

EHER 9269

LOCATION: NAYLAND with WISSINGTON, SUFFOLK

Field immediately to the east of Smallbridge Hall Farm, centred NGR TL930331

Background

The 1838 Tithe Map and Historic Ordnance Survey maps show that this field (outlined in green on fig. 1) was originally subdivided into a number of smaller units that became joined through time but still existed as four fields until the 1970s.

The northern part of the current field is delineated by a road (constructed in the 18th century to service the canal), the east by a disused cut for the Stour navigation, to the south by the river and to the west by the driveway leading to the hall.

On the south-west corner of the field stands the substantially altered remains of a large Tudor moated house (Smallbridge Hall). The Tudor hall superseded a medieval residence. Some of the linear features are likely to be connected with these residencies.

Previous surveys

Cropmarks in this field have been recorded on separately on both SHER (NYW 18, 19, 20, 21 and 25) (see fig. 2) and EHER (9269) as well as by Stour Valley crop-mark project (Brown, Knopp and Strachan 2002, 17 fig. 7) and the NMP (complex 50) (fig. 3).

The aerial photographs that have informed these sources are derived from slides taken by Ida McMaster, Cambridge University Aerial Photograph Programme, RCHME, Peter Rogers and ECC.

A number of worked flints (blades and scrapers) and cores have been recovered from the field. A scatter of late medieval and post-medieval finds have also been reported.

Analysis of the cropmarks

Taken together, the aerial photographs (for example, fig. 4) show a series of linear and rectilinear cropmarks, two ring ditches and a rounded enclosure (fig. 5).

The linear and rectilinear cropmarks would appear to represent the remains of field systems and track ways representing at least two phases.

(A) forms the southern boundary of a field called 'Weston (or Wiston) Green' (fig. 2) which is depicted on the 1838 tithe map but had disappeared by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1880s), although its line continued as a footpath until c2000. The deviation of the line at the SW end of the linear feature also at one time formed part of this field. Some of the other linear features could represent agricultural buildings connected with the hall.

(B) is also a field boundary which appeared on the tithe map and was extant until the 1970s.

(C) is shown on the 1967 OS map as a field drain, the linear mark running parallel to it across much of the field, like the other linear features, is likely to be an earlier field boundary. This boundary continues the line of the moat around the hall

(D) is a curvilinear/rounded enclosure (SHER NYW 019), circa 50m in diameter with possible entrance to west. It is traversed by the field boundary belonging to Weston Green and cut by the 18th century road.

(E) is a ring ditch, circa 15 metres in diameter (SHER NYW 020). Its northern edge is crossed by the road and it also traversed by part of the field system. To the south of it appears a truncated track way associated with what appears to be a small rectilinear enclosure.

(F) is a small ring ditch (SHER NYW 021), circa 5 metres in diameter.

Crop-marks D, E and F form part of NMP complex 50, which is a linear arrangement appearing to 'cut off' the neck of a meander of the Stour. This is a characteristic noted at a number of sites within the valley including the cursus sites.

EHER 9198

LOCATION: NAYLAND with WISSINGTON, Suffolk

Field to the east of Smallbridge Cottages, centered NGR TL932335

Background

The 1838 Tithe Map and Historic Ordnance Survey maps show that this field (outlined in blue on fig. 1) was originally subdivided into a number of smaller units that became joined through time but still existed as four fields until the 1970s.

The southern part of the current roughly triangular field is delineated by a road, the east by a disused cut for the Stour navigation, to the north by a hedgerow that dates back at least to the 1838 Tithe map.

Previous surveys

Cropmarks in this field have been recorded on separately on both SHER (NYW 001, 002, 003, 004 and 016) (see fig. 2) and EHER (9188) as well as by Stour Valley crop-mark project (Brown, Knopp and Strachan 2002, 17 fig. 7) and the NMP (complex 50) (fig. 3). The aerial photographs that have informed these sources are derived from slides taken by Ida McMaster, Cambridge University Aerial Photograph Programme, RCHME, Peter Rogers and ECC (for example, fig. 4).

Analysis of cropmarks

Taken together the cropmarks form a series of seven ring ditches and other linear features representing field systems and track ways (fig. 5). To the south-west of this field is a field containing a further three ring ditches. Together these sites form NMP complex 50; a linear arrangement of ring ditches appearing to 'cut off' the neck of a meander of the Stour. This is a characteristic noted a number of sites within the valley including the cursus sites.

(A) represents a field boundary that was ploughed out in the 1970s, but dates back at least to the 1838 tithe map. OS maps show that this field terminated when it hit field boundary (B). However, the crop-marks would suggest that at an earlier period, and presumably predating the establishment of Weston Green which it appears to underlie, this boundary extended further to the south west producing a long strip field along the northern side of the current field.

(B) represents a field boundary that cut the existing field in half. Shown on the 1838 tithe map, it was ploughed out in the 1970s. The southern end of the boundary does not show up as a crop-mark, however, pre-1970s OS maps show this corner of the current field as a small triangular area of scrub, perhaps resulting from the construction of the canal and bridge.

(C) consists of several roughly parallel linear marks. These coincide with the eastern boundary of Weston Green on the tithe map and probably represent slight variations in this boundary.

(D) Two superimposed ring ditches (part of SHER NYW 004). The larger (NMP 50:10) has a diameter of circa 30 metres diameter with at least two off centre maculae. A smaller ring ditch, c10m diameter, is superimposed on its north-west side. It is not apparent which ring ditch is the earlier.

(E) Ring ditch, circa 20 metres diameter. This, and possibly D, may be associated with a small enclosure crop-mark that does not appear to belong to later field systems. Fragments of tegulae and other pieces of Roman tile have been found at this location and interpreted as a possible tile kiln (SHER NYW 024).

(F) Ring ditch, circa 20m diameter (SHER NYW 003).

(G) Ring ditch, circa 25m diameter (SHER NYW 002).

(H) Small ring ditch, circa 5m in diameter (SHER NYW 016).

(I) Ring ditch, circa 27m diameter, at least two internal off-centre maculae (SHER NYW 001).

Visually, at ground level, the complex lies along the edge of a low lying terrace above the river.

Figures

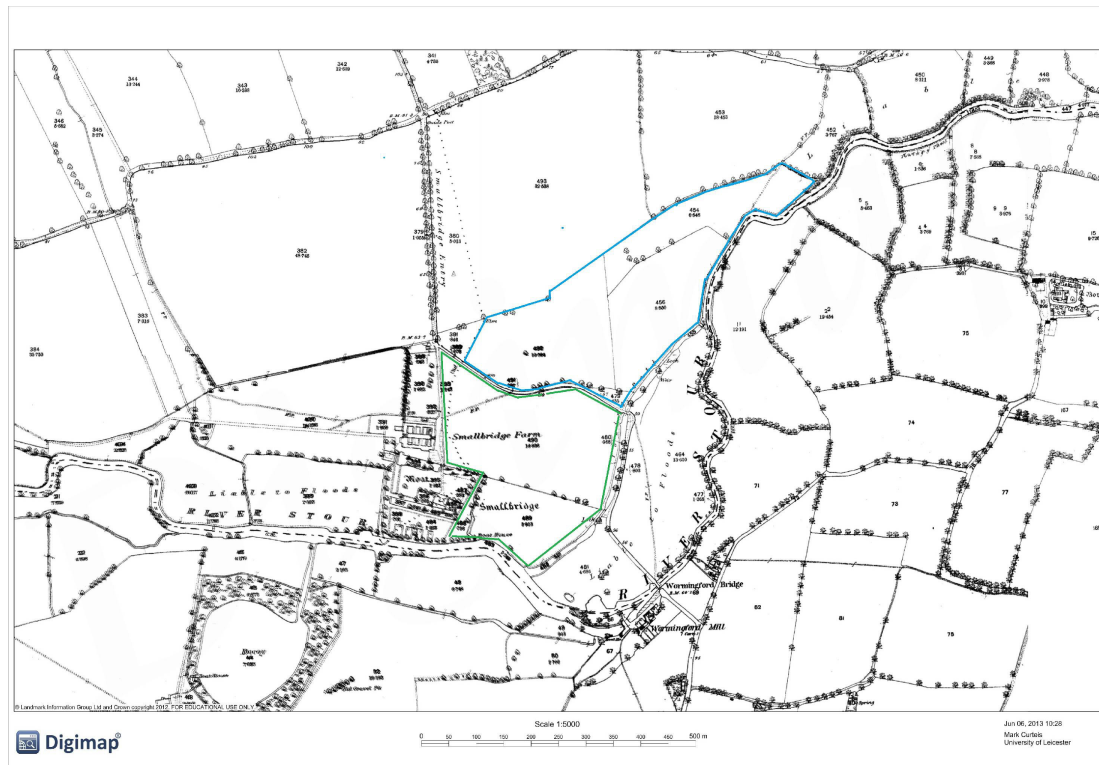


Fig.1 1880s OS map showing study areas and field divisions.



Fig. 2 Plot and drawing from SCCAU showing SHER monuments and position of Weston Green.

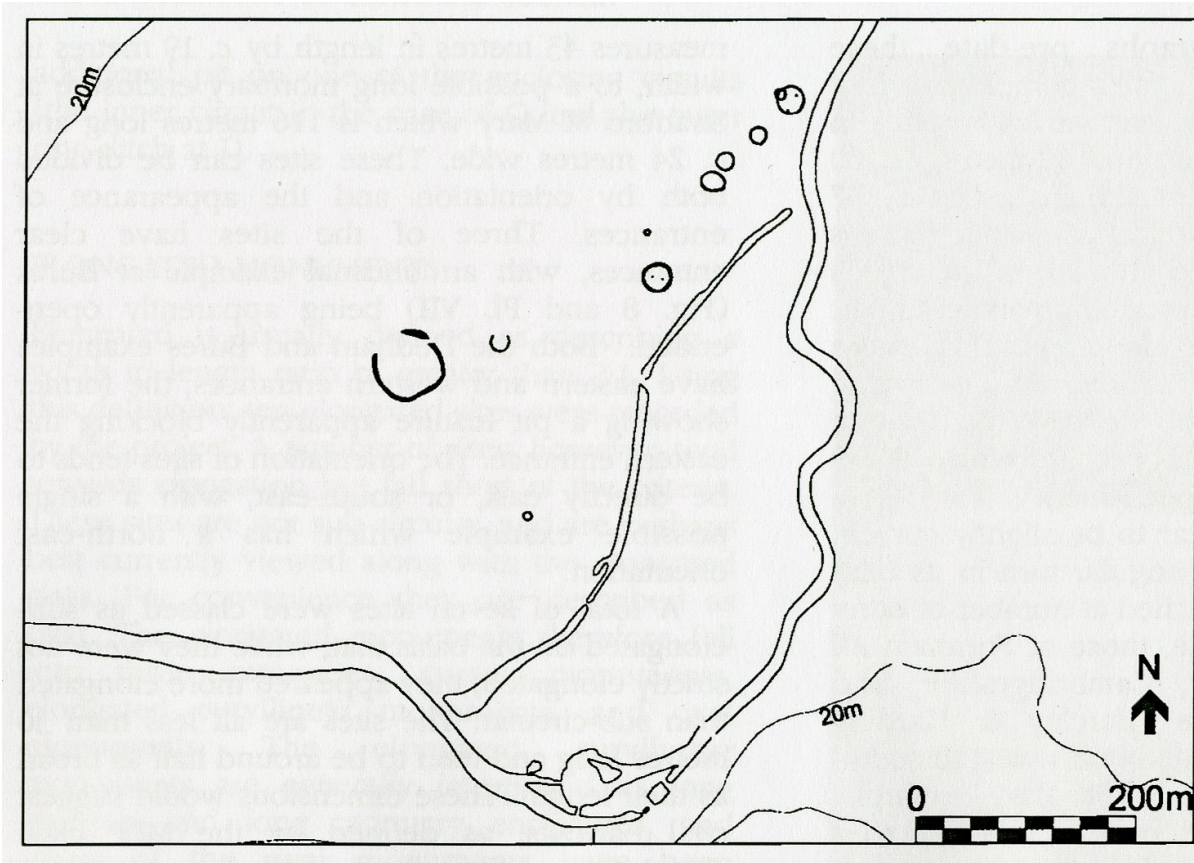


Fig. 3 NMP Crop mark complex 50 (Brown, Knopp and Strachan 2002, p.17 fig.6)



Fig. 4 Example of aerial photograph showing crop-marks (McMaster B3:195)

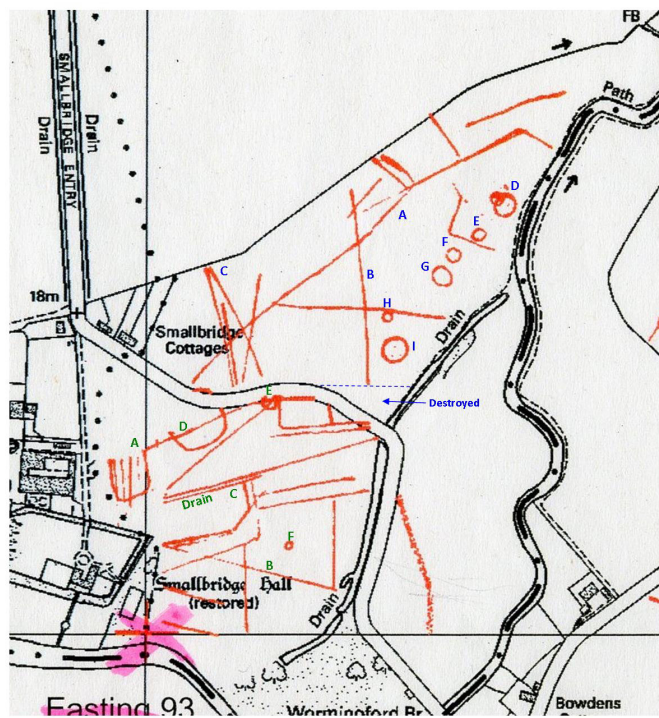


Fig. 5 Plot of all crop-marks.