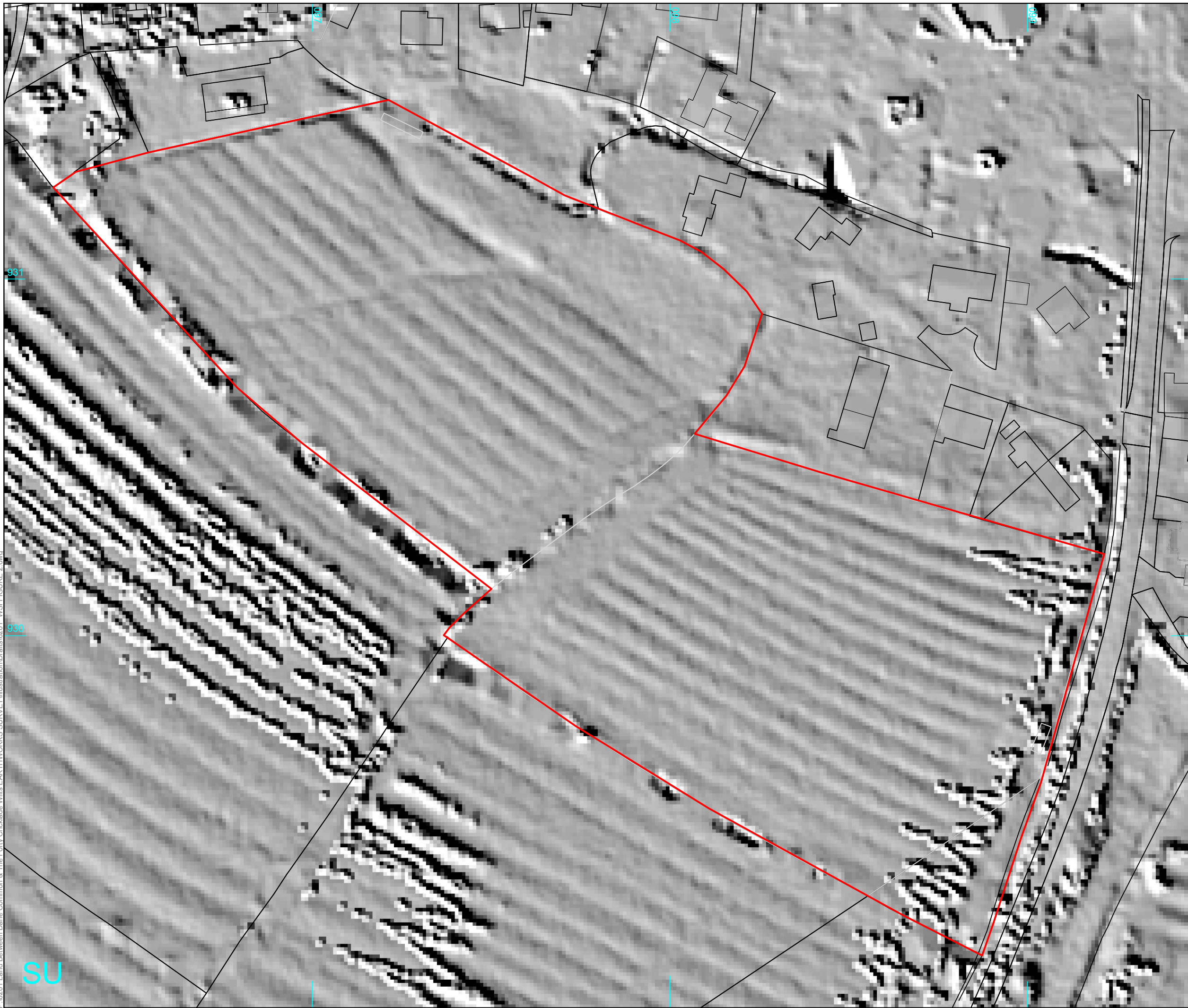
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PROJECT TITLE
 Land between Dance Common and
 The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	6201	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/04/2017	1
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	

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 site boundary

0  50m

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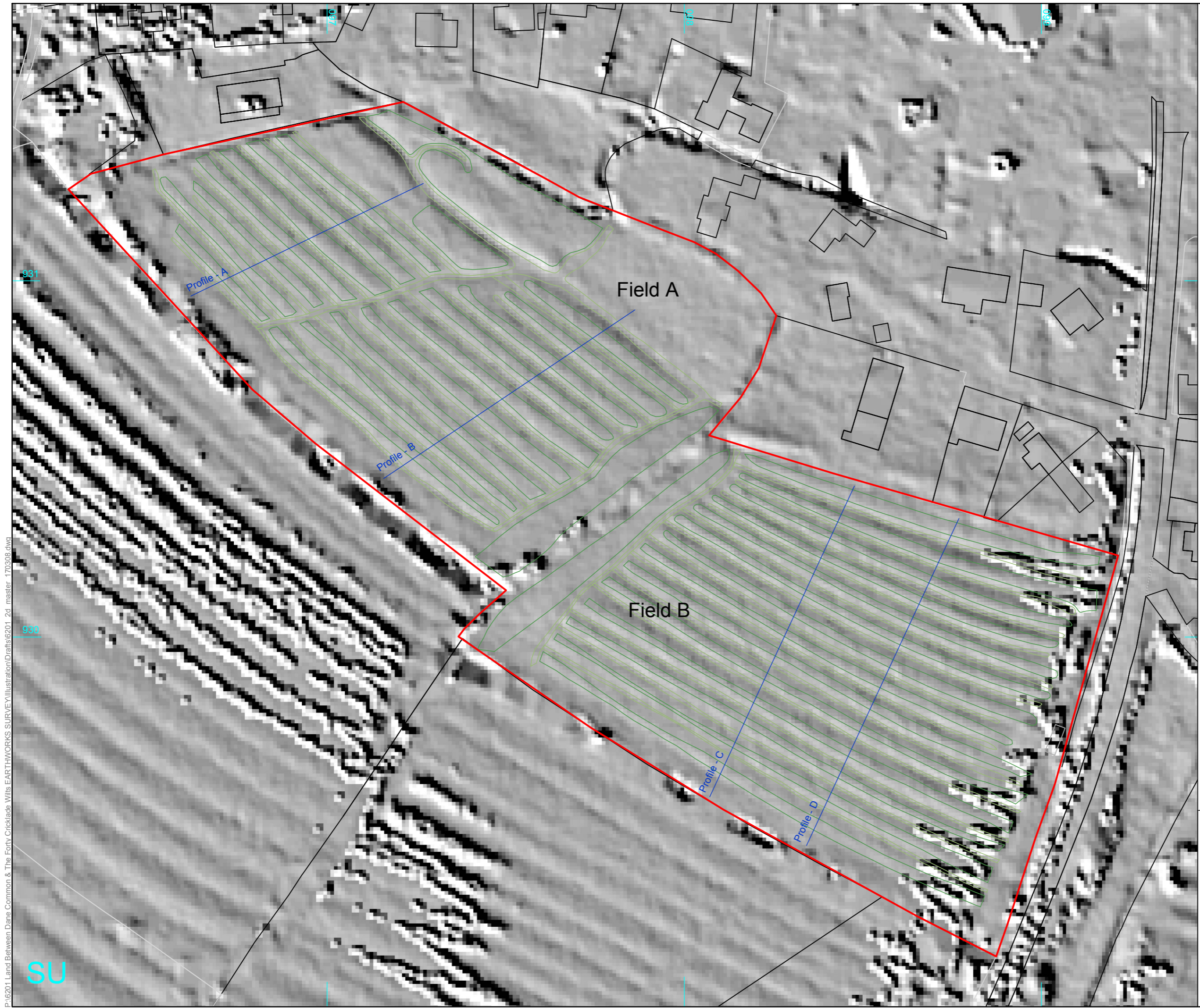
PROJECT TITLE
 Land between Dance Common and
 The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 The site, showing LiDAR data

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	6201	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	10/04/2017	2
APPROVED BY	IB	SCALE@A3	1:1000	

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SU



- ▬ site boundary
- ▬ ridge/ headland
- ▬ furrow/ ditch
- ▬ extent of profiles



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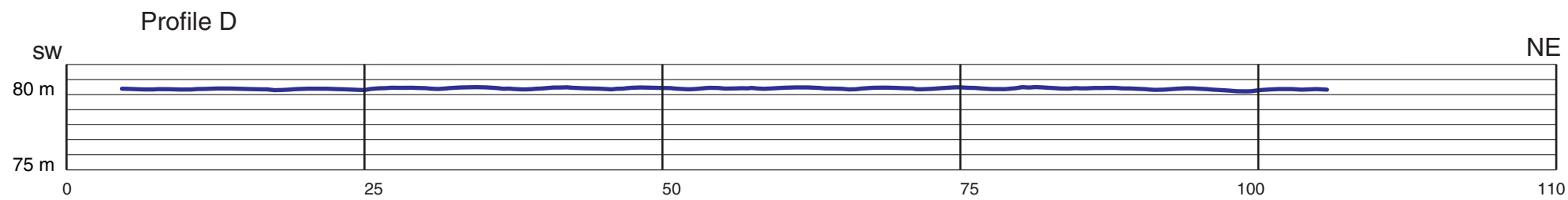
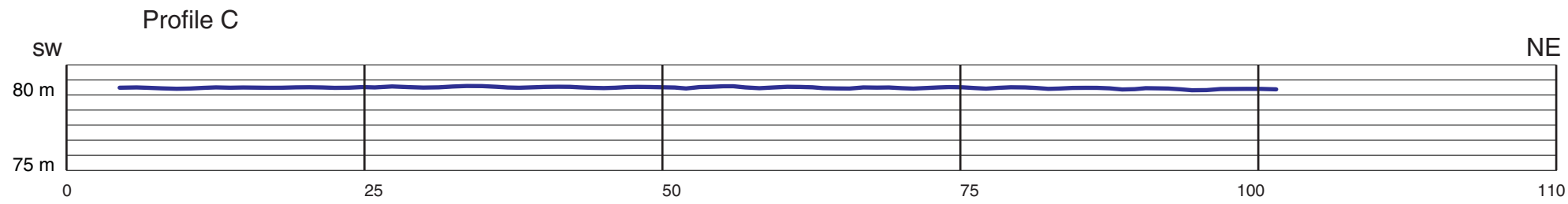
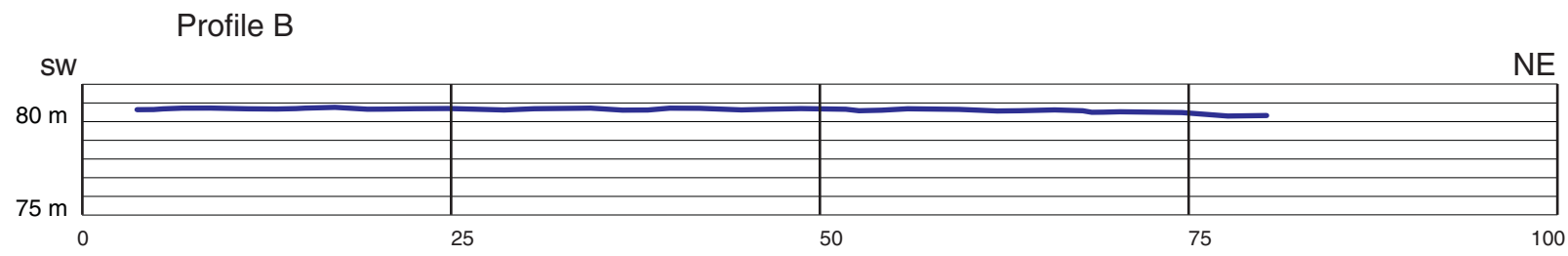
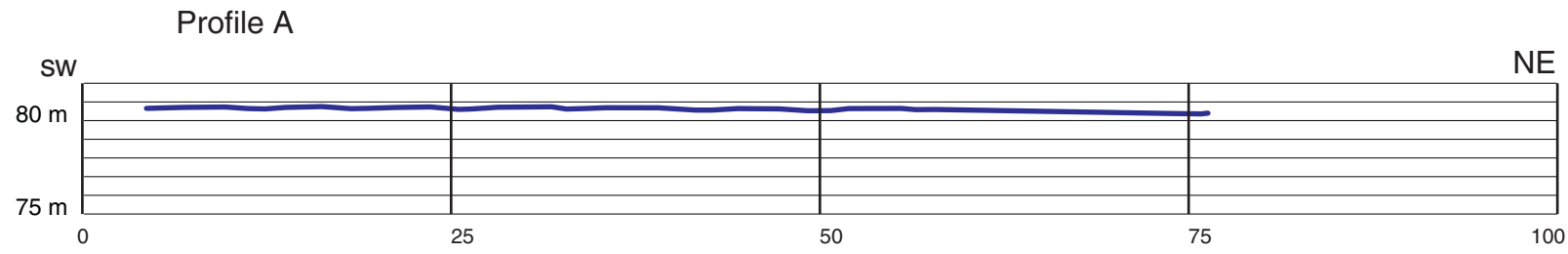
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PROJECT TITLE
Land between Dance Common and The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
The site, showing LIDAR data

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	6201	FIGURE NO.
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PROJECT TITLE
**Land between Dance Common and
 The Forty, Cricklade, Wiltshire**

FIGURE TITLE
Profiles of extant ridge-and-furrow

DRAWN BY	EE	PROJECT NO.	6201	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	12/04/2017	4
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