



**CHURCH FARM
HOVERINGHAM
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
SK 699 465**



**FIELD SURVEY
REPORT 2024**

APPENDIX 1

BOTTOM CHURCH FIELD

CHURCH FARM HISTORIC LANDSCAPE STUDY
HOVERINGHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE



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Preface

On Friday 22nd March 2024, The Field Detectives began a survey on Bottom Church 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 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 the 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 image above, shows the raised plateau of the neighbouring Hall Close Field, looking upwards from Bottom Church Field

FIELD SURVEY METHODOLOGY

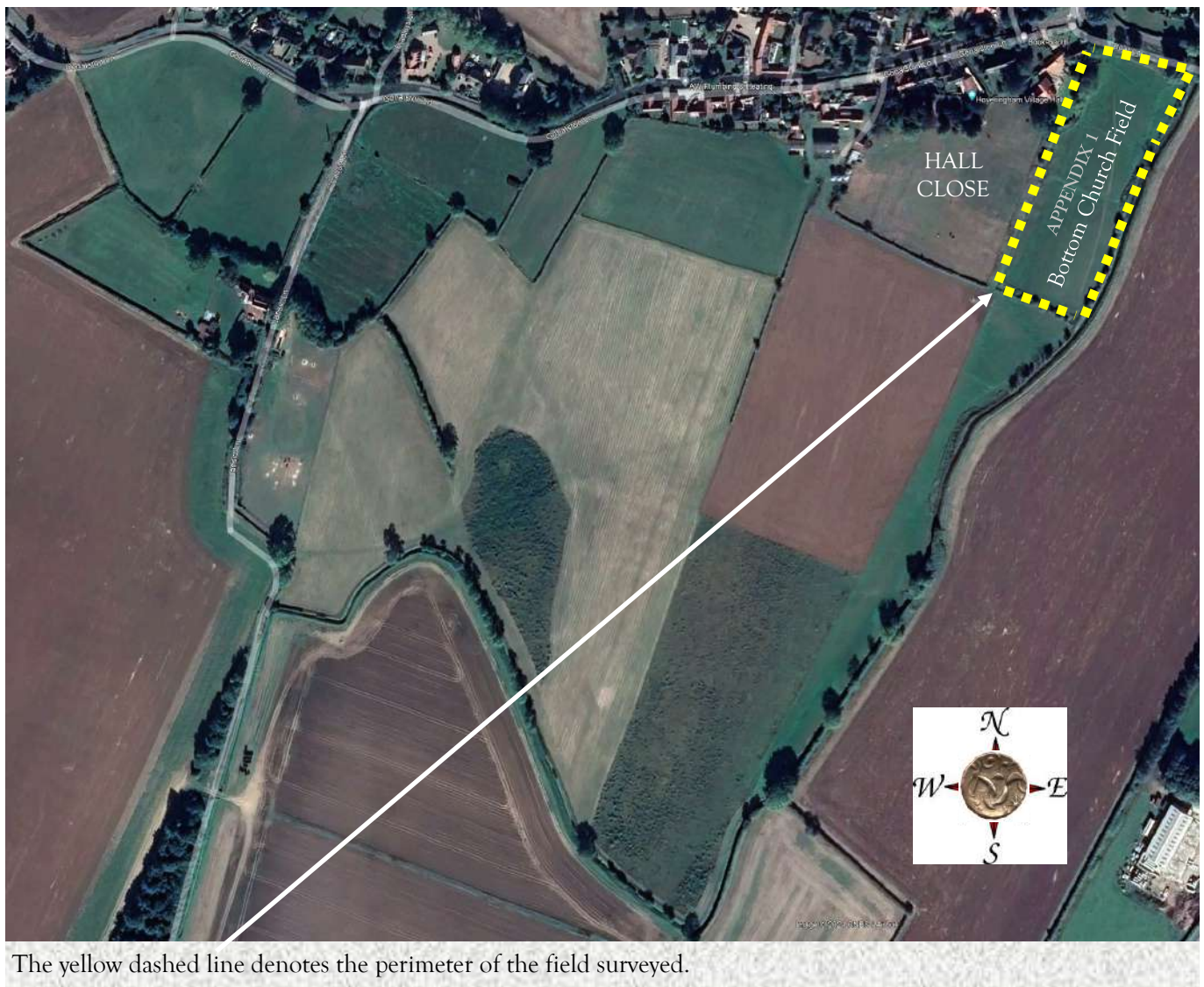
The Field Detectives are a group of enthusiasts who share a common interest in local history. Over the past twenty-five years, the group has sought the permission of local farmers and landowners to explore their fields for evidence of past historic activity using field-walking, metal detecting and, where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

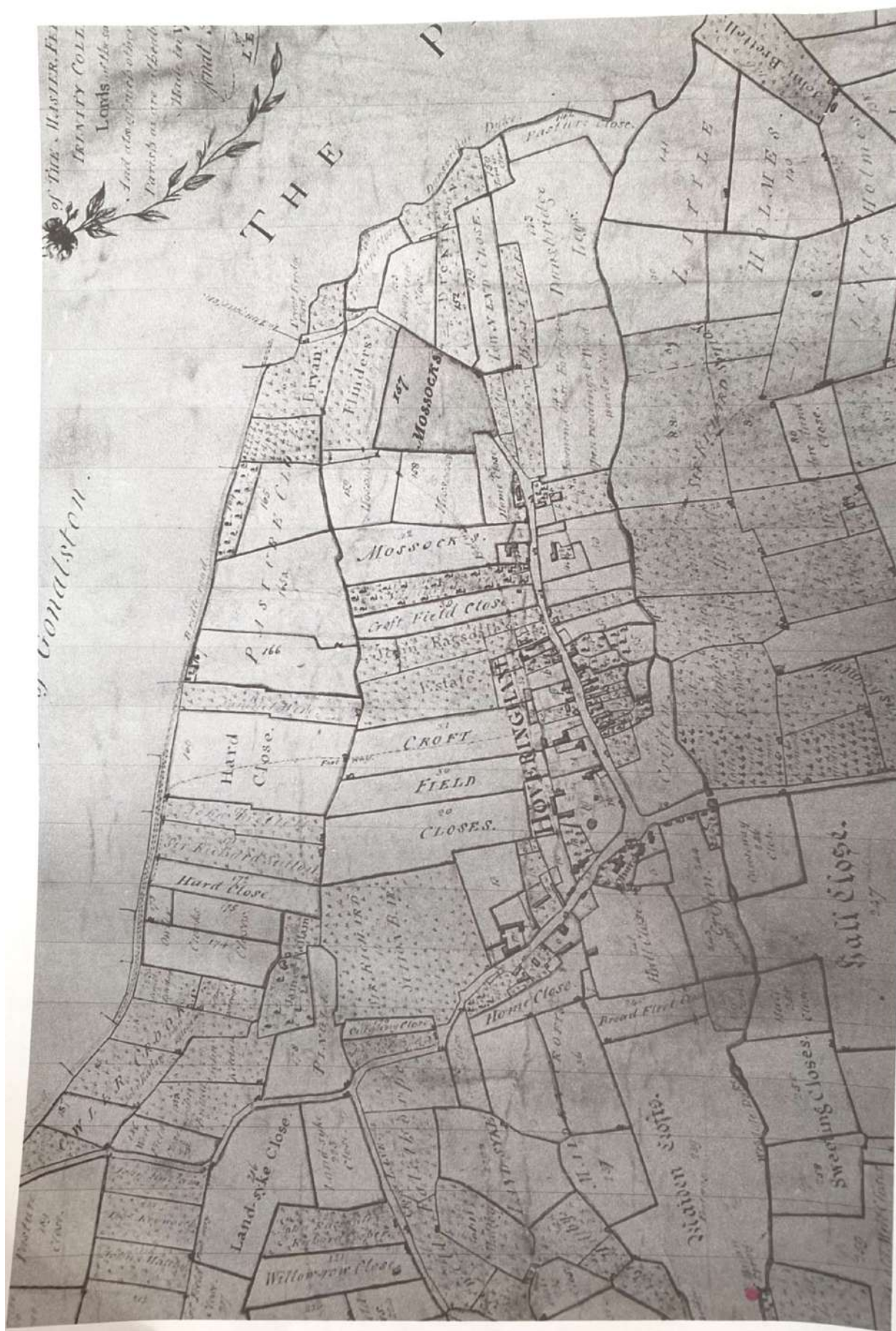
The finds were bagged, and their locations noted on-site; the finds were later cleaned and identified, the identification and location find number being written on the relevant finds identification card enclosed within the bag. Photographs of the grid area and the finds recovered were taken on-site,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

FIELD SURVEY OVERVIEW MAP



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

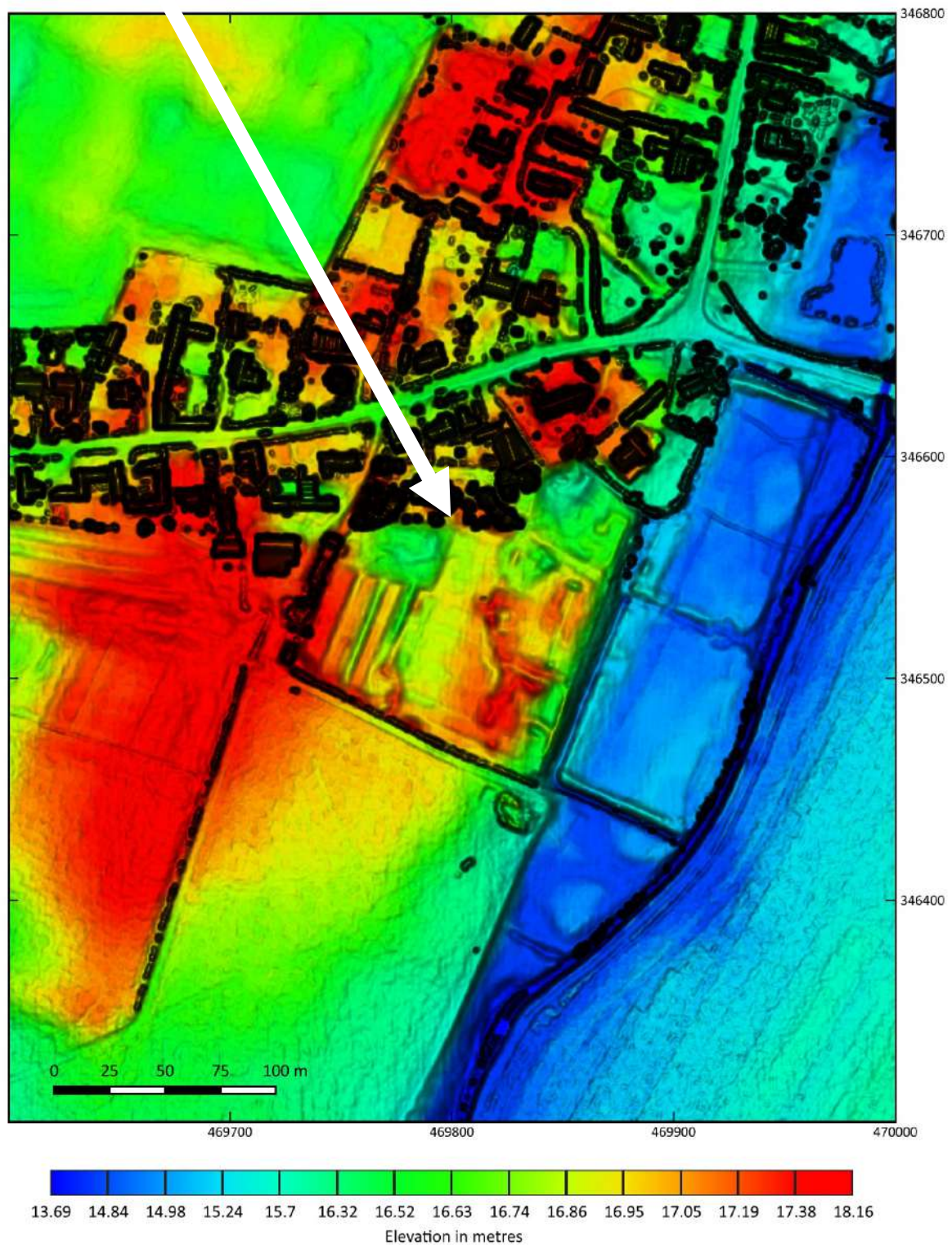
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE OVERVIEW



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

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

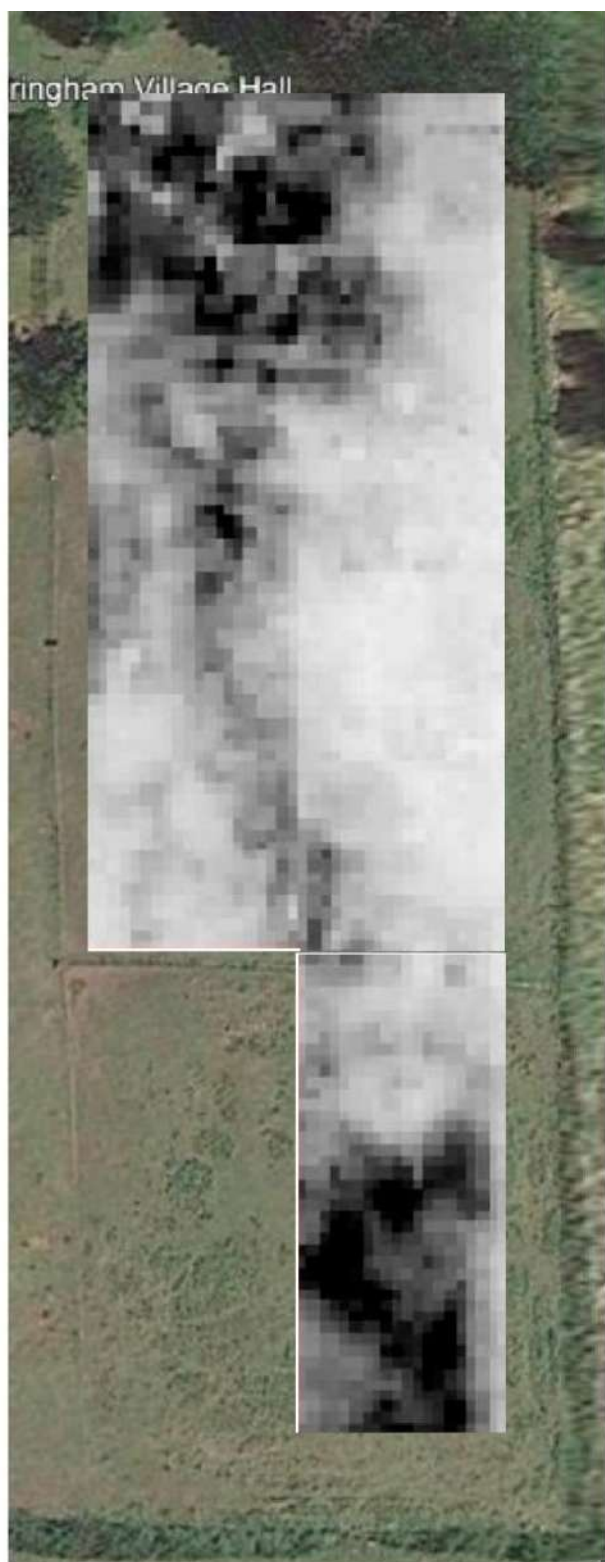


Plate 2 Raw Data on air photo

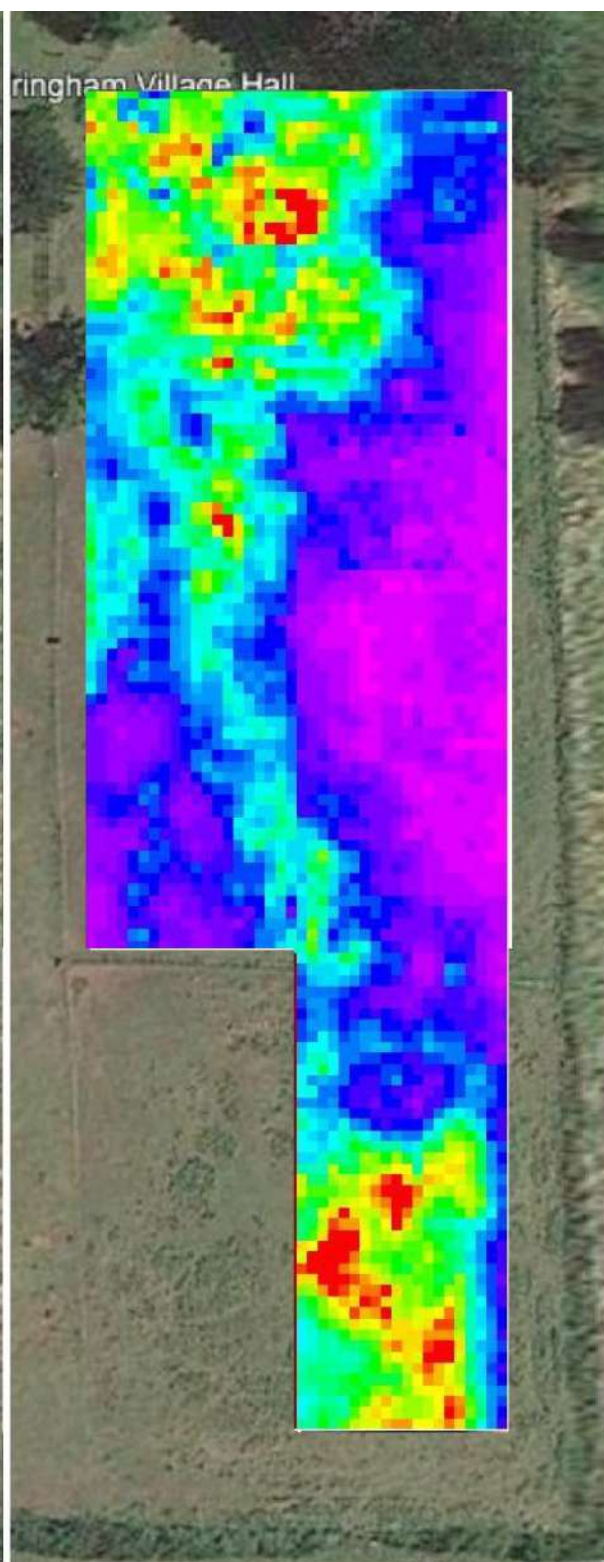


Plate 3 Colour on air photo



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.

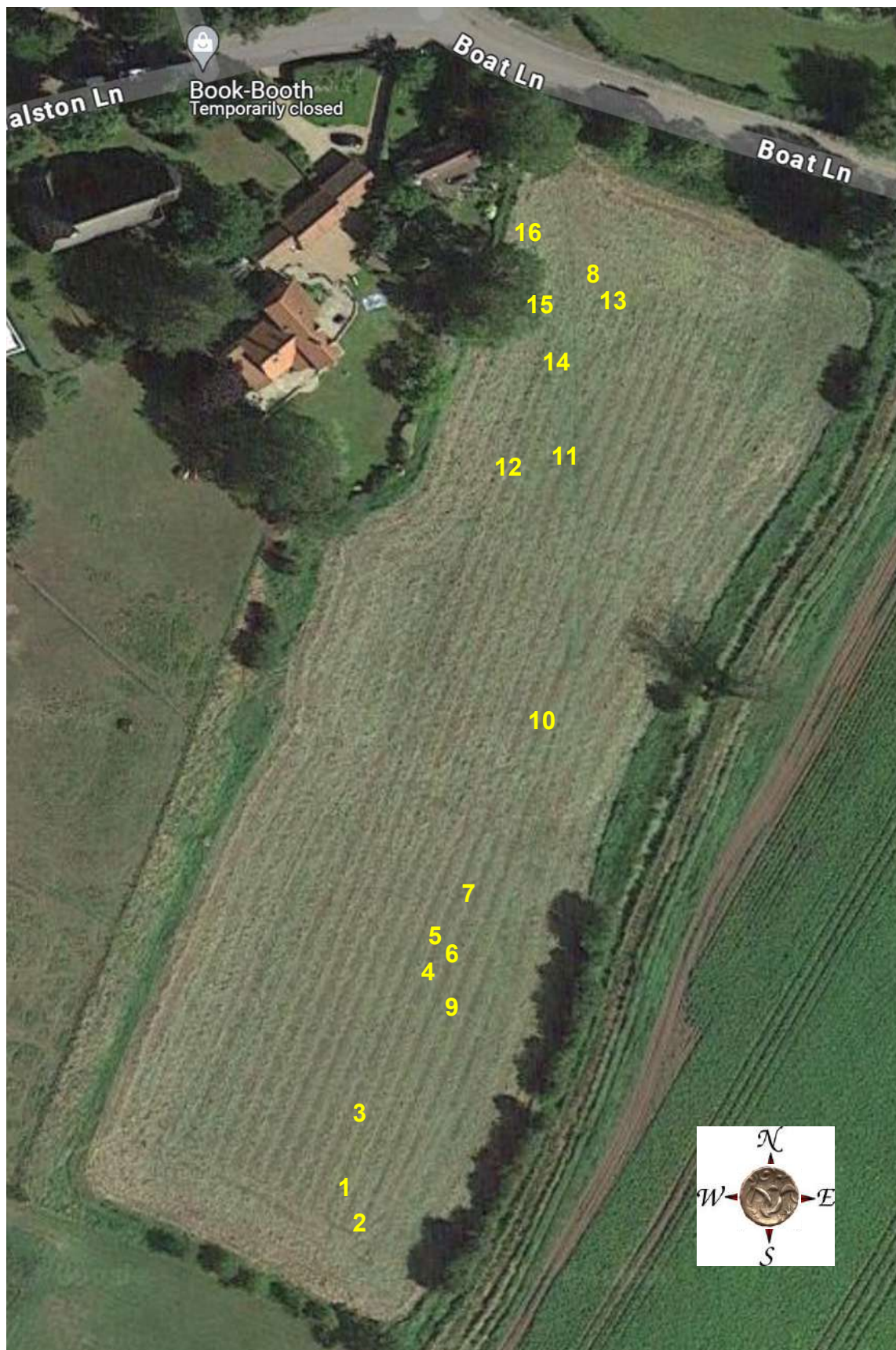


Image left, from left to right, Tim, Aileen, Richard, Peter and Catherine. Catherine can be seen practicing the end of grid section happy dance.

FIELD SURVEY FINDS LOCATION MAP & FINDS LOG

BOTTOM CHURCH FIELD SK 699 465

Map featured below, showing the find locations of artefacts found during the SK 699 465 Field Survey at Church Farm, Hoveringham, Nottinghamshire, during March 2024.



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 No artefacts from this period were recorded

Post Medieval 1485 - 1900

Ref.	Artefact/Coin	Size/Weight	Era/Date
4	Cast Copper Alloy Buckle	3.7gms; 30.5 x 21.4 x 2.5mm	c. 1500-1650
2	Extremely worn coin halfpenny size	4.5gms; 26.3mm D	c. 18th Century
12	Worn copper coin or token - extremely worn	3.4gms; 25.8mm D	c. 18th Century
13	Worn coin - shilling size	2.0gms; 24.6mm D	c. 18th Century
14	Worn copper coin halfpenny size	5.7gms; 26.7mm D	c. 18th Century
9	Button	2.9gms; 21.2mm D	c. 18th to early 19th Century
15	Worn coin or token	5.5gms; 24.7mm D	c. late 18th to 19th Century
7	Livery Button	4.5gms; 27.7mm x 6.7mm	c. 19th Century

There were 8 artefacts that can be reliably assigned to the post medieval period. The pocket watch arguably, could have been lost after 1900. The most striking feature of the 5 coins (or tokens), is that they were all extremely worn.



Buckle
Cast Copper Alloy
3.7gms; 30.5 x 21.4 x 2.5mm
c. 1500-1650



The buckle featured in the image above, is far more elaborate than the Bottom Church Field one, but it does provide an idea regarding how it might have been used all those years ago



Extremely Worn Coin - halfpenny size
4.5gms; 26.3mm D
c. 18th Century



Worn Copper Coin or Token
3.4gms; 25.8mm D
c. 18th Century



Worn Copper Coin
5.7gms; 26.7mm D
c. 18th Century



Worn Copper Coin or Token
5.5gms; 24.7mm D
c. Late 18th to 19th Century



Worn Coin - Shilling Size
2.0gms; 24.6mm 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



Button
2.9gms; 21.2mm D
c. 18th to early 19th Century



Livery Button
4.5gms; 27.7mm x 6.7mm D
c. 19th Century

The following account on Livery Buttons was found on the Colchester Metal Detecting website:

The word livery comes from the French livree meaning to liberate or bestow. It was used to describe giving to retainers, who provided domestic service to the nobles and aristocrats. It came to mean the suit of clothes worn by menservants in the colours of the master who provides it and for whom they work. So from the stable boy through the page boys, each would wear his master's livery. The master wouldn't wear the livery, but he might have cufflinks or a ring using the same symbol.

Many of the crest used on livery buttons descended from the crest which knights wore on top of their helmets. It enabled friend and foe to recognize each other in battle.

Identifying livery buttons can be difficult and almost impossible. When matching buttons with pictures, everything must be exact. Often the crest is shared by many families.

The Bottom Church Field survey yielded two buttons, and they were found more or less on the line of the modern-day public footpath. The lack of buttons recovered during the survey suggests that they were rare losses, which is good news. The many buttons we have found on fields that were heavily spread with night soil, make identifying those particular livery buttons extremely difficult because, by and large, they will have arrived onto the land via the Nottingham City privies; making a local association rather difficult.

This might not be the case with this livery button. There is a good chance that the crest on the button will have an association with the local area. All we have to do is examine the crest and research the family association with Hoveringham or one of the nearby villages (fingers crossed).

Modern 1900 to Present Day

Ref.	Artefact/Coin	Size/Weight	Era/Date
10	Pocket Watch - steel casing, heavily corroded	61.2gms; 50.5mm D x 10.3mm	c. Late 19th to mid 20th Century
5	303 Bullet and Casing	22.9gms; 77.0mm L	c.1910-1946
6	303 Bullet Casing	INCOMPLETE	c.1910-1946
3	GEORGE VI One Shilling	5.1gms; 22.6mm D	1949
16	ELIZABETH II Twenty Pence	5.0gms; 21.2mm D	2002
1	ELIZABETH II One Pound	9.4gms; 22.1mm D	2005
8	Animal Identity Tag	6.3gms; 26.2mm D	Modern Day
11	Dog Whistle	10.8gms; 57.5mm L 8.8mm D	Modern Day



Pocket Watch
61.2gms; 50.5mm D
c. Late 19th to mid 20th Century

Pocket watches ceased to be part of a professional dress around 1943. It was at this time that the British Royal Navy gave their sailors Waltham pocket watches with 9-jewel movements, black dials and radium-coated numbers for night-time viewing. The Waltham company also supplied watches to the Canadian military. Military contracts kept manufacturers producing pocket watches during this time.

For a few years in the 1970s and 1980s, pocket watches returned to style as men began taking a greater interest in their dress. Some men took to placing a timepiece in the vest pocket of their suit and as a result, some watch manufacturers began producing pocket watches once again.

Up until the beginning of the 20th century, the pocket watch was the premier timepiece on the market.



303 Bullet Casing
22.9gms; 77.0mm L
c. 1910-1946



303 Bullet & Casing
22.9gms; 77.0mm L
c. 1910-1946

The question that these two bullets pose is; why are they here?



GEORGE VI
One Shilling
5.1gms; 22.6mm D
1949



ELIZABETH II
One Pound
9.4gms; 22.1mm D
2005



ELIZABETH II
Twenty Pence
5.0gms; 21.2mm D
2002



Animal Identity Tag
6.3gms; 26.2mm D
Modern Day

Does anyone in the village remember Storm?



It was a damp survey at times!



Dog Whistle
10.8gms; 57.5mm L
Modern Day

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 \(2017\) \(finds.org.uk\)](https://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>

19 HORSESHOES

The 19 horseshoes shown below, were recovered during the Bottom Church Field survey, and they were found generally from, 'all over the field'.



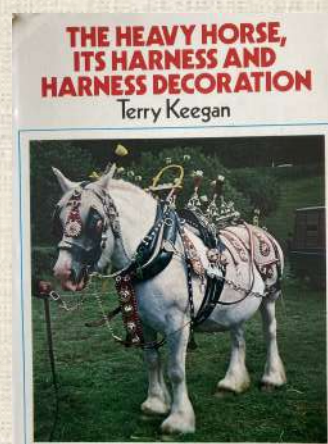
Once the horseshoes have dried out, they will be cleaned up and returned to George and Joyce.



We have an excellent book written by Terry Keegan in the Field Detectives research library, that provides an enlightening introduction into the world of the heavy horse.

It is a fabulous read.

Another interesting book that we have in our library, is 'Old Horseshoes' by Ivan G. Sparkes.



19 HORSESHOES

In total, we recovered nineteen horseshoes during the Bottom Church Field survey. Seventeen of these shoes can be attributed to the hooves of working heavy horses. Shortly after finishing the survey both Catherine and myself called in to see George and Joyce at the farmhouse for a catch-up.

Without giving the game away (disclosing what we had found before the report had been written), I quizzed George on whether any horses had been working on the field where we had found the horseshoes. George revealed that his father, 'Fred' had kept his working horses in Bottom Church Field and that they were frequent visitors to the Blacksmiths forge at Gonalston.

As soon as we returned home that day, I scoured the web for information on the Gonalston forge to see if there was anything of interest that we might be able to include in this report. The horseshoes had become the main story from the field. The first thing I found was this image (featured below). It turns out that the young man in the foreground is Wilfred Blackband, who was serving his apprenticeship at the Gonalston smithy in 1912.



Gonalston Smithy 1912 - Wilfred Blackband front of picture

Photo courtesy of John Travis

My Grandad – Interview with John Travis 29 April 2014

SOURCE: Long Eaton Natural History Society

"My grandad, Wilfred Warren Blackband, was born 1st December 1896 in Lowdham, Nottinghamshire. His parents ran the Railway Hotel at Lowdham. He was the youngest of 8 children, John, Ted, Arthur, Violet, Polly (Mary), William, and I can't remember the other one.

He left school at age 12 work to work at Pearson's Nursery Gardens in Lowdham. He enjoyed the work and learnt to grow and breed daffodils but, looking for more pay, became apprenticed to the blacksmith at nearby Gonalston for five years.

In 1914 he volunteered for the army and was sent to Margate in Kent. Horses were crucial for the war effort, the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry were mounted, horses were also used to transport vital supplies and big guns. My Grandad was good at teaching farriery. When the Rangers were sent to Gallipoli, dismounted, my grandfather's skills were so highly regarded, the army kept him in Margate, training farriers and blacksmiths, so he never got to France at all.



In 1919 he married Emily Longmate of Muskham, they had 4 children, Sheila Mary, Lesley Warren, Joyce Annie and the youngest, Rita Emily. He was a general blacksmith to 1936, he worked at the Forge at the top of Wells Road Mapperley. He said farriery was one of the hardest jobs under the heavens. The large shire horses were difficult to handle and they kicked. The pay was low and trade was declining as horses were replaced by lorries. In 1936 he got a job at a hosiery machine manufacturing company called Kidier and Son, making frames for machines.

In World War 2 my grandad was a fire watcher. He saw people killed at the Co-op Bakery on Meadow Lane, Boots Printing Works was bombed. He no longer worked with horses. Kidiers was sold out to an Italian company and he had to learn new skills. Mild steel special alloys were hardened for rotary cutting knives and he learnt to use chemical titrations to check the cyanide in the hardening baths, previously he had done this by visual estimation of the colour of the flame of the molten sodium cyanide. He worked to age 70.

After retirement, for 10 years he worked at home, making gates and sharpening garden tools with trade passed from the builders merchants. Always a keen gardener, growing dahlias and chrysanthemums, he told his wife that the garden was no good for growing vegetables. He also bred rabbits and took them to shows. The skins were dressed and his daughters made gloves from them.

He made enough money to see his son who had married and lived in Austria, which was run by the Russians at the time. It was a 10 week wait for a passport. He brought up his grandson and taught him engineering skills. He lived to age 91 and his ashes are buried in a family grave at North Muskham church with a memorial limestone plaque.



The Gonalston forge, pictured left, still stands today. The Tablet above the Door reads:

"Gentlemen, as you pass by, pray on this shoe cast your eye. If it's too strait we'll make it wider. Twill ease the horse and please the rider. If lame by shoeing (as they sometimes are), you can have them eased with the greatest of care."

Dedicated to my wife, Jodi.

(She is descended from a line of Blacksmiths.)

DETECTIVES IN THE FIELD

Friday 22nd & Sunday 24th March 2024 X 2 Days over 11 hours

Richard, Catherine, Steve, Brian, Sophie (Lando), Tim & Jenson

The focus of the survey on Bottom Church Field, was to see if we could record any artefacts that might help us to date the site on Top Church Field. The survey was carried out over two days on what could best be described as a very damp field; it has been a very wet March.

In total, 16 artefacts were recorded and they will feature in Appendix 1 of the Church Farm, Hoveringham Historic Landscape Study Report. All of the artefacts recovered during the study will be retained by George and Joyce, to ensure that the history we have revealed remains with the farm.



Pictured left, from left to right, Catherine, Sophie, Tim and Jenson showcasing their finds from the field.

Top Church Field can be seen in the distance roughly about one metre up from the flood plain we have just been surveying down here on 'muddy' Bottom Church Field. It was certainly a day for gum boots.

Every field has a story to tell, and this one belongs to the old working horses that used to frequent this field. In total we found 19 horse shoes. They proved to be such a popular find that a competition quickly emerged.

We have had so much fun with this that we have decided to continue with the Horse Shoe Championship on the next Church Farm field survey, which if the weather holds, will commence next weekend on Maiden Crofts.

We do have a runaway leader at the moment, but it is early days, and as one Detective reflected; 'it isn't fair, he's had a day more than us'. Steve can be seen right, smugly presenting his hoard of horse shoes.

There is still a lot to play for!

A PICTURE
IS WORTH A
thousand
WORDS

The Church Farm Horse Shoe Challenge	
Steve	12
Sophie	3
Richard	2
Tim	1
Catherine	1
Jenson	0
Brian	0
Julie	0



Artefact Recording Overview

Finds Recorded 16; Identified 16 (100%); Finds Unidentified 0

George & Joyce kindly presented us with a window of opportunity for a full field survey. We were able to complete the survey in 11 hours. This included 7 Field Detectives on site over 2 visits to the field.

Summary

On Sunday 24th March 2024, The Field Detectives concluded their survey on Bottom Church Field. We had set out to see if we could evidence anything that might help us to understand the purpose of the stone constructions on the neighbouring 'Hall Close' field.

Bottom Church Field is situated on the River Trent flood plain, approximately one metre lower than the raised plateau of Hall Close Field.

The modern-day footpath runs diagonally across the field from northwest to southeast, and it was along the line of this footpath that the majority of finds were made.

The earliest dateable artefact was a buckle, which could have been lost during the 16th-17th century. Of the eight coins that were recorded, five of them could be reliably assigned to the 18th century, along with one solitary button.

Interestingly, there seems to be a gap in the timeline during the 19th century, with no evidence of a sustained Victorian presence on the field apart from the livery button.

The remainder of the finds suggest that the field once again witnessed plenty of human activity from the early 20th century onwards.

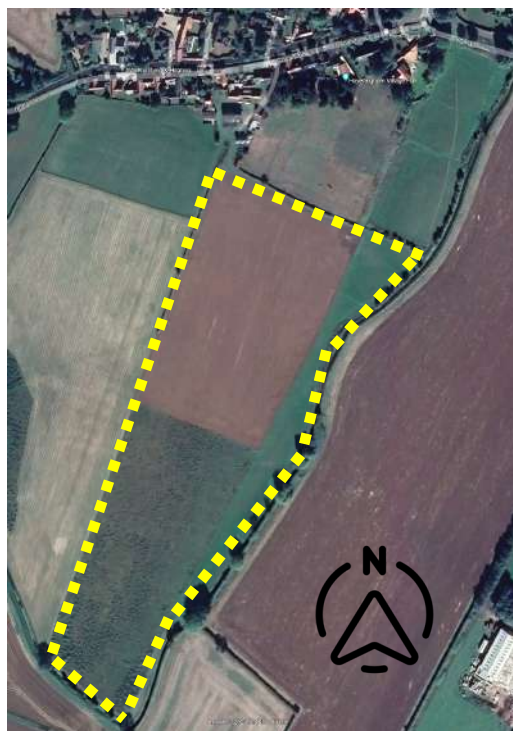
Nineteen horseshoes proved to be the highlight of the survey. Every field tells a story, and Bottom Church Field brought into view George's dad, 'Fred', a young blacksmith apprentice, 'Wilfred Warren Blackband' and the Gonalston forge.

Did the survey tell us any more about the purpose of those stone constructions on Hall Close Field; well, perhaps not, but this is only one field survey and we still have much more to do, so let's see what the next field tells us.

The Field Detectives
2024



The next field survey as identified by the yellow dotted lines on the map below, will focus on the field to the south of Hall Close. As it is on the raised area above the river Trent flood plain, we are hoping to register dateable artefacts that will help us make sense of the Hall Close investigation.



*Thank
you* 

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.

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Sophie Chell
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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