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# Manor Farm, Shingay Earthworks Survey

by

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**Aerial Photograph of Manor Farm, Shingay**  
(Meridian 1969. Ref.1451. Cambridgeshire County Council)

## Manor Farm, Shingay Earthwork Survey

### Summary

Archaeological field survey of the earthworks around Manor Farm, Shingay was commissioned by Mr Bath of Sydney Bath Farms Limited following the granting of planning permission for the conversion of the site to a Golf course.

The earthworks survey has shown that several major components of the mediaeval landscape associated with the Knights Templar/Hospitallers preceptory are still in existence. These include evidence for the control of water within the area feeding water meadows, mills and moats; three furlongs of mediaeval ridge and furrow with associated hedge baulks (now largely marked by trees) and contemporary settlement in the form of moated sites. These areas have been recommended for preservation as an integrated part of an historical economic and social landscape.

### Introduction

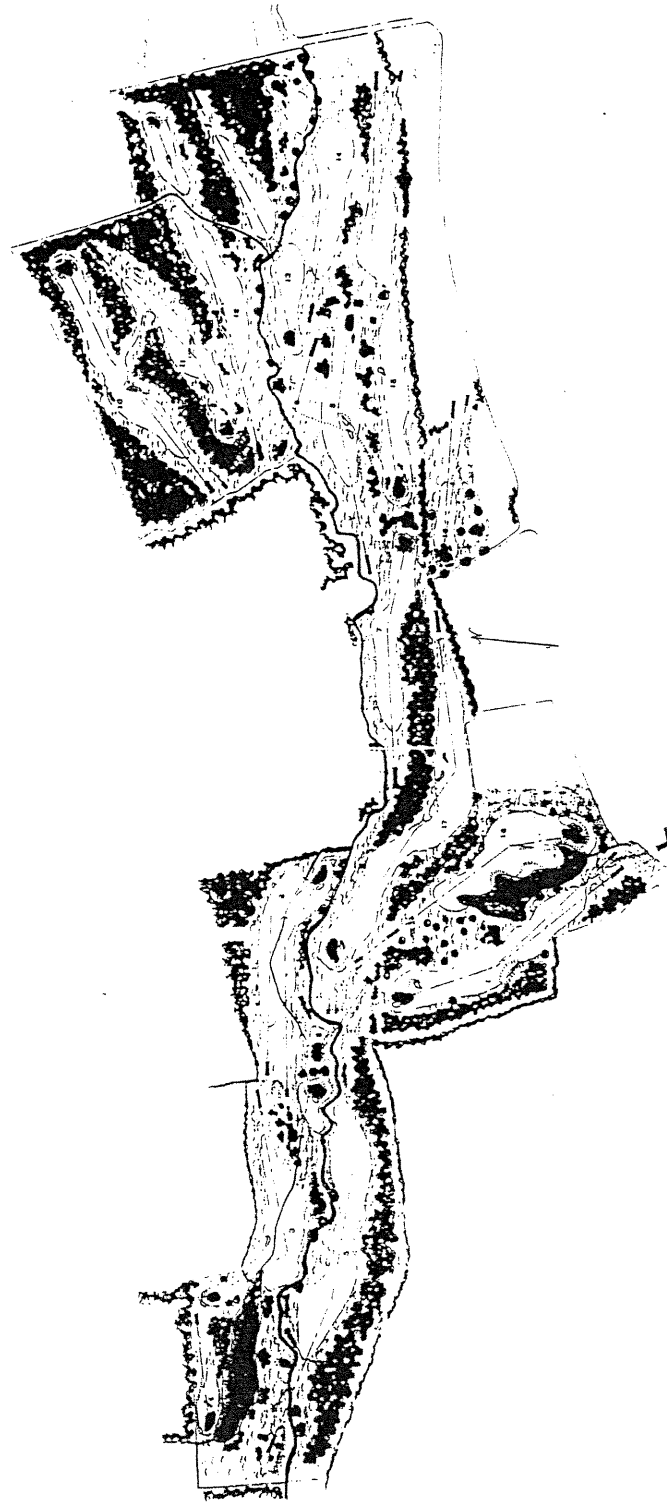
An earthworks survey of Manor Farm was found to be necessary following the granting of planning permission for the construction of a golf course on land that had been laid down to pasture since the late mediaeval period.

The funding of the survey by Mr Bath permitted the detailed recording of several important aspects of the mediaeval landscape including the moated site at Gilrags Wood, drainage ditches and enclosures to the east of the Knights Templars/Hospitallers preceptory of Shingay, and accompanying agricultural earthworks (**Plan number 2**). Results of this survey allowed subsequent interpretation of the earthworks and integration into a wider framework of the early history of the Shingay and Croydon cum Clopton area.

### Survey

The earthwork survey was carried out on behalf of the Cambridge County Council Archaeology Section by the authors during one week of April 1991 and followed previous field visits by John Ette and Tim Malim (Assistant County Archaeologists for Cambridgeshire). During these initial field visits a number of sensitive archaeological monuments had been identified in the area, and these combined with the large area of farmland to be covered within a restricted timespan, dictated the method and scale of survey carried out.

Several areas of the landscape required immediate attention as they fell within areas that would sustain a high level of disturbance according to the present structure of the planning application. These areas included those which would form 'bunkers' or landscaped lakes in the proposed golf course (see Plan 1). It was decided to fully record these earthworks, a plane-table was used to survey the area and a record made at the scale of



Plan 1

Gilrags Wood Moated Site

Ridge and Furrow to the  
East of Gilrags Wood

Rouses Wood Moated Site

Area 5

Area 4

Area 3

Area 2

Area 1

Area 6

Area 7

Preceptory

SHINGAY CUM WENDY C P

Furlongs and earthworks  
to the West of the Preceptory

Water Meadow to the West of the  
Preceptory

Water Channels and enclosures  
to the East of the Preceptory

Plan 2

Site Location

1:1,000. The surveying took place in clear, bright but windy conditions. With the exclusion of Gilrags Wood all of the ground surveyed was under pasture.

Six figure grid references are given within the present text and these relate to a central point within the planned area.

## **Geology and topography**

The site of the proposed gulf course is on low level pasture land, on either side of the River Cam at around 20m above mean sea level (O.D) and is currently under floodplain alluvium.

The Soil Survey of England and Wales (MAFF, 1984 Sheet 4)) classifies the Shingay area under the Evesham 3 description 'slowly permeable calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged non-calcareous soils overlying Jurassic and Cretaceous clay.'

The present land use is mainly used as pasture, with occasional arable on some level areas of alluvium near the river. Seasonal water-logging is recorded for much of the area.

## **Historical documentation**

Previous documentary based research concerned with the area has been dominated by interest in the history of the Knights Templars preceptory situated at **NGR. TL 310/473**.

The Preceptory sites lies within a moated enclosure to the south of the proposed development area and due to its Scheduled Monument status is protected from the proposals which will affect its associated surroundings. The site is Scheduled Monument number 108.

### Early History

#### The Manor of Shinghay

Currently, the earliest documented reference to Shingay occurs in the Domesday book of A.D. 1086 and these references have been discussed by Palmer (1904).

Prior to re-organisation the manor had been held by a Saxon or Dane named Goda during the Reign of Edward the Confessor. Goda held as an under-tenant of Alga, the Earl of Mercia and brother in law to King Harold . Palmer suggests that Goda may have been a Danish Warrior settling under Algers protection. The estate is listed as being to the value of £14 and was assessed at 5 hides for the Danegeld.

With the partition of the Anglo-Saxon estates the manor fell to Roger Montgomerie who held it in 1086. At this time the estate contained 720 acres of arable of which 240 were desmesne, the remainder being divided amongst 18 tenants. There was sufficient meadow to feed 6 plough teams



(or up to 48 oxen), sheep walk for 140 sheep, pannage for 60 swine and a watermill worth 10s. Rent on the meadow was rated at 2s. The manor was now worth £7 and paid a Danegeld of 8s. Palmer calculates that at least 72 people lived in the parish (excluding the inhabitants of the Manor House) using the figure of 18 tenants and multiplying it by an average of four persons per household. In 1308 when the manor was seized by the King it was again valued, this time at £13 6s and 8d. (Palmer 1908)

### The Preceptory

Lord Roger de Montgomerie, later Earl of Arundel and Shrewsbury gave the rights of Shingay to the Abbey of Uttica in Normandy. There has been some disagreement about the original date of the founding. Rev. Shimfield (1893) believed that the commandery was given by Sybil, the daughter of Lord Roger, to the Knights Templars in 1130, following her marriage to John de Reynes whereas Haigh (1988) has stated that the preceptory was founded by the Knights Hospitallers of St. Johns of Jerusalem shortly after the founding of their first house in Clerkenwell in 1144. The Rev. Shimfield did not envisage the Knights Hospitallers taking over the preceptory until the Suppression of the Knights Templars in 1313 A.D.. Palmer (1904) supported Rev Shimfield's view that the manor was in the hands of the Knights Templars in 1308 when the lands were seized by the King.

The preceptory is believed to have been a mixed house, of male and female occupants, remaining so until at least 1185 when two sisters from Shingay were amongst those who founded a separate women's house at Minchin Buckland in Devon (Haigh 1988).

By 1338 the preceptory at Shingay was the fourth richest in England, with lands in Shingay, Arrington, Wendy and Croydon worth £96 7s 4d, and additional rents payable from Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Huntingdonshire as well as Cambridgeshire.

The Shingay Manor itself was worth £97 7s 4d whilst a further £10 13s 4d came from the church and £23 6s 8d was collected as *fraeria* from the Diocese of Ely. (Haigh *ibid*). The manor was recorded at the beginning of the fourteenth century as containing two dovecotes a watermill and a windmill

During the 1381 Peasants revolt the preceptory was sacked perhaps as a reflection of the general unpopularity of the Knights Hospitallers caused by combination of a growth in wealth and a policy of depopulation at several of their establishments (Haigh *ibid*). There appears to be no record of the severity of the destruction at this time but the damage seems to have been rapidly mended.

In 1539 the preceptor, Sir Thomas Dingley, was accused of showing sympathy with rebels during the Pilgrimage of Grace and was shortly afterwards executed for treason. In 1540 the Order was suppressed and the period of the preceptory's importance was at an end. The property and house passed to the crown and was granted to Sir Richard Longe Master of the Hawks.

At the time of the suppression the manor had been valued at £176 4s 6d.

The daughter of Sir Richard Longe married Lord Russel Barron of Thornhaugh taking the Estate with her but the Russel fortune was ruined raising troops for the Civil War, and when in 1669 their grandson died, the estate was sold to Admiral Russel (created Baron of Shingay) a nephew of the Duke of Bedford. In turn he bequeathed the estate to his niece whose daughter married Samuel Sandys, created a peer in 1743. Their daughter inherited and the property fell into the hands of Hon. Thomas Windsor, followed by Lord Hardwicke by purchase. (Rev. Shimfield 1893)

During these frequent changes of ownership (a relatively common pattern following the decimation of many of the landed families during the Civil War period), the buildings had gradually fallen into ruins, and the religious duties of the parish was first headed by a stipendiary curate and then by the vicar of Wendy (Rev. Shimfield *ibid.*). The chapel was still standing in 1643 when Dowsing visited the site and it has been suggested that the final destruction of both the chapel and the hall dates to 1697.

A new chapel was built on the site by Lord Sandy but the parish of Shingay having neither benefice nor ecclesiastical endowment the chapel became disused and itself fell into ruins. These ruins remaining for a further 70 years Lord Hardwicke finally cleared away any vestiges.

#### The Agricultural Landscape

The lands within the parish of Shingay were enclosed between 1485 and 1517 with most of the land being apparently taken out of plough and laid down to pasture. This date is unusually early for Cambridgeshire and consideration of other sites enclosed during this period (and with either archaeological or documentary evidence for shrinkage), such as Arrington, Croydon, Tadlow, Malton, Childerley and Clopton, has led Taylor (1973) to suggest that such large scale enclosure may have only been possible where a land owner had a limited number of tenants.

There are no mention of evictions occurring at this time but very few details are recorded on Shingay from this period and enclosure maps such as those associated with eighteenth century enclosures are not to be expected. Shingay was not subject to the later phases of enclosure nor was it involved in Tithe Redemption in the nineteenth century - we therefore lack these two useful sources on field names etc.

Lysons in his *Magnum Britannia* (1808 vol. ii) lists the parishes of Shingay, Wendy and Whaddon as forming an area called the dairies. By this term was indicated the predominance of pasture and dairy farming over other forms of agriculture in the areas.

#### Croydon cum Clopton

The parish of Croydon cum Clopton lies on the northern boundary of the proposed area of development and contains further earthworks associated with settlement and agricultural landscape of the area. Historical details are unavailable for the two moated sites at Gilrags Wood and Rouse's Wood.

Both of these woods are unrecorded previous to the eighteenth century (VCH volviii, 30) but the name Rouse/Rowse has been associated with the area since 1471. At this date it was referred to as Rouse Manor (IpmR 1471) and is believed to have its origin in the family of Simon Ruffus or Rus (1198 FF) (Reaney, 1927, 54). The Manor of Rowses in Clopton was merged with Bury Manor in 1550 and the early manor house was believed to stand within or near Rowses Wood (VCH, viii, 36).

Clopton Manor had in 1279 a watermill, and a water channel fed from the Bury Manor Moat (**NGR. TL 302488**) which was said to lead south of the village. The Mill was not recorded after 1399 but a field called Canal Close indicated the site of the channel as remembered in 1750.

Further details of field names, woods and water courses are represented on the estate maps commissioned by Sir Jacob Downing in 1750 and covering Pettits, Simpsons and Salts Dairies. These maps are now held by Downing College.

### **Archaeological knowledge prior to fieldwork**

Assessment of the archaeological importance of the area prior to fieldwork was based on records contained within the Sites and Monuments Record for Cambridgeshire held by Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Department. This record combines details of an historical and archaeological nature gathered from a wide number of sources including The Victoria County History, The Royal Commission for Historic Monuments and is being continuously updated as a result of site-visits by professional and amateur archaeologists.

Three sites are listed on this computerised record within the area of assessment;

<u>Record</u> <u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
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<b>01276</b>	Listed as a Deserted Village, moat, preceptory and chapel preserved as earthworks at <b>NGR TL 310/473</b> . The village of Shingay lay between the manor belonging to the preceptors and the church. The village was largely cleared by 1452 as a result of a policy of enclosure by the preceptors. The building of the preceptory survives only in outline, the foundations having a L-shaped form. The site is surrounded by a deep moat, recently re-excavated. This moated enclosure is <b>Scheduled Ancient Monument no.108</b> .
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To the west of the preceptory moat the field is divided into narrow ditches which run to the dry mill race that forms the northern boundary of the site. To the north-east the fields are dissected by a series of parallel ditches interpreted as drainage ditches feeding into the moat.



- 09870** Well defined cultivation earthworks lying between Simkins Spinney and Gilrags Wood **NGR TL 297/478**. The ridge and furrow are orientated north-south and are associated with the moat and house platforms preserved in Gilrags wood.
- 01215** The moated site of Gilrags wood Grid ref TL 299/477. The site lies near the southern boundary of the parish of Croydon close to the River Cam. The site is very overgrown. The moat is largely wet, averaging 15-20 feet wide with a depth of 5 feet. This encloses a area of approximately 0.08 ha with a causeway and flat topped enclosure.  
The moat is associated with a series of low earthworks forming banks and platforms immediately to the south-west.
- 01219** The moated site at Rouses Wood **NGR TL 310/477**. The site consists of a moat with an L-shaped annexe along its south-west and south-east sides and two outer enclosures to the west and north. This was the manor site of Rouses named after the Le Rous family.  
Like the moated site at Gilrags this site lies just to the north of the River Cam on the Croydon side of the parish boundary.

### Survey results

Seven areas of earthworks were defined as likely to suffer substantial damage due to the construction of golf bunkers, this damage was considered to be likely to seriously diminish the potential for retrieving archaeological data in the future and could in some cases lead to total loss.

#### Area 1. Plan number 3

To the west and north-west of the preceptory presently under pasture (**NGR TL 307/473**). A series of tees and a lake are planned for the southern end of this field leading to bunkers to the north-west of the area .

Within this area of approximately 5ha four sites can be identified;

**a.** Well preserved ridge and furrow standing to a height of approximately 0.50 to 1.00 m from top of ridge to base of furrow. These cultivation earthworks trend south-east to north-west. The land immediately to the south-west within a strip approximately 300m wide has been levelled removing all traces of possible features.

**b.** To the north-west of site a; a series of irregular parallel banks of unequal length, of between 0.50 and 1.00m top of ridge to base of furrow. These trend north-east south-west. To the north-west this gives way to a large irregular platform and an old field boundary bank currently marked by an alignment of trees on a slight rise suggesting a hedge or tree lined baulk separating the furlongs (classic examples of which have been described by Rackham 1986 165-170) . This extends into a north south ditch which appears to act as a boundary to the bank system, turning north-eastwards on alignment with the banks and may have enclosed this area of the field. The ridges are probably best interpreted as disturbed areas of ridge and furrow tracing a separate furlong on a different alignment.

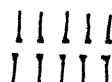
## Plan Conventions



Earthworks



Ditch



Bank



Field boundary



Mature Tree

5305/

2474 +

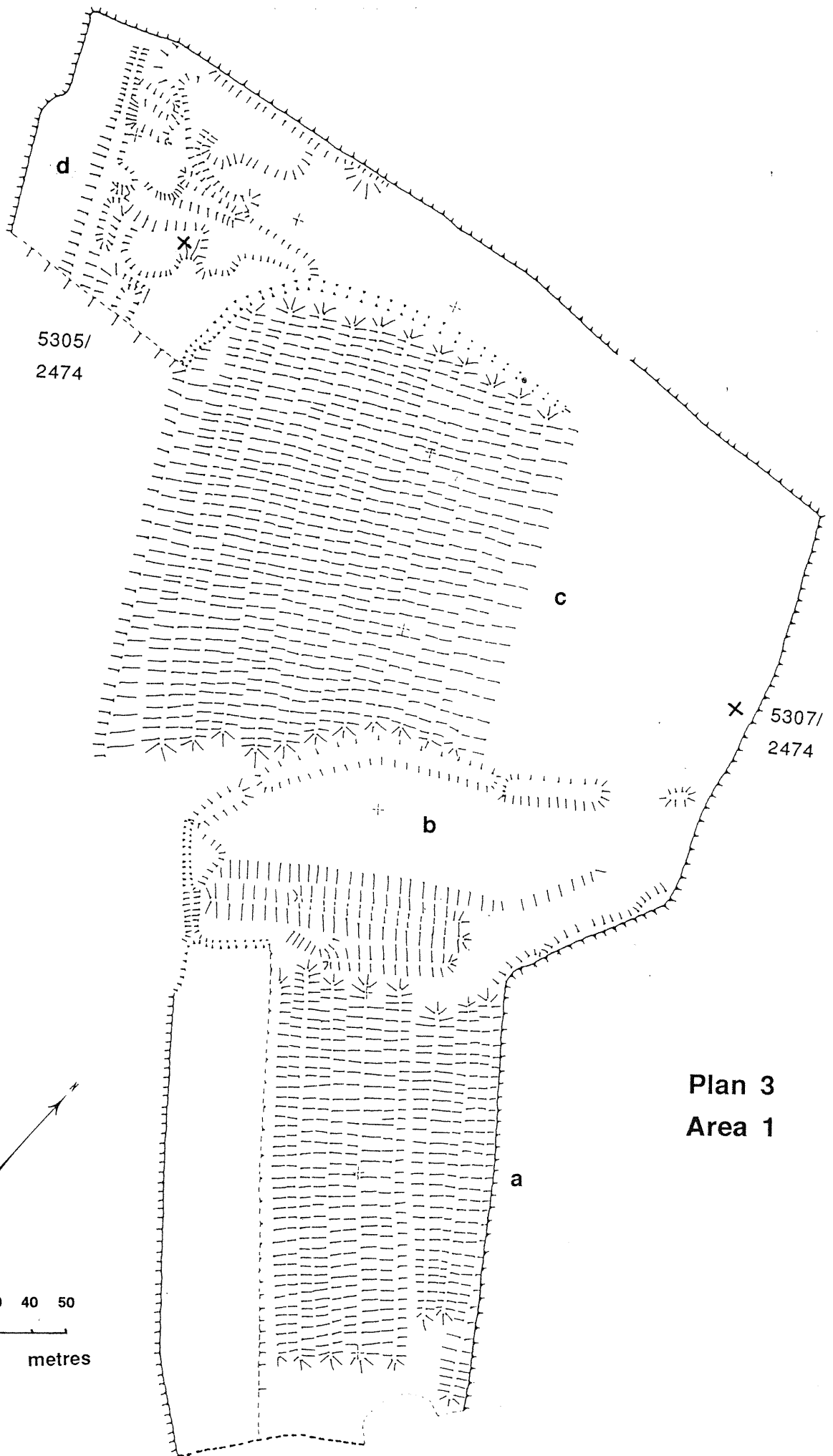
National Grid Reference

a, b,c,d

Sites



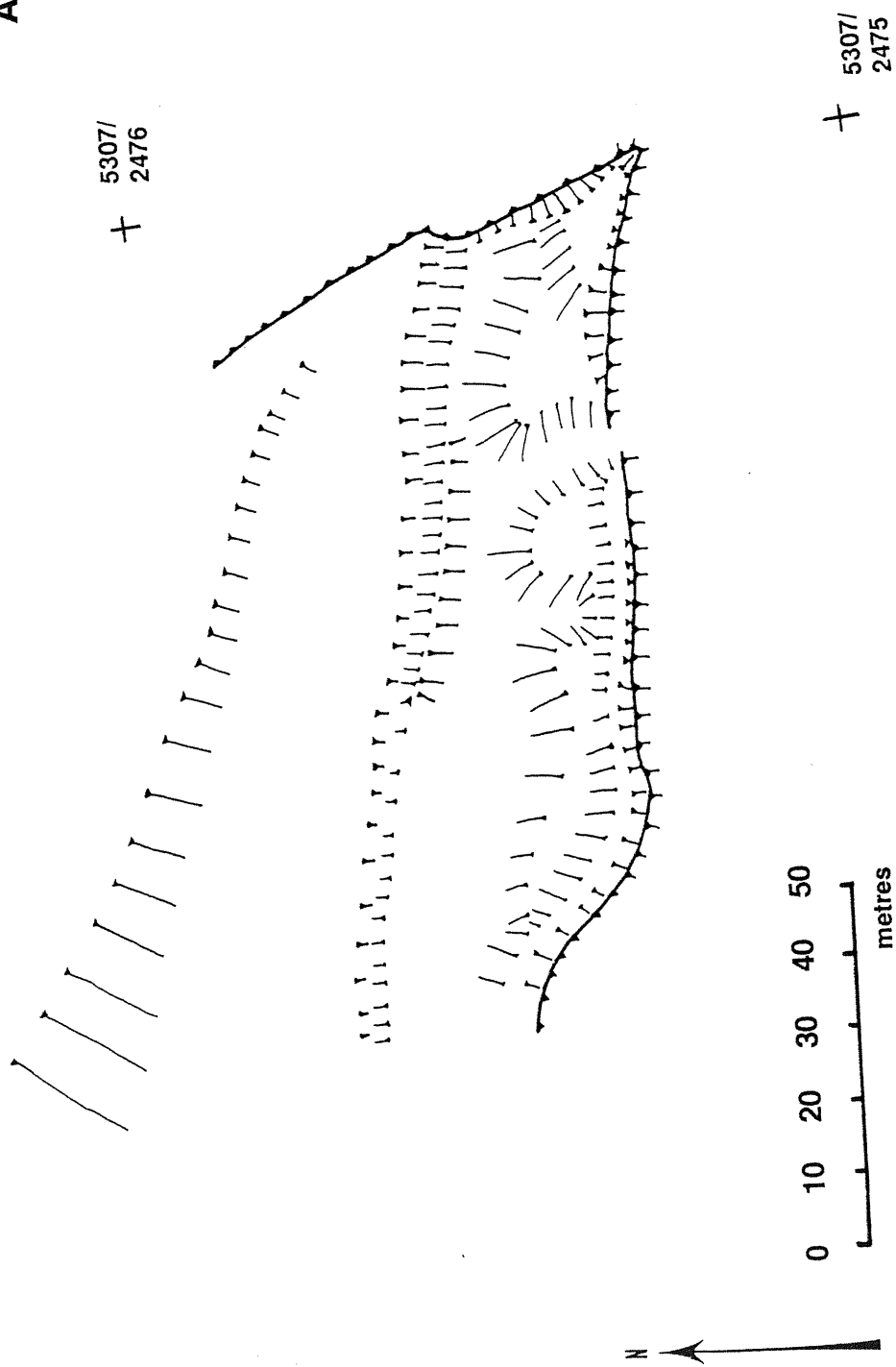
Survey Stations



**Plan 3  
Area 1**

**Furlongs to the West of the Preceptory**

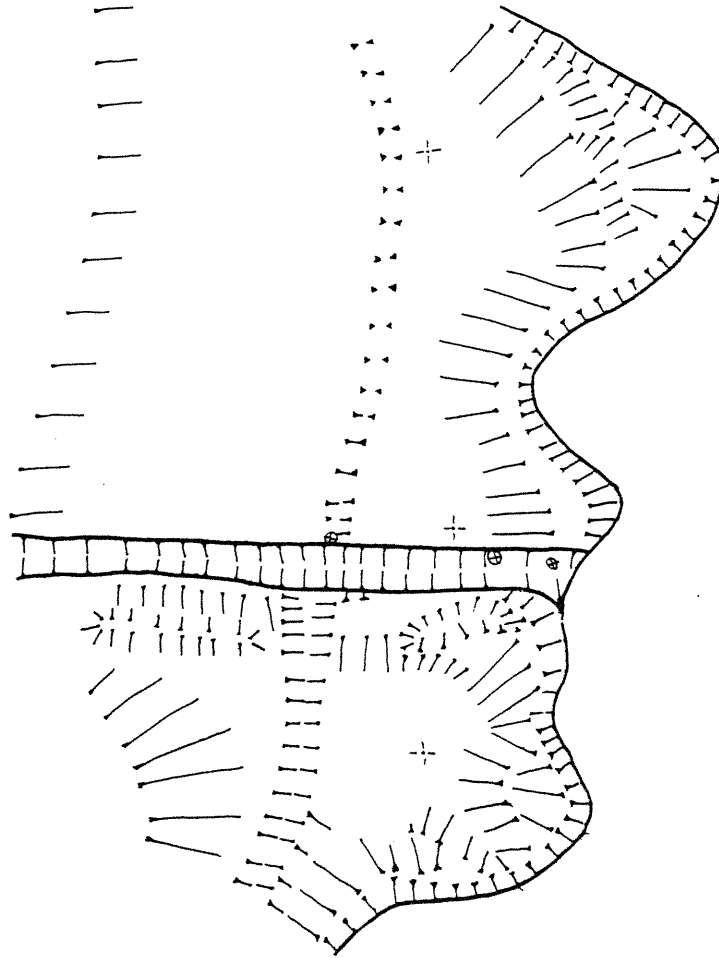
Plan 4  
Area 2



Plan 5  
Area 3

+ 5305/  
2476

+ 5305/  
2475



N

0 10 20 30 40 50  
metres



c. To the north-west of area b; ridge and furrow trending north-west to south-east. These are more pronounced on the southern side of the field approximately 0.50 to 0.75m ridge to furrow fading out to the northern area of the field where they could not be traced. The ridge and furrow is bounded to the north-west by a small ditch (largely in-filled) and a number of trees on the same alignment terminating level with the gate and path across the drainage ditch.

d. A site to the east of site c, consisting of a number of forms of earthwork including possible house platforms, depressions that may be ponds with associated channels leading into the system or other features associated with water control. The presence of a central platform may point to the remains of a watermill in the area. Excavation or geophysical survey may further elucidate the exact activities represented by this complex of earthworks. A hollow way cuts the sequence leading to a bank running north-west to south-east.

#### Area 2.      **plan number 4**

An area along the north side of the River Cam in the parish of Croydon **NGR TL 307/475**, the area is currently under pasture. This area is likely to be affected by a series of bunkers set around a green at hole 6. The site comprises an embanked area along the riverside with a large amount of up-cast material concentrated on the south-eastern limit of the site against the ditched field boundary. These features are thought to be the result of repeated scouring of the River Cam which here forms a narrow channel and is probably prone to silting. To the north of the dredged material lies a ditch (largely infilled) which runs parallel to the river course and can be traced further along the present-day field system. This is unlikely to have been a drainage ditch and may have formed a field boundary keeping cattle or other livestock away from the rivers edge or waterlogged pastures. The ditch is marked as a drain on **Plan number 2**. To the north of this area the land rises sharply to more level ground. Slight earthworks are recorded further to the west.

#### Area 3.      **Plan number 5**

An area of small meanders in the River Cam on the Croydon side of the parish boundary **NGR TL 304/475**. The area is divided into sections by a north to south running drainage ditch/field boundary cutting the east west running ditch mentioned above (Area 2). This suggests that this drainage ditch is a more recent event than the east-west ditch, though it would appear that the drainage ditch has been cleared recently masking any true relationship. The maturity of the oak trees along this boundary indicate that a boundary has been present for some time. Again the irregular topography along the river course and the western side of the drainage ditch is largely due to clearing of their courses. The trees are likely to hinder the access of a bucket on a mechanised machine and may explain why material appears to have been only dumped on the western bank of the drainage ditch. Very slight earthworks have been noted lying on the terracing to the north of the river.

Area 4.      **Plan number 6**

Area at the south eastern corner of Gilrags Wood **NGR TL 301/476** which will be affected by a number of golf bunkers. The area is largely under pasture with some wood pasture in the north-west corner of the area. The east-west running ditch/drain divides at this point turning northwards along the eastern boundary of Gilrags Wood and westwards where it divides again. The terraced area on the eastern side of the plan is covered in very slight ridge and furrow approximately 0.25m in height continuing eastwards for a further 70m, but not extending down onto the lower wetter pasture.

Area 5.      **Plan number 7.**

The moated site at Gilrags Wood **NGR TL 299/476** is unlikely to be affected by the golf course development. With the reduction of the woodland in recent years the opportunity arose to gain an accurate plan of the moat and the surrounding features. The moat encloses an internal area of approximately 40m x 18m with a causeway leading up to a levelled platform of 25m x 15m at approximately 5m above the ground surface to the south and west. However, the land rapidly rises on the western side of the moat affording little 'protection' in that direction if the site was to be seen as defensive. The moat itself is upto 10m wide and 2-3m deep in places with water still standing along the northern edge of the site. The site is currently covered in a large amount of dead and decaying wood.

To the south of the site lie a number of probable house platforms and an east west running hollow way. These features stand to a height of about 0.50m. Again surveying was handicapped by the amount of dead wood lying around, but the site appears to be in a good state of preservation.

**Plan number 8** shows the layout of ridge and furrow around the moated sites of Gilrags and Rouses wood which may have a direct contemporary association with the moated enclosures.

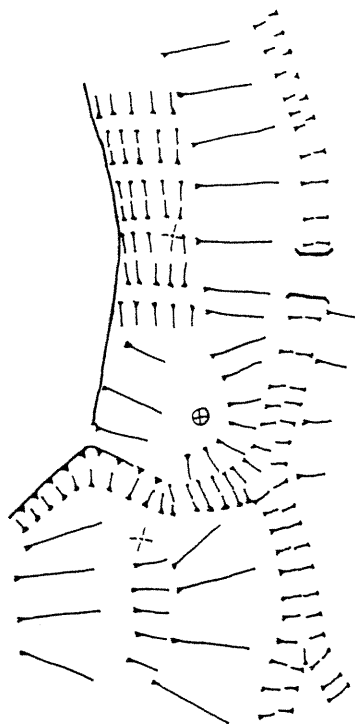
Area 6.      **Plan number 9.**

Pastureland to the west of the preceptory **NGR TL 308/472**. Only the western edge of this field was surveyed as this was the only area that is likely to be affected by a planned bunker and a lake. Furthermore a plan of the features in this area can be found in Haigh (*ibid.* 80) this appears to be a sketchplan of the area taken from an aerial photograph held by Cambridge University. Haigh interprets the complex of earth works in the area as a watermeadow divided into strips by ditches which ran into the mill, north of the moat adjacent to the preceptory **NGR TL 309/472**. This interpretation agrees with the current emphasis on water control as the main causation of many of the earthworks in the present study.

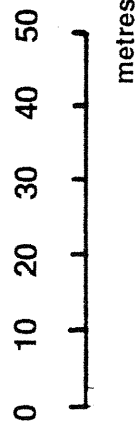
The area planned shows a drainage ditch dissecting the slight terrace approximately 10m south of a dried up stream course. The ditch leads into a bank continuing on the same alignment rising about 0.50m above what Haigh has called water meadows. Further ridges and depressions appear on the southern limits of the plan.

5302/  
2476

Plan 6  
Area 4



N

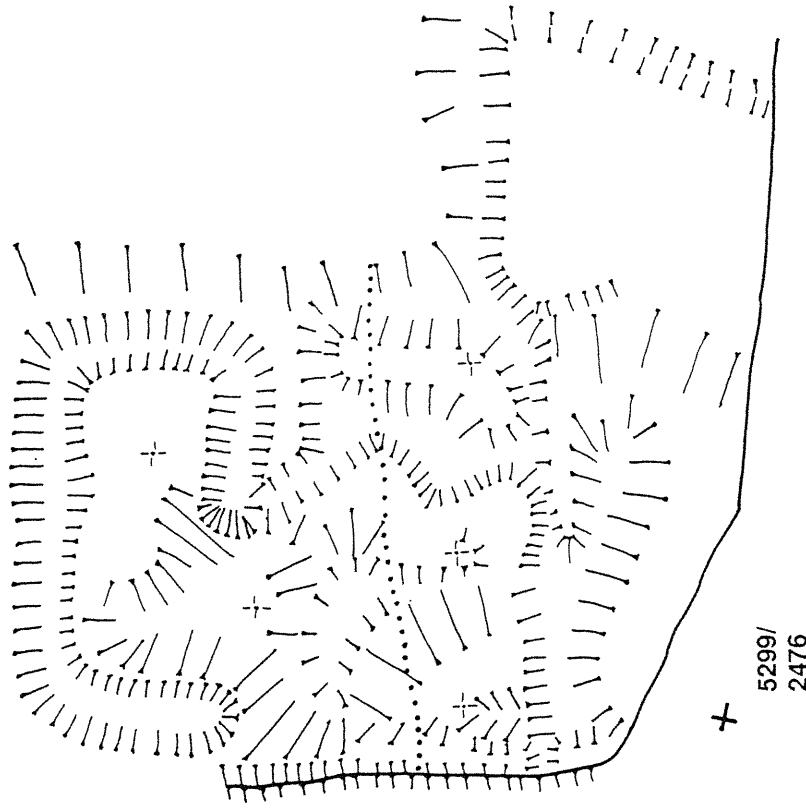


5302/  
2475

Ridge and Furrow to the East of Gilrags Wood

Plan 7

Area 5



+

5300/  
2476

+

5299/  
2476

N

0 10 20 30 40 50



metres

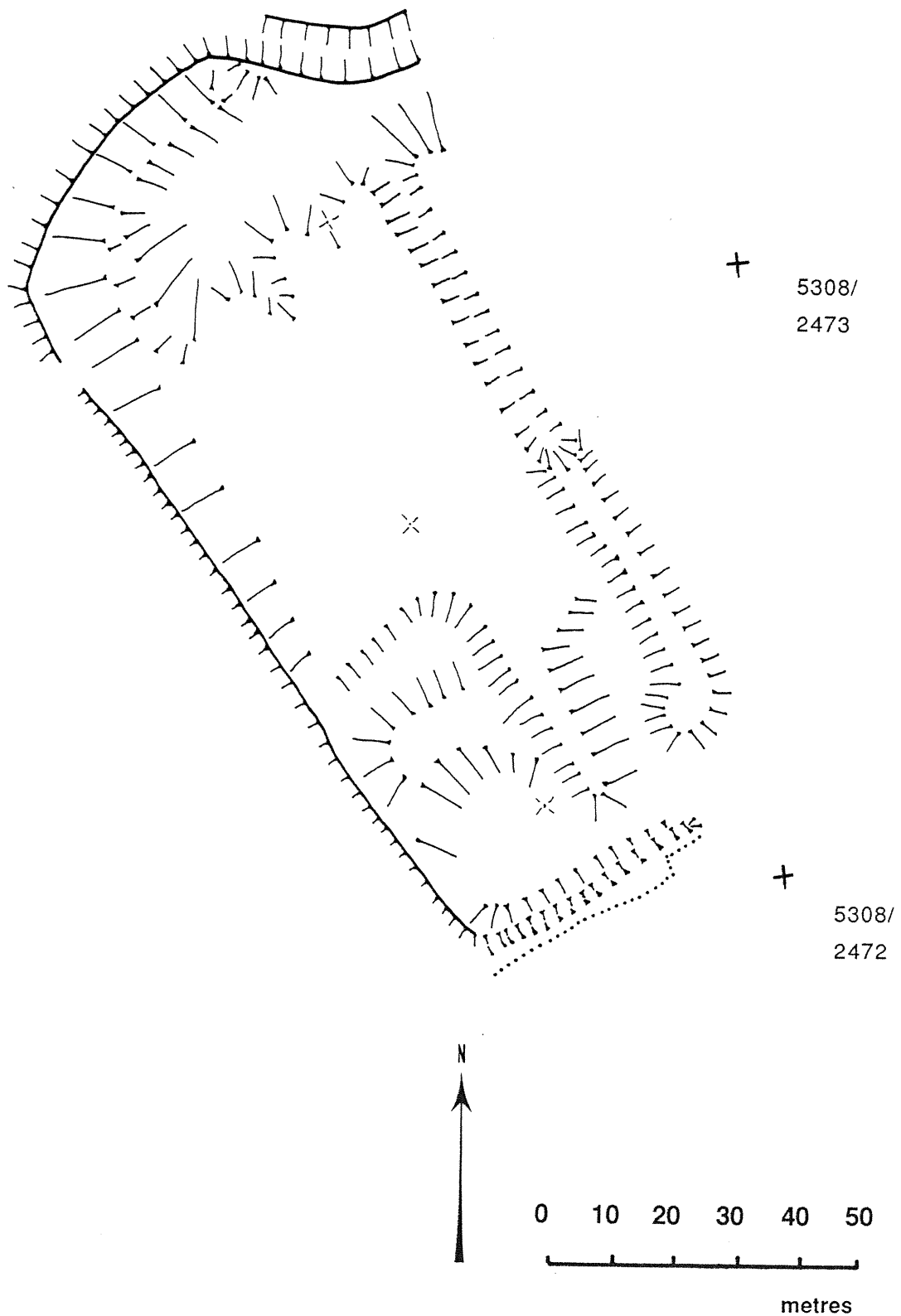
- RIDGE AND FURROW
- TRACES OF RIDGE AND FURROW
- WOODLAND

Earthworks and fields in the Parish of Croydon  
(from RCHM. 1968)

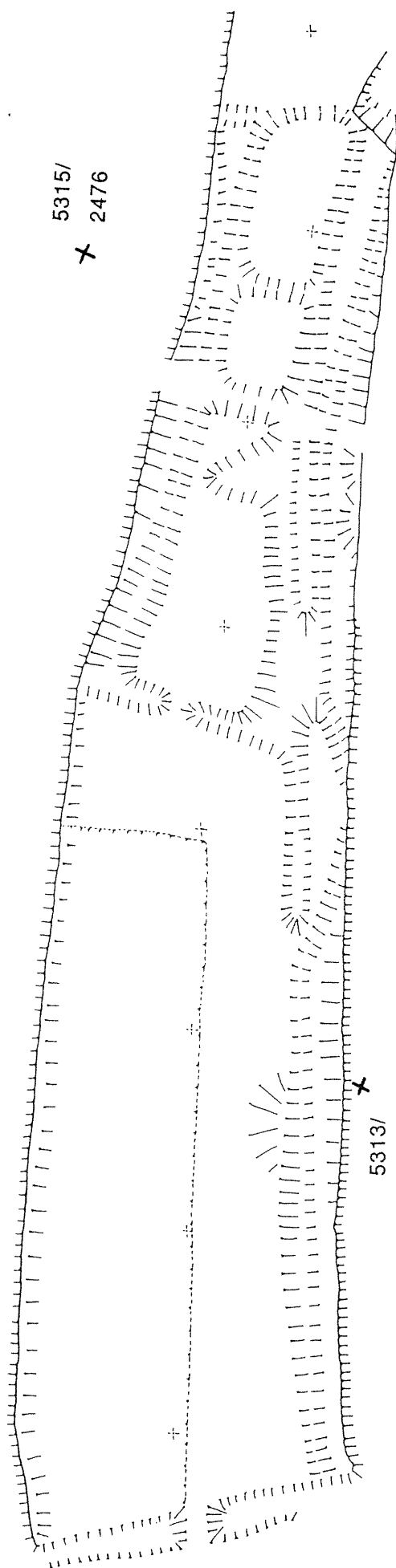




Plan 9  
Area 6

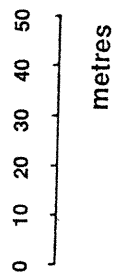


Water Meadow to the West of the Perceptory



Plan 10

Area 7



Area 7.      **Plan number 10.**

To the east of the preceptory in pasture land **NGR TL 313/474**, lie further features associated with the preceptory, a complex series of intercutting ditches and platforms trending approximately east west. Haigh (ibid. 81) interprets these as drainage ditches running into the moat. This however does not explain the entrance-like features to some of these platforms. The Cambridge University Aerial photograph of the area ( in Haigh ibid) shows this system to have once been more extensive and some levelling has taken place within the last couple of years.

## **Discussion**

The areas surveyed within this study contain elements of the mediaeval landscape which survive in a good state of preservation largely due to the early enclosure of both Shingay and Croydon parishes during and after the reign of the preceptors and the continuing predominance of pasture and meadow land throughout the area in more recent periods. One may expect to find similar meadows closer to the present course of the River Cam presuming that was also the mediaeval course. Unfortunately this area has been ploughed and no earthworks survive. Some soil marks are evidenced forming long linear ditches trending approximately east to west but these are nowhere as complex as those closer to the preceptory. Water control and exploitation would appear to have been played an important role of preceptory economy, as the present route of the Cam seems to have been diverted at some point in the past to feed the meadows and associated features closer to the preceptory.

Components of the mediaeval landscape which can still be observed as extant earthworks include the large preceptory moat and internal building foundations with associated out buildings including a mill, watermeadows and a complex drainage system. This system would have required a large expenditure of time, energy and capital investment and it is by no means certain that we have recovered all of it as some elements may already have been destroyed.

The drain course from the preceptory may have run from opposite Gilrags Wood (**Plan number 2**) and if the modern drain system is a reflection of mediaeval water control, the channel could then be seen as running past Area 1, site d, a site tentatively identified as a series of pond with a platform that may contain the foundations for a watermill.

The Victoria County History records the acquisition of a mill by the Hospitallers in 1279 at a site site "by the meadows", this is believed to be the area called Mill Close in 1750 positioned two fields to the east of Rouses Wood (VCH Cambs 38-39).

Parts of the medieval field system are also preserved in Area 1, where three separate furlongs can be identified with associated hedge and tree lined baulk at site b. The ridge and furrow may form part of the agricultural landscape of the preceptory and the hospitallers, villagers from the deserted village of Shingay or later occupants of the landscape.

Gilrags wood contains a series of well preserved earthworks including a moated site of which very few details are known (VCH cambs. vol.ii). The site was known as Jilrags wood in the early nineteenth century but was not recorded previous to that. (VCH cambs vol.iii pg.30).

The role of the two manors of Gilrags and Rouses in the formation of the social and economic landscape in the immediate area of the Shingay and Croydon parish boundaries needs further clarification and study.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The surveyed field systems and associated mediaeval earthworks are related to the significant economic and social changes in the vicinity of wealthy religious establishments which can be seen as playing an active role in the alteration of their immediate surroundings in the mediaeval and post-mediaeval periods. In the Shingay area the continuance of some of the agricultural practices introduced by the preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers has served to preserve an important and revealing record of those very activities.

Areas 1, 5, 6 and 7 should be preserved in their entirety as integral features of a larger landscape dating from at least the twelfth century AD.

Should the developer still wish to continue with the present positioning of the tees and bunkers it is strongly recommended that contact be made with the County Archaeologists for further advice as certain areas (in particular Area 1 site d) will require further evaluation by geophysical examination and archaeological excavation to determine the full nature and extent of the site.

The bunkers associated with Areas 2, 3, and 4 appear to have no direct affect on any upstanding archaeological remains. In Area 4 the bunker appears to be situated below the present terrace on which ridge and furrow is preserved and in Areas 2 and 3 the bunkers will affect areas of dumped alluvium and a drainage ditch of unknown date.

Sites other than those mentioned may come to light as bunker excavation proceeds and the overlying mask of flood-plain alluvium is removed.

Steve Kemp AIFA  
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## Glossary of Archaeological Terms

**Artifact:** Any object made by people. Generally this word is used for finds such as pottery, stone tools, or metal objects, but it can be used in a much wider context in that the landscape we have today is a product of human activity and is thus an artifact itself. Artifact scatters (finds scatters) are collections of artifacts found together at one location.

**Barrow:** Burial mound. Barrows can be long, round, or even square, and were generally surrounded by at least one ditch. Barrows are further subdivided by form into various types belonging to these general categories. As a means for burying selected individuals they were used in Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon periods.

**Beaker:** Prehistoric period c.2000-1500 BC covering the transition from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age, when a type of highly decorated pottery called beakers became evident.

**Bronze Age:** Prehistoric period c.2000-700 BC when bronze was used for many types of tool and weapon.

**Causewayed camp:** A Neolithic enclosure of several acres with one or more concentric ditches interrupted by causeways and irregular internal banks. These enclosures are believed to be ceremonial/ritual monuments rather than settlement sites.

**Croft:** An enclosed piece of land or smallholding, usually attached to a house.

**Cropmarks:** Archaeological features below the ploughsoil can affect the growth of sensitive crops through moisture retention or loss. For example the growth of cereal crops over buried ditches and pits will encourage rapid growth leading to tall, dark coloured plants, whereas walls and roads will lead to stunting and faster yellowing of the crop. These discrepancies in crop growth can be detected easily from the air, and by taking photographs the cropmark patterns can be plotted onto maps and given provisional interpretation.

**DMV:** Deserted medieval village. For various reasons Medieval settlements were sometimes abandoned or shifted their location. Earthworks of the old village can often be seen showing the position of house platforms, crofts, lanes, and ponds.

**Earthworks:** Archaeological features that are still extant above ground as banks and ditches, platforms, roads, ponds, canals, etc. They were either constructed of soil or became covered by it at a later date, leaving the archaeology showing in relief.

**Enclosures:** An area defined by a continuous surrounding ditch. These may be enclosures around human settlement, fields, or paddocks for stock. Rectilinear enclosures are ones with straight sides and corners, whilst curvilinear enclosures are ones with rounded sides.

**Field system:** An area with ditches or banks that show a systematic pattern of enclosures, trackways, and features that can be seen to run parallel to one another, or lead off from one another to form an intelligible pattern.

**Fieldwalking:** Technique of archaeological survey. Walking over ploughed and weathered soil an experienced observer can collect many ancient artifacts, and by plotting the distribution of such find spots on maps an idea of the occupation and use of the landscape can be built up for each period of the past.

**Finds scatter:** Finds are artifacts, or other objects associated with human activity, for example bones or fire-cracked flint. A finds scatter is a localised collection of such objects.

**Fire-cracked:** Flint that has been broken up by extreme heat also shows crazing lines, and is often referred to as burnt, crazed or "fire-cracked" flint. The burning of flint often came about in the cooking process when pottery was too fragile for being used in direct contact with a fire, and so stones were heated for this purpose and thrown into a cooking pit, or into water to boil it. These burnt stones (or fire-cracked flints) can also be referred to as "pot boilers" and they indicate the presence of a prehistoric settlement site.

**Flints:** Flint is a type of stone that can be worked by chipping to make fine and sharp tools, such as arrowheads, blades for knives or sickles, scraping tools, or even axes. It can be polished to make a smooth finish, and good quality flint could be brought in to an area from far away. Worked flint can often be found in the fields, showing human activity. Sometimes these are tools, but often they are just the by-products of flint working.

**Funerary:** Adjective for an object or structure related to burial practises, inhumation or cremation of the dead, and associated ceremonies.

**Furlong:** This term is used for a piece of land in Medieval cultivation that had a group of ridge and furrow all lying in the same direction. Later this term became used as a measurement of length equalling 220 yards. A furlong boundary was the edge to such a piece of land, and often survives today in the form of a low bank visible on the ground and from the air.

**Headland:** see "Ridge and furrow".

**Henge:** A late Neolithic circular monument with one or more ditches and an internal bank, broken by one or more entranceways. They may contain wooden or stone structures. Henges are believed to be ritual/ceremonial monuments.

**Holloway:** A track that has been hollowed out by long usage.

**Iron Age:** Prehistoric period c.700 BC - 43 AD when iron was used extensively for tools and weapons. The period traditionally ends with the Roman invasions of 43 AD but in fact there was a considerable time of adjustment after this date when the Iron Age way of life continued with little change from Roman influence.

**Medieval:** Historic period that begins with William the Conqueror's invasion in 1066. Post-Medieval is generally considered to date from 1500.

**Mesolithic:** Prehistoric period c.7500-3500 BC with a predominantly hunter-gatherer economy leading on to herding and farming, spanning the period between the last Ice Age and more settled farming communities of the Neolithic.

**Millenia:** Thousands. Millennium a period of 1000 years.

**Moated site:** In the Medieval period moated enclosures proliferated. An area surrounded by water filled ditches would leave a platform or island on which to build a house. There were several reasons for this: defence in times of lawlessness, a ready source of water for the needs of the house and an anti-fire measure, a handy reservoir for fish and water-fowl, and a response to the demands of fashion and prestige. These moated sites were often manors, and occasionally old manor houses are still to be found enclosed by their moat.

**Neolithic:** Prehistoric period c.3500-2000 BC when farming and pottery were introduced. Stone tools of fine workmanship were produced and exchanged over long distances, whilst metal was not used.

**Palaeolithic:** Prehistoric period before c.7500 BC spanning the early development of mankind from hominid species through to modern humans. Stone and bone tools were made and a hunting-gathering lifestyle was followed.

**Pollen:** Plant grains with outer skins remarkably resistant to decay, especially in buried or wet conditions. The study of pollen from archaeological contexts can tell us about ancient environments through identifying which communities of plants lived in the area at a given time.

**Preceptory:** A community of the Knights Templar, containing estates and buildings.

**Ridge & furrow:** Medieval cultivation techniques led to a phenomenon of corrugated fields. Strips of land were allotted to individuals and a furrow was left between one person's strip and the next, leading to the corrugated ridge & furrow effect. An area of land with all these strips running parallel was called a furlong. These strips usually followed a slightly sinuous course, an elongated reversed S shape to help in turning the plough at the end. Where the strips ended and the ploughs turned soil would be deposited and a "head" would be created. After a time these may form a boundary in their own right and are called headland boundaries. Ridge and furrow shows up as cropmarks on air photographs, and more rarely as earthworks in pasture fields.

**Ring ditch:** A continuous circular ditch which is all that remains of a ploughed out round barrow, or the drainage ditch (eavesdrip gully) that surrounded a round-house.

**Roddon:** Dried out waterway. The silts laid down by the water in the original creek remain when peat wastage occurs, and thus they stand above the surrounding ground level.

**Roman:** Historic period 43-410 AD when most of Britain was part of the Roman empire. The term Romano-British is now widely used to describe the people of this period as few were Roman themselves, but they were a provincial manifestation of the empire developing in a unique way. 410 AD was the date the legions were withdrawn, but Romano-British culture continued for some time into the 5th century in tandem with Anglo-Saxon migration.

**SMV:** Shrunken (shifted) medieval village. (see DMV).

**Soilmarks:** Archaeological remains often show in ploughed fields by reason of the different soil of which they consist. They can be visible at ground level but like cropmarks they are most clearly seen and interpreted from the air.

**Stratigraphy:** Order and relative position of strata. Deposits in archaeological sites will be layered one on top of another, with the highest layer being the latest deposit, thus giving a chronological relationship to the layers and the artifacts within them. Features (such as ditches, pits, or walls) cut through these layers will obviously date to later events, and will in turn contain their own discrete sequence of deposits. On the other hand features that have been covered by layers are obviously earlier than the deposition of those layers that seal them.

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