Church Farm
Hoveringham
Nottinghamshire
SK 697 463

Field Survey Report 2024

Appendix 2

MAIDEN CROFTS FIELD

Church Farm Historic Landscape Study
Hoveringham, Nottinghamshire

Contents

Preface

On Friday 29th March 2024, The Field Detectives began a survey on Maiden Crofts Field at Hoveringham, Nottinghamshire. The purpose of the survey was to see if we could recover any artefacts that might help us understand the purpose of the stone constructions hidden beneath the turf on the neighbouring field.

This was the second phase of an investigation that followed a telephone conversation with George Allwood on Saturday 18th February 2023.

George invited The Field Detectives to investigate one of his fields, which is situated to the south of St Michael's Church.

A very small part of the field was excavated by the son of his neighbour (Frank Craven) many years ago, who was studying to be an archaeologist at the time. Although the excavation was minimal, it did reveal evidence of building footings; unfortunately, George never heard any more about it, and no report was produced.

We know that there were three church phases and that the c. 14th-century church foundations lay under the Victorian church which was built around 1865. However, the site of the original Saxon church is disputed, although arguably, it was most probably built on the same footprint as the later Victorian one.

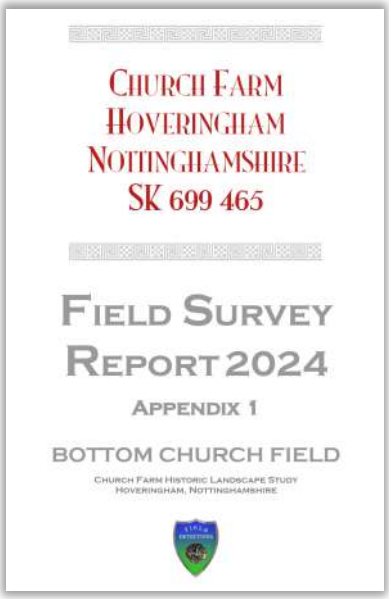
We have also become aware of a Georgian Spa. It was apparently situated at the back of the church and was filled in around 1824.

Just to add a further candidate that might fit the man-made earthworks at the back of the church, Lady Helen Nall suggested that it might be the site of the early manor house/hall.

Some years ago, a local person ran a metal detector over Hall Close field, but sadly, nothing of note was found. George always wondered what these seemingly man-made contours in his field were, and he is hoping that we can finally, reveal the field's secret.

This report details our findings to date.

The Field Detectives
2024



The Bottom Church Field survey informed our knowledge of the landscape to the east of the Hall Close investigation

Field Survey Methodology

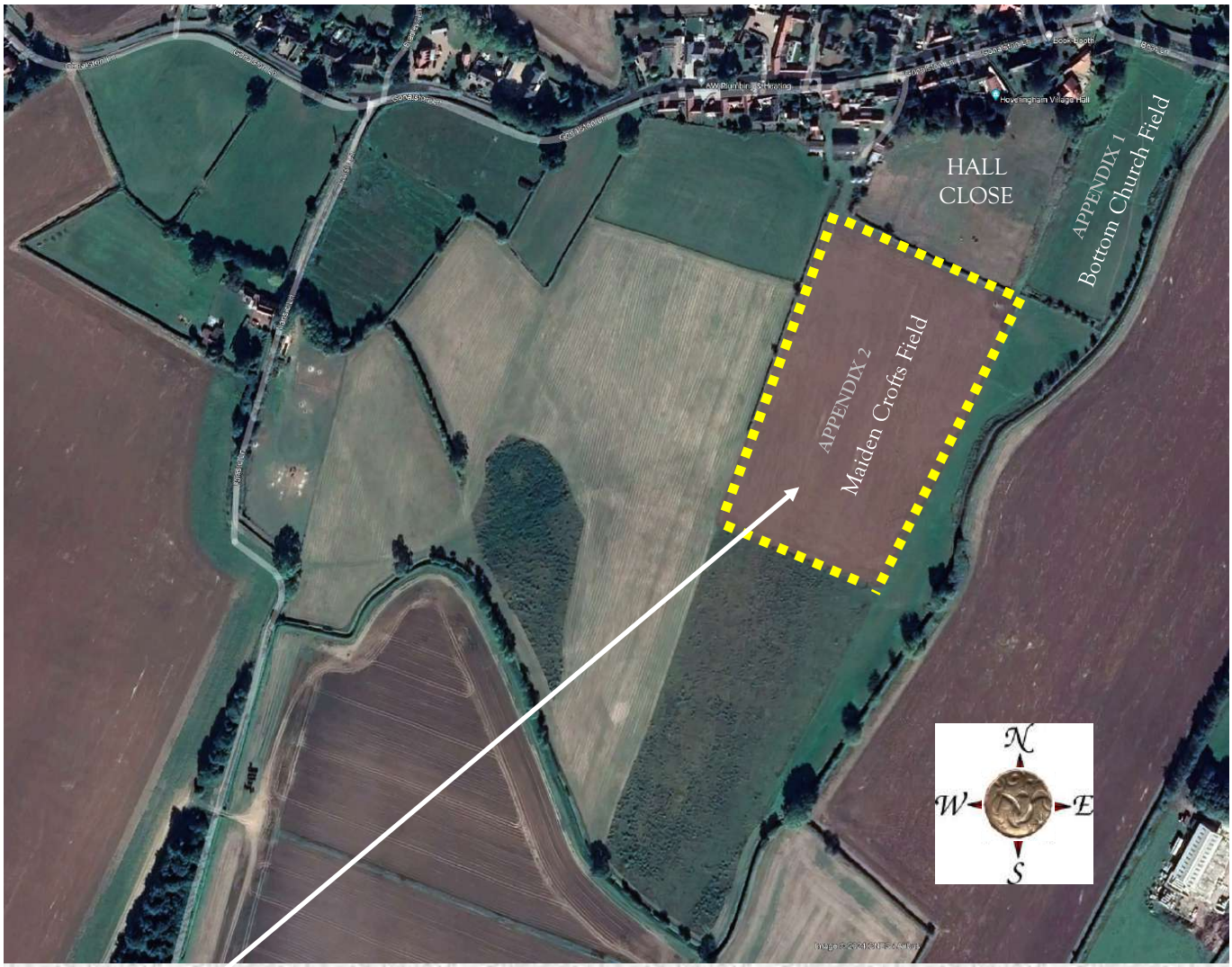
The Field Detectives are a group of enthusiasts who share a common interest in local history. Over the past twenty-five years, the group has sought the permission of local farmers and landowners to explore their fields for evidence of past historic activity using field-walking, metal detecting and, where feasible, limited geophysical survey methods.

The field was initially visited to determine by surface inspection whether it would be suitable for metal detecting and to note any interesting landscape features such as humps, mounds, hollows, ponds, ditches, areas of different coloured soil etc. A field survey map was created by downloading an aerial image of the field from Google Earth and superimposing graph paper over the field image.

One copy of this was taken into the field on the field survey clipboard. In the field, grid areas were marked out in advance of each field survey visit (20 x 20 metre grid sections, marked with canes featuring coloured tape), utilising both the online Google Earth metric measure resource and the physical on-site tape and stride method. The grid areas were transposed onto the field survey map, and the location of the finds recorded on the map as they were found.

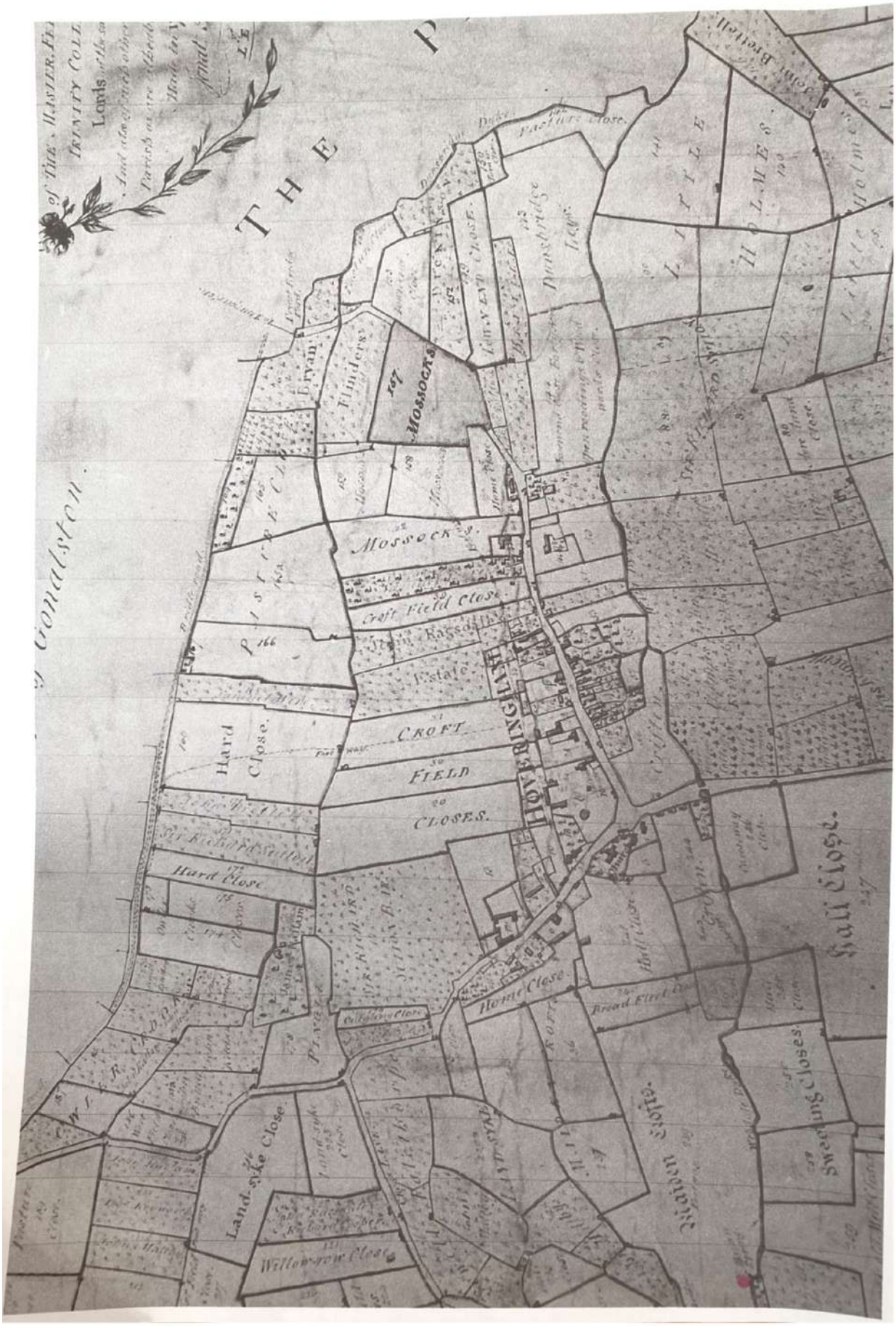
The finds were bagged, and their locations noted on-site; the finds were later cleaned and identified, the identification and location find number being written on the relevant finds identification card enclosed within the bag. Photographs of the grid area and the finds recovered were taken on-site, with further photographs taken after cleaning if necessary.

Field Survey Overview Map



The yellow dashed line denotes the perimeter of the field surveyed.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW



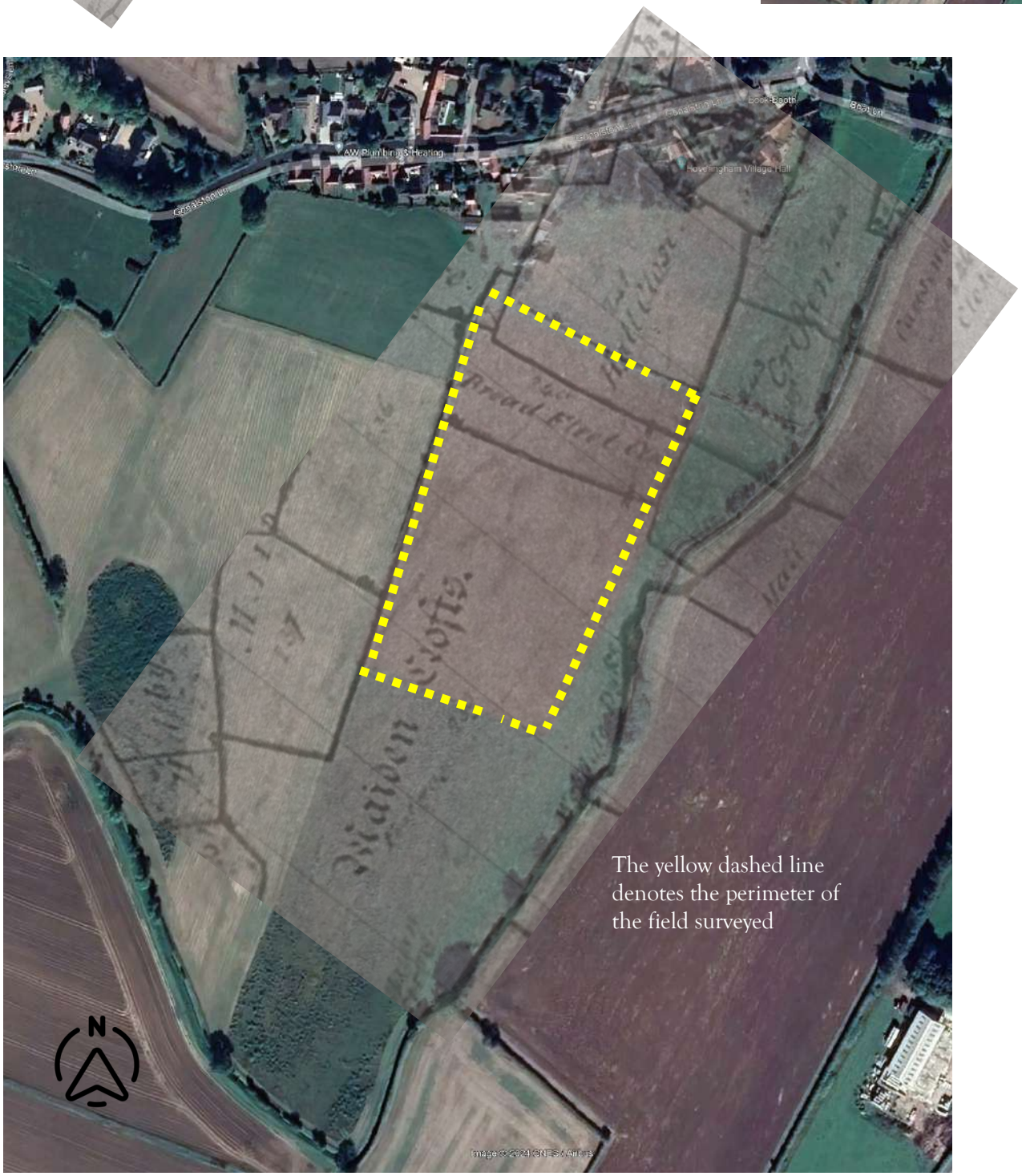
The 18th century map featured above was kindly shared by Lady Helen Nall.

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW

The 18th-century map featured left has been superimposed over the field survey overview map (right).

It is a very faint line, but you can make out the line of a footpath running through Hall Close, over two stiles, and then into the Maiden Crofts field as shown below.

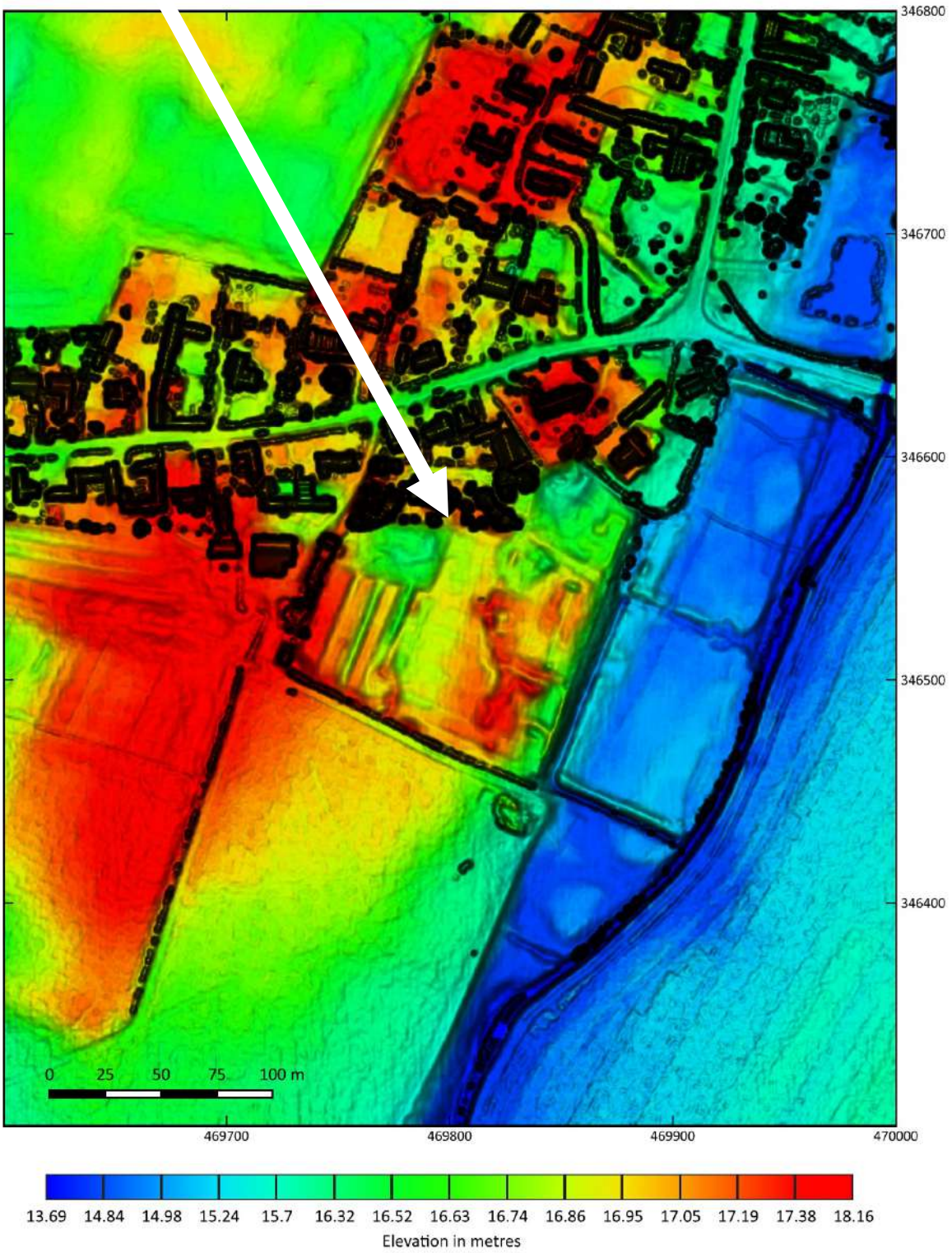
Pulling the two maps together is difficult to scale with any accuracy, but it does present a useful representation of the old footpath.



The yellow dashed line denotes the perimeter of the field surveyed

GEOFF'S LIDAR IMAGE

The LIDAR image featured below, was created by Geoff Kimble to show the broad range of potential construction anomalies on Hall Close.



What does LiDAR stand for?

LiDAR is an acronym of Light Detection and Ranging. It is also known as laser scanning or 3D scanning.

What is LiDAR?

LiDAR is a remote sensing technology. LiDAR technology uses the pulse from a laser to collect measurements. These are used to create 3D models and maps of objects and environments.

AILEEN & PETER'S GEOPHYSICS SURVEY IMAGES

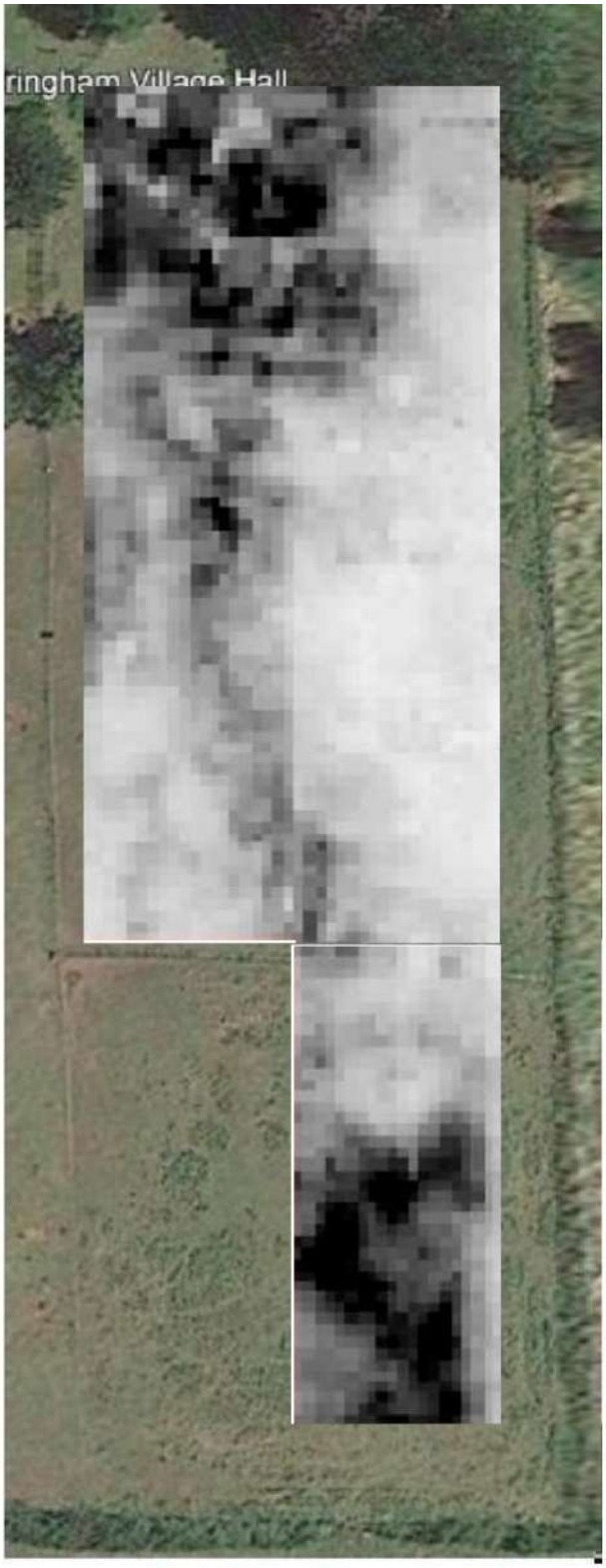


Plate 2 Raw Data on air photo

101.20 354.00

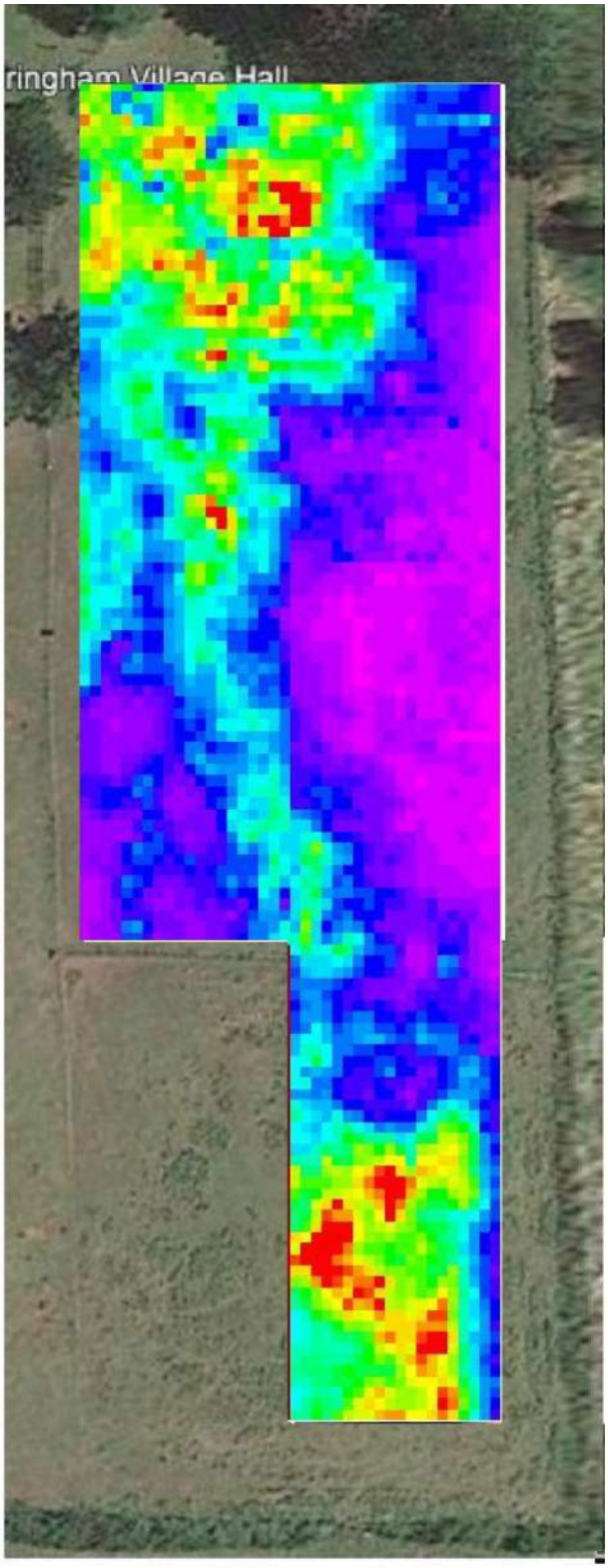


Plate 3 Colour on air photo

101.20 354.00

The above featured geophysics survey readings focus on the Hall Close landscape anomalies and the report detailing these findings will be included in the final Church Farm Historic Landscape Study Report.

DAY OF THE GEOPHYSICS SURVEY

GEOPHYSICS SURVEY
CHURCH FARM, HOVERINGHAM. NG14 7JH
SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2023
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Detectives in the field:
Aileen, Peter, Tim, Jenson, Steve, Richard and Catherine

It has been seven months since the initial telephone conversation with George on the 18th February, 2023.

So, it was a great feeling of success as we left the field at the end of the geophysical survey on Church Field at Hoveringham this afternoon.

It took seven of us seven hours to complete the survey.

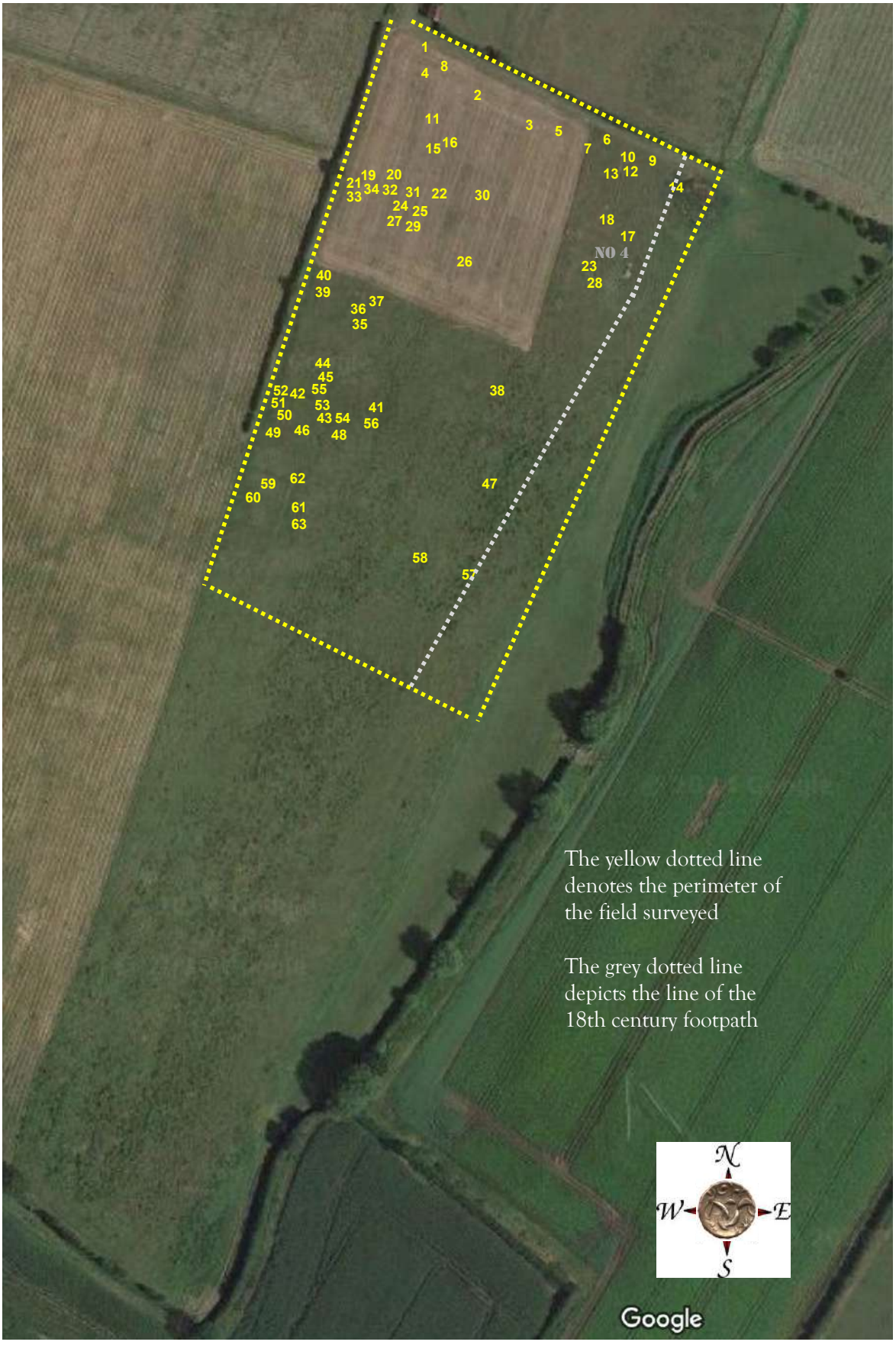
It was a hard day on the field, and there were some weary legs and aching bones out there, especially once we hit 3:00 pm, with one grid section to go. There were also lots of happy faces and at the end of the day, that's what it is all about.

Once Aileen and Peter have completed their survey report, we will arrange a meeting with George and Joyce to share our findings and to explore options for the next phase of the investigation.

Image left, from left to right, Tim, Aileen, Richard, Peter and Catherine. Catherine can be seen practicing the end of grid section happy dance.

FIELD SURVEY FINDS LOCATION MAP & FINDS LOG
MAIDEN CROFTS FIELD SK 697 463

Map featured below, showing the find locations of artefacts found during the SK 697 463 Field Survey at Church Farm, Hoveringham, Nottinghamshire, during March & April 2024.



Church Farm Historic Landscape Study - Field Survey, Maiden Crofts Field SK 697 463
Palaeolithic 800,000 BC to 10,000 BC No artefacts from this period were recorded
Mesolithic 10,000 BC to 4,000 BC No artefacts from this period were recorded
Neolithic 4,000 BC to 2,350 BC No artefacts from this period were recorded
Bronze Age 2,350 BC to 800 BC No artefacts from this period were recorded
Iron Age 800 BC to AD 43 No artefacts from this period were recorded
Roman AD 43 - 410 No artefacts from this period were recorded
Early Medieval 410 - 1066 No artefacts from this period were recorded

Medieval 1066 - 1485

Ref.	Artefact/Coin	Size/Weight	Era/Date
6	Strap/Belt Suspension Mount	3.0gms; 17.7 x 16.2 x 3.2mm	c. 13th-14th Century
1	Multi Purpose Copper Alloy Ring	2.7gms; 22.3mm D	c. 13th-16th Century
18	Multi Purpose Copper Alloy Ring	3.6gms; 26.9mm D	c. 13th-16th Century

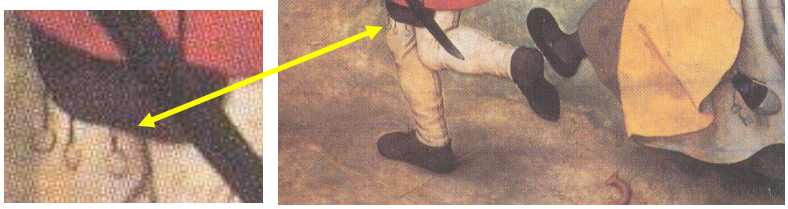
There were 3 artefacts that can arguably be assigned to the medieval period. Interestingly, all of these artefacts were created to suspend items for ease of access, such as knives or purses. Although the multi purpose copper alloy rings could have been in use during the 16th century, we are leaning towards an earlier timeline because of their fairly close proximity to the strap/belt suspension mount.

Multi Purpose Copper Alloy Ring
3.6gms; 26.9mm D
c. 13th-16th Century

Strap/Belt Suspension Mount
3.0gms; 17.7 x 16.2 x 3.2mm
c. 13th-14th Century

Multi Purpose Copper Alloy Ring
2.7gms; 22.3mm D
c. 13th-16th Century

These rings had many uses over many hundred's of years, from suspending items such as purses or knives from belts, acting as strap/harness connectors, through to becoming a buckle plate accessory.



Two characters from Bruegel's painting The Peasant Dance 1568
Note the position of the rings

Post Medieval 1485 - 1900

Ref.	Artefact/Coin	Size/Weight	Era/Date
28	Crotal Bell Fragment	INCOMPLETE	c. 16th - 17th Century
41	**WILLIAM III** Copper Halfpenny	8.1gms; 27.3mm D	c. 1695 - 1701
9	**GEORGE II** Halfpenny - Worn Coin	5.9gms; 26.6mm D	c. 1729 - 1745
44	**GEORGE II** Halfpenny	6.1gms; 27.1mm D	c. 1729 - 1745
45	**GEORGE III** Cartwheel Penny - Second Issue, Soho Mint	24.8gms; 35.5mm D	1797
48	**GEORGE III** Cartwheel Penny - Second Issue, Soho Mint	24.5gms; 35.3mm D	1797
15	**GEORGE III** Halfpenny - Third Issue, Soho Mint, Birmingham	11.4gms; 30.2mm D	1799
4	Tombac Button	2.4gms; 17.9mm D	c. 18th Century
27	Worn Coin Halfpenny	5.3gms; 25.5mm D	c. 18th Century
43	Worn Coin Halfpenny	4.8gms; 27.7mm D	c. 18th Century
46	Worn Coin Halfpenny	2.3gms; 25.1mm D	c. 18th Century
3	Buckle - Boot or Garter	2.0gms; 22.4mm x 19.5mm	c. 18th to 19th Century
19	Lead Curtain or Dress Hem Weight	5.5gms; 18.2mm D	c. 18th to early 20th Century
54	Lead Curtain or Dress Hem Weight	18.6gms; 28.6mm D	c. 18th to early 20th Century
5	Copper Alloy Barrel Lock Key	25.9gms; 52.8mm L x 31.1mm	c. 18th - 19th Century
7	Copper Alloy Barrel Lock Key	34.1gms; 42.3mm L x 41.6mm	c. 18th - 19th Century
30	Crotal Bell Fragment	INCOMPLETE	c. 18th - 19th Century
12	Clock Key	8.7gms; 38.7mm L x 31.7mm	c. 18th to early 20th Century
13	Rim from a Toy Lead Bowl	INCOMPLETE	c. 18th - 20th Century
58	Crotal Bell Fragment	INCOMPLETE	c. 18th - 19th Century
20	ASSEMBLAGE - late 18th to early 20th Century	ASSEMBLAGE	c. Late 18th to early 20th Century
16	**GEORGE III** Penny - Fourth Issue, Soho Mint, Birmingham	15.5gms; 33.4mm D	1806 - 1807
52	FORGERY - **GEORGE III** Shilling	3.7gms; 22.9mm D	c. 1816 - 1820
59	VICTORIA Farthing	4.2gms; 21.4mm D	c. 1838 - 1859
50	**VICTORIA** Shilling - Young Head	4.5gms; 23.0mm D	c. 1838 - 1887
35	**VICTORIA** Halfpenny	4.9gms; 25.2mm D	c. 1861
21	**VICTORIA** Farthing	2.5gms; 20.0mm D	1886
2	VICTORIA - **Advertising Medallion**, Barratt & Co	2.1gms; 21.3mm D	1891
11	Silver Brooch - Birmingham Makers Mark	0.9gms; 26.3mm x 14.1mm	1895
42	TOKEN - Ram Hotel, Newark; 6p	3.4gms; 22.7mm D	c. 19th Century
56	Medallion	2.9gms; 20.0mm D	c. 19th Century
10	Stay Busk from a corset	1.0gms; 18.9mm x 12.1mm	c. 19th - 20th Century
39	Lead Bag Seal	7.4gms; 14.9mm x 5.8mm	c. 19th to early 20th Century
60	Lead Bag Seal	11.7gms; 20.4mm D x 3.9mm	c. 19th to early 20th Century
53	Lead Toys	ASSEMBLAGE	c. 19th to early 20th Century
55	Midland Railway Button	2.2gms; 22.6mm D	c. Late 19th to early 20th Century

There were 33 artefacts and 2 assemblages that can arguably be assigned to the post medieval period.

The evidence suggests that the field saw lots of human activity during the 18th and the 19th century.

WILLIAM III
Halfpenny
8.1gms; 27.3mm D
c. 1695-1701

WILLIAM III
r. 1694-1702

GEORGE II
Halfpenny - Worn Coin
5.9gms; 26.6mm D
c. 1729-1745

GEORGE II
r. 1727-1760

GEORGE II
Halfpenny
6.1gms; 27.1mm D
c. 1729-1745

GEORGE III
Cartwheel Penny
Second Issue, Soho Mint, Birmingham
24.8gms; 35.5mm D
1797

GEORGE III
r. 1760-1820

GEORGE III
Cartwheel Penny
Second Issue, Soho Mint, Birmingham
24.5gms; 35.3mm D
1797

GEORGE III
Halfpenny
Third Issue, Soho Mint, Birmingham
11.4gms; 30.2mm D
1799

GEORGE III
Penny
Fourth Issue, Soho Mint, Birmingham
15.5gms; 33.4mm D
1806-1807

FORGERY - GEORGE III
3.7gms; 22.9mm D
c. 1816-1820

GEORGE III FORGERIES

Forgery was very big business during the reign of George III (1760 - 1820). With shortages of small change and of most silver denominations, there was a massive demand for coins, and the forgers just filled this void. Arguably, the forgers probably made it possible for smaller transactions to take place and provided a well needed service, although at the expense of the treasury! It is thought that during certain times of the reign a very high proportion of the coins in your pocket were probably not genuine.

SOURCE: www.predecimal.com

Worn Coin
Halfpenny
5.3gms; 25.5mm D
c. 18th Century

Worn Coin
Halfpenny
4.8gms; 27.7mm D
c. 18th Century

Worn Coin
Halfpenny
2.3gms; 25.1mm D
c. 18th Century

An official examination of coins in circulation in 1786 confirmed that the nation's coinage was in a shocking state; badly worn, barely legible, underweight and mostly fake. Only about eight per cent of 'halfpennies' in circulation were genuine. Genuine coins were often hoarded, and the fakes spent first, thereby proving Gresham's Law that "bad money drives out good".

Wear and tear over decades meant that smaller denominations were often so worn that it was impossible to discern the image that had once appeared on it. Some dated back to the reign of William III (1650 –1702) and had been allowed to circulate for a century.

The Royal Mint responded to the crisis by effectively shutting down. It produced no copper coins at all between 1775 and 1821. A small batch of silver shillings and sixpences were struck in 1787, but only because the Bank of England wanted to sell them to collectors looking for Christmas and birthday gifts. It was left to others to propose a solution to the problem.

SOURCE: The Coins & History Foundation

Worn by animals (cattle, sheep, horses) and humans, bells are one of a very small number of artefacts that have been virtually in continuous production for over 4000 years. The earliest known examples were made in China before 2000 BC, and they were familiar everyday objects to the ancient Indians, Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. They have served a number of purposes, from ritual, magical and religious, to musical, signalling and warning. Apart from their functional role, bells have served as decorative devices throughout the ages, and continue to be popular as harness embellishments to the present day. Their longevity is reflected by the fact that the Guinness Book of Records lists the Whitechapel Bell Foundry as Britain's oldest manufacturing company, having been established in 1570, or possibly even earlier. Sadly, the last bell to be cast at the foundry was on 22 March 2017.

The earliest bells were cup-shaped and were struck externally with a separate striker, but it was not long before the attached internal clapper was invented, and the two types have co-existed ever since. The crotal bell was developed somewhat later. It differs from the preceding types in that its clapper is loose and contained within an enclosed chamber with perforations to allow transmission of the sound.

It is worth mentioning that, depending on context, sleigh bells, jingle bells, pellet bells, hawk bells and rumbler bells are all terms used to describe bells of the crotal type. Technically they are regarded as rattles, rather than true bells.

SOURCE: *UKDFD*

[The Past - The London Bell Foundry]

THE LONDON BELL FOUNDRY was set up by those who have fought since 2016 to save the historic Whitechapel Bell Foundry which has sat empty since its closure and is now for sale.

We seek to acquire the Grade II* listed building as a permanent home for the London Bell Foundry. The judgement of the Secretary of State's Public Inquiry into the future of the foundry in 2020 obligates the owner to ensure foundry activity continues at this site.

We want to open it as a fully-working foundry, re-establishing the world's most famous bell foundry that operated in Whitechapel for five hundred years from the reign of Elizabeth I to the reign of Elizabeth II.

THE LONDON BELL FOUNDRY

CROTAL BELL FRAGMENT
INCOMPLETE
c. 16th-17th Century

CROTAL BELL FRAGMENT
INCOMPLETE
c. 18th-19th Century

CROTAL BELL FRAGMENT
INCOMPLETE
c. 18th-19th Century

BOOT or GARTER BUCKLE
2.0gms; 22.4mm x 19.5mm
c. 18th to 19th Century

TOMBAC BUTTON
2.4gms; 17.9mm D
c. 18th Century

LEAD CURTAIN or DRESS HEM WEIGHT
5.5gms; 18.2mm D
c. 18th to early 20th Century

LEAD CURTAIN or DRESS HEM WEIGHT
18.6gms; 28.6mm D
c. 18th to early 20th Century

LEAD CURTAIN or DRESS HEM WEIGHT

Sometimes, what seems to be isn't always what it turns out to be. In this case of mistaken identity, we allowed our initial assumption to cloud our better judgment. We failed to recognize the value of further investigation before announcing our verdict, based on nothing more than a visual association with what at first sight, appeared to be a button. Over the years, we have found many of these lead objects out on the fields.

They are in fact, lead weights used to weigh down the hems of both curtains and dresses. Historically, they go back to at least the 18th century and they are still made for the same purpose today.

It would appear that if a good idea works well, it will keep on being used for a very long time.

VICTORIA
Shilling
4.5gms; 23.0mm D
c. 1838-1887

VICTORIA
Farthing
4.2gms; 21.4mm D
c. 1838-1859

VICTORIA
Halfpenny
4.9gms; 25.2mm D
c. 1861

VICTORIA
r. 1837-1901

VICTORIA
Farthing
2.5gms; 20.0mm D
1886

Date identified from letter v on the hallmark

SILVER BROOCH
Birmingham Mint 1895

BARREL LOCK KEY
25.9gms; 52.8mm L x 31.1mm
c. 18th-19th Century

BARREL LOCK KEY
34.1gms; 42.3mm L x 41.6mm
c. 18th-19th Century

Barrel Tap Keys appear to have become popular from the early part of the 18th century and remained in use well into the late 19th century.

The key would have been used in the same way as a fixed handle to allow liquid to flow from a barrel. They were created to ensure that only a designated key holder could operate the barrel lock, unless, of course, another trusted individual had been provided with an identical key.

Busy, well-attended outside activities contributed to the loss of these keys such as fairs, markets, horse racing and other, sometimes illegal, activities of the day; perhaps, even during the partaking of the spa waters.

CLOCK KEY
8.7gms; 38.7mm L x 31.7mm
c. 18th to early 20th Century

STAY BUSK FROM A CORSET
1.0gms; 18.9mm x 12.1mm
c. 19th-20th Century

Sometimes, we find objects that leave us completely flummoxed. The corset busk fastening loop was one of those little mysteries that escaped identification for many years until we came across one in Michael J Cuddeford's 1993 edition of Identifying Metallic Small Finds. Michael described them as stay busks that were used to secure the steel stays on corsets.

A corset busk, or stay busk, is a solid rod of wood, bone or metal which is inserted into the front panel of a corset to keep the fabric tightly in position over the tummy. They were used to shape the torso into the fashionable silhouette of the day.

Flat wooden, bone or metal busks were used in closed front corsetry up until the mid-19th century when the Victorians invented the split busk or two-part busk. This enabled women with the liberating experience of being able to put on their own corsets without assistance. Women who did not have the financial means to have a maid were now in a position to enter the world of corset-shaped figures, and as a result, the demand for corsetry grew with factories springing up all over the world to support this demand.

There are many types of split busks all of which originate from this period in Victorian history.
It never ceases to amaze us, how the smallest unassuming little objects can in their own right, begin to tell us so many fabulous stories.

ASSEMBLAGE of Artefacts
c. Late 18th to early 20th Century

Lead Toys Miniature people and animal toys have been around since the earliest civilisations, but were first made as ornaments rather than toys. However, since medieval times, both children and adults have played with toys soldiers and assembled complex battle scenes. Lead toy soldiers and other figures were very popular.

They were first made in moulds in Germany during the 18th Century. Lead was used as it was a cheap an widely available metal, and people were not aware of it being a poisonous metal. Later tin was used which is not as soft and breakable as lead.

ASSEMBLAGE of LEAD TOYS
c. 19th to early 20th Century

TOY LEAD BOWL
INCOMPLETE
c. 18th-20th Century

TOKEN
RAM HOTEL, NEWARK
Value 6p
3.4gms; 22.7mm D
c. 19th Century

ADVERTISING MEDALLION
Barratt & Co
2.1gms; 21.3mm D
1891

Barratt & Co is a British Confectionery Company that was founded in London in 1848; now part of Tangerine Confectionery.

MEDALLION
2.9gms; 20.0mm D
c. 19th Century

Lead seals used to close bags of seed or fertilizer (including guano)

LEAD BAG SEAL
7.4gms; 14.9mm x 5.8mm
c. 19th to early 20th Century

LEAD BAG SEAL
11.7gms; 20.4mm D x 3.9mm
c. 19th to early 20th Century

MIDLAND RAILWAY BUTTON
2.2gms; 22.6mm D
c. Late 19th to early 20th Century

Do we have someone living in Hoveringham who used to work for the Midland Railway company?

Modern 1900 to Present Day			
Ref.	Artefact/Coin	Size/Weight	Era/Date
51	**GEORGE V** Farthing	2.2gms; 19.7mm D	c. 1911 - 1936
62	**GEORGE V** Halfpenny	4.9gms; 25.2mm D	c. 1915 - 1916
36	**GEORGE V** Threepence	1.4gms; 16.1mm D	1918
63	303 Bullet Casing	Head Cap 13.1mm D; Casing 11.1mm	1942
33	**GEORGE VI** Sixpence	2.6gms; 18.9mm D	1951
57	**GEORGE VI** Farthing	2.6gms; 19.5mm D	c. 1937 - 1952

There were 7 artefacts found on the field that bring us up to the present day. Interestingly, there were no coins found on the field representing the reign of Elizabeth II.

GEORGE V
Farthing
c. 1911-1936

GEORGE V
r. 1910-1936

GEORGE V
Halfpenny
c. 1915-1916

GEORGE V
Threepence
1918

Post-box, Hoveringham (ref NG14 318) George V wall box mounted in its own brick pillar. This could well be a replacement location following the closure of the local Post Office. Behind is Chapel Field, the village Recreation Ground

SOURCE - commons.wikimedia.org

GEORGE VI
Sixpence
1951

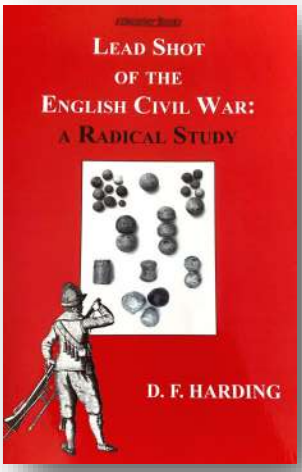
GEORGE VI
Farthing
c. 1937-1952

303 BULLET CASING
1942

Church Farm Historic Landscape Study - Field Survey, Maiden Crofts Field SK 697 463			
Lead Projectiles, Musket Balls & Lead Shot 1550 to early 19th Century			
Ref.	Artefact/Coin	Size/Weight	Era/Date
23	Possible Musket Ball	25.8gms; 16.6mm D	c.1550 to early 19th Century

There was one artefact that can be arguably identified as an object created to be fired from a gun. These lead balls are extremely difficult to date with any precision unless they are found in some form of historical context.

They have been recorded for further consideration against the find locations of related artefacts from the neighbouring fields. Once the block of fields have all been surveyed, we will be in a more informed position to be able to make a judgement on the date and purpose of these deadly lead projectiles.



Much of what we know about the lead projectiles we are recording during the Mill Farm historic landscape study, is informed by the masterly piece of work pictured left, written by David Harding.

At the core of David's book is an intensive analysis of 1,800 projectiles that were fired in practice in a Northamptonshire deer park during the English Civil Wars of 1642-1651.

Possible Musket Ball
25.8gms; 16.6mm D
c. 1550 to early 19th Century

Musket Ball and Lead Shot Timeline c. 1550 to early 19th Century

A wide dating range has been applied to the majority of the musket balls and lead shot recovered during the field survey activities. Musket balls & lead shot were used for military, hunting and sporting activities for many years, therefore, it is extremely difficult to narrow down a specific timeline without conclusive documentation (research) and a set of associated artefacts or coins to help date them.

The lead projectiles and associated lead artefacts yet to be identified will be made available to our fellow firearms and ammunition experts to see if they can help us narrow down the timeline. It is envisaged that this will inform our understanding of the activities that these lead artefacts were involved in, and perhaps, something about the people who used them.

Source: Independent - Sunday 5 April 2015

The skeleton of a soldier killed in the Battle of Waterloo (Sunday, 18 June 1815).

Military historian Gareth Glover believes the soldier to be Friedrich Brandt, 23, a private in the King's German Legion of George III, who was killed by a musket ball that was still lodged between his ribs when he was found in 2012.

As you can see, musket balls remained in use long after the English Civil War (1642–1651).

**Research conducted by Sean Gallagher - January 2019*

Church Farm Historic Landscape Study - Field Survey, Maiden Crofts Field SK 697 463			
To be Identified & Dated			
Ref.	Artefact/Coin	Size/Weight	Era/Date
LEAD			
8	Lead Artefact	4.3gms; 14.5mm D x 3.0mm	To be Identified & Dated
17	Lead Weight	49.8gms; 26.9mm x 22.0mm	To be Dated
24	Lead Artefact	39.5gms; 37.5mm D x 6.1mm	To be Identified & Dated
25	Triangular Shaped Lead Weight	33.1gms; 18.8mm x 25.3mm x 11.4mm	To be Identified & Dated
26	Lead Weight	196.0gms; 52.4mm L x 24.3mm	To be Identified & Dated
29	Lead Weight - Possibly a Net Weight	20.7gms; 21.1mm D x 8.8mm	To be Identified & Dated
31	Lead Weight	5.4gms; 21.8mm D x 11.8mm x 3.0mm	To be Identified & Dated
32	Lead Weight	27.4gms; 22.4mm D x 9.3mm	To be Identified & Dated
37	Lead Weight - Possibly a Net Weight	65.2gms; 25.7mm L x 26.4mm	To be Identified & Dated
38	Lead Weight or Gaming Piece	9.9gms; 13.9mm x 8.3mm	To be Identified & Dated
40	Cone Shaped Lead Artefact	19.5gms; 26.7mm x 15.3mm	To be Identified & Dated
47	Cone Shaped Lead Weight hole through centre	43.9gms; 20.1mm x 20.0mm	To be Identified & Dated
49	Lead Weight	76.8gms; 26.4mm x 22.5mm	To be Identified & Dated
Pieces of lead bearing no identification marks, functional design features or any other way of forming an opinion in regard to their use or purpose make them a difficult group of artefacts to date with any reliable certainty. Knowing that lead was one of the earliest metals discovered by the human race and was in use by 3000 B.C. tells us that objects made of this material have been with us for some considerable time.			
Miscellaneous Collection of Artefacts (to be identified and dated)			
14	Possible Multi Purpose Ring	0.7gms; 21.7mm D	To be Identified & Dated
22	Coin or Token	1.1gms; 15.8mm D	To be Identified & Dated
34	Badge	3.6gms; 23.6mm D	To be Identified & Dated
61	Artefact with a Hint of Gold	2.6gms; 19.8mm x 14.7mm	To be Identified & Dated
POTTERY			
The field survey did not involve a detailed field walking examination of the field. No pottery sherds were recorded			

There were 17 artefacts that presented us with an identification and dating challenge. Lead was the predominant material of uncertainty, with lead weights being loosely classified on 10 occasions. One artefact in particular caught our attention (ref 25), as many of these triangular shaped lead weights have been recorded along the line of the Grantham Canal. Suggesting an association with the night soil deposits arriving on to the land via the canal barges during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Perhaps, due to Hoveringham's proximity to the River Trent, the association with water and fishing, might offer another line of investigation?

To be Identified & Dated

To be Identified & Dated

To be Identified & Dated

To be Identified & Dated

Metal detecting is something that anyone is lawfully entitled to do. However, you cannot trespass to do it. You need permission from the landowner. The best practice is to ensure that the Portable Antiquities Scheme ("PAS") Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales (2017) ("Code of Practice") is followed.

Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales (2017) (finds.org.uk)

Portable Antiquities Scheme
www.finds.org.uk

The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a voluntary programme run by the United Kingdom government to record the increasing numbers of small finds of archaeological interest found by members of the public. The scheme started in 1997 and now covers most of England and Wales. Finds are published at https://finds.org.uk

DETECTIVES IN THE FIELD

A PICTURE IS WORTH A thousand WORDS

Tim pictured above, and Steve pictured right, taking a little time out for survey reflections...

Artefact Recording Overview

Finds Recorded 63; Identified 46 (73%); Finds Unidentified 17 (27%)

George & Joyce kindly presented us with a window of opportunity for a full field survey. We were able to complete the survey in 24 hours. This included 6 Field Detectives on site over 5 visits to the field.

Summary

On Friday 12th April 2024, The Field Detectives concluded their survey on Maiden Crofts Field. We had set out to see if we could evidence anything that might help us to understand the purpose of the stone construction on the neighbouring 'Hall Close' field.

Maiden Crofts Field is situated above the River Trent flood plain, south of Hall Close, and it features an 18th-century footpath that once traversed two stiles.

The earliest dateable artefact was a c. 13th-14th century suspension mount, and although the field didn't produce a significant amount of medieval artefacts, it does prove that people were present on the land at that time.

The recent discovery of medieval pottery sherds during the neighbouring Hall Close excavation, further evidences this medieval association with the land at Hoveringham.

The intriguing picture emerging from the survey as shown on the field survey map (pg. 11), suggests that the main area of human activity on the Maiden Crofts field was towards the west edge of the field; running parallel with the modern-day hedge line.

This would suggest that the 18th-century footpath we set out to investigate was a short-lived route. There is no evidence to indicate that the footpath is ancient in origin.

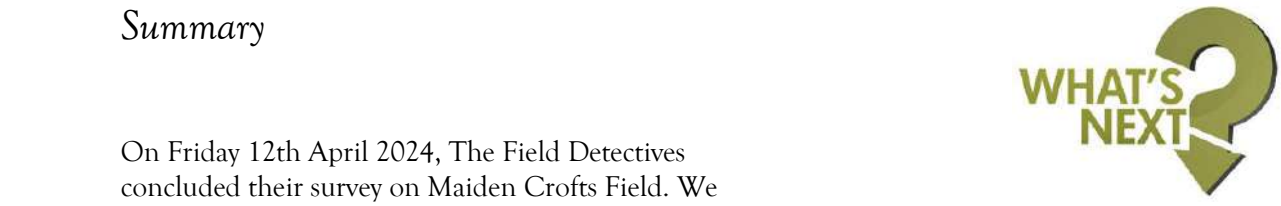
What we can say, with a high degree of certainty, is that the Maiden Crofts field saw plenty of human activity during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

Did the survey tell us any more about the mystery of the emerging stone-built construction on Hall Close?

Well, we do have evidence of medieval activity in close proximity to the site, albeit a very small piece of evidence, and we can confidently say that the footpath running through Hall Close and the Maiden's Croft field is not an ancient one.

All in all; this was a very productive field survey.

The Field Detectives
2024



We will be focusing on the Hall Close investigation and working through archival materials, to reveal the identity of the stone-built construction that has long since been forgotten.

George Allwood, the landowner, pictured above third from the left, telling the story of how he became aware that there was something in his paddock - 25.02.2023

To George, Joyce and family, for very kindly providing us with the opportunity to access the Church Farm fields in pursuit of our broader Historic Landscape Investigation. To our Heritage Sector Colleagues who continue to encourage, support and facilitate opportunities for closer working relationships.

Once again, to Steve Wells for capturing the imagery of the artefacts and coins so brilliantly. To Geoff, Tony & David for their excellent Lidar images, Geology advice, guidance and supporting information.

To our fellow Field Detective, friends and the many Hoveringham residents who have provided the warmest of welcomes.

The Field Detectives

Historic Landscape Studies

Who We Are & What We Do

The Field Detectives seek opportunities to survey fields that can tell us more about how our historic landscapes evolved - by sharing the stories that we uncover from our field survey activities, we help to inform a better understanding of how our historic landscapes evolved over the centuries. On completion of the field survey activities, a field survey report is produced that precisely records all of the associated survey finds (coins, artefacts, pottery etc.).

Once the field survey reports have been processed, the artefacts are curated as a landowner-held Historical Landscape Study Collection where they are safeguarded for further research and study. With landowner approval, a community presentation/display can then be arranged where the information is shared and an opportunity is provided for the local community to get involved in future research activities.

By submitting the completed field survey reports as an exact finds location record, and by working closely with our heritage sector colleagues, we are establishing a growing archive of landscape-focused historical studies. These context-recorded studies are held in trust by the respective landowners who act as heritage custodians, which in turn, safeguards a unique set of rich historical landscape investigations for further study and learning.

If you want to be the focus of our next investigation, give us a call - Every Field Tells a Story...

Mob: **07896 225 691** Tel: **0115 9377 318**
email: fielddetectives@talktalk.net website: www.the-field-detectives.com

Richard Pincott
Survey Director & Historic Landscape Detective

Catherine Pincott-Allen
Family Historian, Author & Historic Landscape Detective

Steve Wells
Finds Photographer, Treasurer & Historic Landscape Detective

Sophie Chell
Historic Landscape Detective

Brian Lovett
Farmer & Historic Landscape Detective

Julie Penaluna
Historic Landscape Detective

Alan & Sylvia Massey
Prehistory Consultants & Witch Bottle Experts

Jill Barlow
Historic Landscape Detective

John Barlow
Historic Landscape Detective

Tim & Jenson Elsworth
Historic Landscape Detectives

David Bate
Historic Landscape Detective

Cherry Bishop
Historic Landscape Detective

Barry Topliss
Historic Landscape Detective

Peter Ball
Historic Landscape Detective

Aileen Ball
Historic Landscape Detective

Roger Whitehead
Historic Landscape Detective

Jane Morris
Dowser & Historic Landscape Detective