FORGOTTEN WOLDS

LATE PREHISTORIC AND EARLY HISTORIC LANDSCAPES
ON THE YORKSHIRE CHALK

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VOLUME THREE: THE FIGURES
CONTAINS PULLOUTS
CONTENTS OF VOLUME THREE

List of Figures...............................................................iii-xi

Figures...........................................................................1-122
List of Figures

Figure 1: Eastern Yorkshire: geomorphological regions (from Manby 1988) .......1

Figure 2: Water sources in the central Wolds study area .........................2

Figure 3: Location of the study area .....................................................3

Figure 4: East Yorkshire: distribution of modern settlement .........................4

Figure 5: Photo: Fimber pond ...............................................................5

Figure 6: Photo: Burdale pond looking west .................................................5

Figure 7: Photo: Dry valley at Warren Dale, Sledmere ...............................6

Figure 8: Photo: Dry valley at Cob Dale, Millington ..................................6

Figure 9: Photo: Enclosure fields and soil marks, Fimber .........................7

Figure 10: Photo: Dew pond in dale bottom, Cow Dale, Sledmere ..............7

Figure 11: East Yorkshire: towns surrounding the Wolds ............................8

Figure 12: The scenic drive, the B1248 north from Wetwang at Blealands Nook .9

Figure 13: Dale bottom fence along Frendal Dale, Millington .....................9

Figure 14: Private drive and rights of way at Huggate ................................10

Figure 15: Hawthorn hedge follows sinuous line, Hawold ..........................10

Figure 16: Well known archaeological sites on the Wolds ........................11
Figure 17: Changes at enclosure to landscape around Fimber and Wetwang ......12 (from Harris 1969)

Figure 18: East Yorkshire: distribution of parliamentary enclosure .....................13 (from Harris 1969).

Figure 19: Reconstruction of Medieval open fields in the townships ..................14 of Fimber, Fridaythorpe and Wetwang (from Alison 1976).

Figure 20: Mortimer and Cole: prominent East Yorkshire antiquarians ..........15 (from Sheppard 1911).

Figure 21: Central Wolds study area: villages and relief .................................16

Figure 22: Central Wolds: dry valleys and villages ........................................17

Figure 23: Photo: The dissected western Wolds at Burdale ...............................18

Figure 24: Photo: The eastern dip slope, looking south over Wetwang village ...18

Figure 25: Linear earthworks in Britain (from Bradley et al 1994) ....................19

Figure 26: Photo: Earthworks at Fimber Westfield .........................................20

Figure 27: Photo: soilmarks of linear earthwork north of Fimber village ...........20

Figure 28: Linear earthworks and villages in study area .................................21

Figure 29: Photo: multiple banks and ditches at Huggate Dykes, looking west ...22

Figure 30: Photo: single linear at Cow Dale, Sledmere ................................22

Figure 31: Mortimer’s hollow-ways, sections (from Mortimer 1905) ...............23
Figure 32: Linears and dry valleys in the Central Wolds study area .................24

Figure 33: Wolds linears and LBA enclosures (from Stoertz 1997) ....................25

Figure 34: Linears and dating in the central Wolds ........................................26

Figure 35: Linears in central Wolds: Areas for detailed description .................27

Figure 36: Huggate Dykes and Greenwich linears and relief .........................28

Figure 37: Huggate Dykes earthworks, from OS 25" 1910 edition ....................29

Figure 38: Huggate Dykes, section drawing from Varley’s excavation ..........30
(from Challis and Harding 1975).

Figure 39: Horse and Holm Dales, linears and relief ....................................31

Figure 40: Photo: looking east down Horse Dale ...........................................32

Figure 41: Photo: linear along Warren Dale, looking east ..............................32

Figure 42: Photo: Holm Dale, looking south ................................................33

Figure 43: Photo: Holm Dale head, looking south ........................................33

Figure 44: Fridaythorpe: linears and relief ..................................................34

Figure 45: Fimber area: linears and relief ....................................................35

Figure 46: Fimber Westfield, extract from OS 1910 25" ................................36

Figure 47: Fimber crossroads: extract from OS 1910 25" ................................37

Figure 48: Fimber crossroads: section through earthworks ..........................38
(from Wiltshire 1862).

Figure 49: Fimber crossroads: section through earthworks........................38
(from Mortimer 1905).

Figure 50: Photo: Fimber crossroads: field containing levelled earthworks....39

Figure 51: Photo: Triplescore Dale and Bessingdale linears, looking
south east from above Fimber Grange............................................................39

Figure 52: Aerial photograph of Fimber crossroads, showing cropmarks ..........40
of linears.

Figure 53: Middleham Dale: linears and relief...............................................41

Figure 54: Sledmere Green Lane and Life Hill: linears and relief....................42

Figure 55: High Bitings, extract from OS 1910 25"....................................43

Figure 56: Aerial photograph: cropmarks and Green Lane at High Bitings ....44
(RCHME).

Figure 57: Sledmere Sykes monument: extract from OS 1910 25".................45

Figure 58: Sykes monument linear: sections through earthwork ....................46
(from Mortimer 1905).

Figure 59: Sykes monument linear: Anglian cemetery aligned ........................47
along ditch (from Mortimer 1905).

Figure 60: Warren Dale: extract from OS 1910 25"....................................48

Figure 61: Aerial photograph: triple linears at head of Warren Dale ..........49
(RCHME).
Figure 62: Great Wold Dyke and Cowlam: linears and relief............................50

Figure 63: Cowlam DMV: extract from OS 1910 25"........................................51

Figure 64: Linear incorporating barrow C76 at Aldro ....................................52
(from Mortimer 1905).

Figure 65: Linear incorporating barrow 127 at Vessey Pasture, ......................52
Aldro (from Mortimer 1905).

Figure 66: Linear incorporating barrow 256, Aldro (from Mortimer 1905)........53

Figure 67: Linear incorporating barrow 88, Aldro (from Mortimer 1905)...........53

Figure 68: Trackways and dry valleys before the linears...............................54

Figure 69: Linears and water sources in central Wolds..................................55

Figure 70: East Yorkshire: Iron Age sites around the Wolds..........................56

Figure 71: Wetwang Slack: plan of Iron Age cemetery (from Dent 1982).........57

Figure 72: Wetwang Slack: Early Iron Age settlement (from Dent 1982).........58

Figure 73: Garton Station: Iron Age and Anglian graves (from Stead 1991).....59

Figure 74: Iron Age cemeteries and barrows in the northern Wolds..............60

Figure 75: Settlement studies in East Yorkshire.............................................61

Figure 76: Wetwang Slack: Excavation plan showing change from...............62
open to enclosed phase (from Dent 1983a)
Figure 77: Wetwang Slack: Late Iron Age and RB enclosures (from Dent 1983b).

Figure 78: Late Iron Age ladder sites and linear earthworks in the central Wolds.

Figure 79: AP plots of ladder sites (from Stoertz 1997).

Figure 80: East Yorkshire: Roman sites and Roman roads.

Figure 81: Cropmarks between Huggate and Elmswell (after RCHME).

Figure 82: Cropmarks around Weaverthorpe and the Great Wold Dyke (after RCHME).

Figure 83: Cropmarks around Green Lane and Wetwang (after RCHME).

Figure 84: Extract from Haynes map of 1744, around Huggate (YAS/95D15).

Figure 85: Extract from Jeffreys map of 1772, around Wetwang (DDX/16/335).

Figure 86: Warburton’s map of central Wolds, from mid 18C (DDSY/106/8).

Figure 87: East Yorkshire townships and study area.

Figure 88: Townships of study area and reused linear earthworks.

Figure 89: Study area townships and dry valleys.

Figure 90: Key to township maps.

Figure 91: Wetwang township.

Figure 92: Wetwang Rakes, copy of map, 1760 (DDCV 179/22).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93</td>
<td>Sledmere township</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94</td>
<td>Photo: Sykes monument</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Photo: Memorial plaque to Sir Tatton Sykes, Sledmere church</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96</td>
<td>Aerial photograph: Sledmere Park</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>Huggate township</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>Fridaythorpe township</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>Fimber and Towthorpe townships</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Photo: Fimber Grange: ridge and furrow crossed by coach road</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Photo: Fimber church on an EBA barrow</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Cottam and Cowlam townships</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Garton township</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Warter township</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>North Dalton township</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Tibthorpe township</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Bainton and Neswick townships</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Kirkburn, Eastburn and Southburn townships</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Driffield and Elmwell townships</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 110: Anglian burials in East Yorkshire.....................................................94

Figure 111: Central Wolds: Anglian archaeology.............................................95

Figure 112: Driffield round barrow reused for Anglian inhumations..............96
(from Mortimer 1905)

Figure 113: Garton gatehouse: Anglian inhumations aligned along ..............97
linear ditch (from Mortimer 1905)

Figure 114: Wharram area: results of fieldwalking project.........................98
(from Hayfield 1987).

Figure 115: East Yorkshire hundreds at Domesday Book..............................99

Figure 116: Villages linked with regions in the Middle Ages......................100

Figure 117: East Yorkshire and references to wold/wald in the Middle Ages....101

Figure 118: East Yorkshire: Domesday estate centres and major churches......102

Figure 119: Townships and relief in central Wolds.....................................103

Figure 120: Townships and relief on the northern Wolds............................104

Figure 121: Townships and pastures in central Wolds................................105

Figure 122: Pastures and trackways in central Wolds..................................106

Figure 123: Howe names and areas of the open Wolds..............................107

Figure 124: Early Medieval Wolds: trackways and dry valleys.....................108
Figure 125: East Yorkshire: Early Medieval trackways and pasture zones......109

Figure 126: Photo: Sledmere Green Lane looking south west from ..........110
Blealands Nook.

Figure 127: Photo: The Green Lane at Holm Field farm, Fridaythorpe........111

Figure 128: Anglian burials and trackways and township boundaries..........112

Figure 129: Early Old English place-names on the Wolds.................................113

Figure 130: Scandinavian habitative names on the Wolds...............................114

Figure 131: Place-names in tun, on the Wolds.................................................115

Figure 132: Scandinavian topographic names on the Wolds..........................116

Figure 133: Craike Hill and Garton Station: multi-period monuments............117

Figure 134: Kemp Howe, Cowlam and Burrow.................................................118

Figure 135: Linear earthworks in the modern landscape around Fimber..........119

Figure 136: Sledmere Green Lane in the modern landscape..........................120

Figure 137: The many phases of the Green Lane. ............................................121
Fig 1: The geomorphological and geological regions in Eastern Yorkshire. (from Manby 1988).
Fig 2: Water sources in the central Wolds. Ponds and springs are shown, as are streams. That stream between Burdale and Fimber is recorded historically but no longer runs on the surface. The map shows the lack of surface water on the Wolds, where ponds are relied upon instead.
Fig 3: Location of the study area within the Yorkshire Wolds and East Yorkshire. The edge of the Wolds is here marked by the 60 metre contour.
Fig 4: Distribution of modern settlement on the Wolds and surrounding area. The dense concentrations of villages around the Wold-edge is clear as is the linear arrangements of settlements along spring lines and the Gypsy Race.
Fig 5(above): Fimber pond, looking south east, in the centre of Fimber village. This is the pond known as the 'lower mere' in the last century. An original adjacent pond has now dried up.

Fig 6(below): Burdale pond, looking west towards Thixendale. This spring fed pond lies at the junction of dry valleys and associated linear earthworks.
Fig 7(above): Dry valley of Warren Dale, between Garton and Sledmere. Looking east to the spire of Sykes monument on the horizon. Steep un-ploughed dale-sides are scattered with gorse. The flat dale bottom made up of colluvium is clearly more fertile soil.

Fig 8(below): Dry valley at Cob Dale, Millinton, on the western Wolds. The gorse displays its April flower and a hawthorn boundary bisects the lush dale bottom.
Fig 9(above): Square fields of parliamentary enclosure on the valley slopes east of Fimber. Reverse 'S'-shape soil marks reveal traces of the former open field strips.

Fig 10(below): Dew pond in the dale bottom at Cow Dale, Sledmere. It is probably 18C in date and part of the radical agricultural changes that took place alongside parliamentary enclosure.
Fig 11: Towns of East Yorkshire. They are concentrated around the Wolds on rivers and coast. The steep scarp slope is marked with a thick line.
Fig 12(above): The main road to Malton. B1248 carries a part of the Wolds scenic drive, here looking north from Wetwang to Blealands Nook and Fimber crossroads.

Fig 13(below): The bleakness of the dale bottom, here at Frendal Dale, Millington.
Fig 14(above): A private road to Huggate Wold, with footpath signs.

Fig 15(below): Hawthorn hedge-line along township boundary between Warter and North Dalton. The hedge dates from the period of parliamentary enclosure but its line is much more ancient.
Fig 16: Well known archaeological sites from the Wolds mentioned in chapter 2.
Fig 17: Changing settlement patterns before and after parliamentary enclosure, showing change from nucleated villages to the introduction of scattered farms. In 1771, most of these areas were un-enclosed (from Harris 1969).
Fig 18: Map showing the contrasting enclosure history of the Wolds and the lowlands. The open circles indicate parishes enclosed after 1750, their diameter being proportional to the acres involved in each case (from Harris 1969).
Fig 19: Medieval open fields in the dry Wolds, showing wide extent of arable within each township (from Alison 1976).
Fig 20: J.R. Mortimer and Rev. E. Maule Cole, antiquarians (from Sheppard 1911).
Fig 21: Villages of the central Wolds study area. See figure 3 for general location.
Fig 22: Dry valleys of the central Wolds study area. Villages are marked with dots (see fig 21). The dales are here picked out by the steepness of their slopes, not by any absolute height. The western scarp is marked by hachures and the distinction between dissected western Wolds and the more gently rolling eastern dip slope is clear.
Fig 23: (above) The western Wolds at Burdale. Looking north-west along the large Thixendale-Burdale valley. Here the colluvial deposits on the dale bottom are cultivated.

Fig 24: (below) The rolling harvest landscape of the eastern Wolds. Wetwang village sits amongst the trees in the centre background of the picture, taken from the Sledmere Green Lane.
Fig 25: Main concentrations of linear ditches in Britain (from Bradley et al 1994).
Fig 26(below): Earthworks on the dale-side of Rain Dale at Fimber Westfield. There are here 4 main banks running down the slope of the valley side. The largest, on the left of the group can be seen to have overlain a single ditch running along the contour towards the top of the slope. There are several phases of construction here, it seems. Mortimer’s excavations were to the left of this picture on the opposite side of the dale. Ehrenberg and Caple excavated in the dale bottom and found degraded traces of the linear under several metres of ploughwash.

Fig 27(above): Soilmarks of the major linear that dominates the village of Fimber, on its northern side, which originally connected to the earthworks at Westfield. They run from left to right beyond the wooded abandoned railway line. Looking north from the village.
Fig 28: Linear earthworks and villages in the central Wolds study area. Based on Mortimer’s map of 1905 and RCHM cropmark plots. Some of Mortimer’s earthworks are not included.
Fig 29(above): Multiple earthworks at Huggate Dykes, looking east towards Millington Wood.

Fig 30(below): Single ditch and bank along top of dale-side at Cow Dale, Sledmere. Such a position is characteristic of this form of linear on the Wolds.
Fig 31: Sections through single ditches, all situated along the upper dale-sides, following the contour. All examples were excavated by Mortimer in the vicinity of Fimber (from Mortimer 1905).
Figure 33: RCHM plot of linears alongside enclosures deemed to date from the later Bronze Age. These are marked with stars and most are known only from the air (from Stoertz 1997 crown copyright).
Figure 34: Linears in the central Wolds, showing sites of excavations alongside form of monument. 1. Huggate Dykes; 2. Fimber Westfield; 3. Sykes monument; 4. Wetwang Slack; 5. Cowlam.
Figure 35: Linears in Central Wolds showing areas featured in detailed maps along with their appropriate figure number.
Figure 36: Huggate Dykes and Greenwich area showing linears and relief. Black dots represent barrows of the EBA which, in this case, are not directly associated with the linears. The multiple ditches and banks of Huggate Dykes crossed the neck of land between Horse Dale and Tun Dale, both deeply incised dry valleys.
Figure 37: Huggate Dykes: extract from OS 25” map of 1910 edition.
Figure 38: Section through bank at Huggate Dykes by Varley, showing Anglian cremation urn inserted into bank (from Challis and Harding 1975).
Figure 39: Horse, Holm and Harper Dale area showing linears and relief. Both single and multiple ditches here closely follow the upper sides of the steep dry valleys.
Figure 40: (above) Horse Dale from the west, showing degraded ditch of linear along top of dale-side, running left to right across foreground of picture. The trees in the dale bottom are large Ash and give a sense of the scale of the valley slopes here.

Figure 41: (below) Warren Dale, Sledmere, looking east. The winding course of the single ditched linear is visible on the dale-side, crossed at right angles by later plough furrows.
Figure 42(below): Holm Dale looking south along the dale bottom, a view dwarfed by the massive jutting grassed slopes.

Figure 43(above): Holm Dale head, looking south into the bottom of the valley.
Figure 44: Fridaythorpe area showing linears and relief. The multiple ditches that run between the heads of Holm Dale and Rain Dale are only visible as cropmarks. At the extreme north is Fimber Westfield complex of linears.
Figure 45: Fimber area showing linears and relief. See fig 27 for photo of soilmarks from linear in centre, to north of Fimber village.
Figure 46: Fimber Westfield: extract from OS 25” map 1910 edition, showing earthworks at Westfield, in bottom of frame. Fimber House is now Westfield farm.
Figure 47: Fimber crossroads: extract from OS 25" map 1910 edition. The railway is now abandoned and levelled. Multiple earthworks are also now levelled and visible only as cropmarks (see figs 50 and 52). Fimber village lies to the west of this map.
Figure 48(above): Section through earthworks above Fimber crossroads by Thomas Wiltshire, showing degraded hollow at D, where bank has been used as trackway (from Wiltshire 1851).

Figure 49(below): Section through the same earthworks above Fimber crossroads by Mortimer. He identifies the levelled section as a berm and may have exaggerated the regularity of the feature in this case (from Mortimer 1905).
Figure 50 (above): Fimber crossroads, looking north-east to the field where cropmarks of multiple earthworks are visible from the air and where upstanding banks were recorded in 1910.

Figure 51 (below): Bessingdale and Triplescore Dale, looking south-east from field pictured in fig 50. Line of linears along both dales are visible and clearly demarcate the block of raised ground behind.
Figure 52: Aerial photograph of Fimber crossroads, showing cropmarks of linear ditches, in the field to the north of the roundabout (RCHME crown copyright).
Figure 53: Middleham Dale area, showing linears and relief.
Figure 54: Sledmere Green Lane and Life Hill, showing linears and relief. Here the head of Warren Dale is furnished with triple linears which deviate for short lengths off the course of the main linear. See fig 56.
Figure 55: The Green Lane at High Bitings. Extract from OS 25" 1910 edition. Dotted line shows township boundary following linear rather than the straighter and later highway.
Figure 56: Aerial photograph of Green Lane at High Bitings, showing cropmark ditches to the north of the Green Lane. Ridge and furrow clearly abuts the linear, reinforcing its chronological primacy over the road and its use as an open field boundary (RCHME crown copyright).
Figure 57: Sykes monument. Sledmere. Extract from OS 25" map 1910 edition. The linear is partially preserved at this time and the triples at the head of Warren Dale are clear.
Figure 58: Sections through bank of linear at Sykes monument, excavated by Mortimer (from Mortimer 1905).
Figure 59: Plan of excavations showing Anglian inhumations aligned along the linear (from Mortimer 1905).
Figure 60: Warren Dale: Extract from OS 25" map 1910 edition. Single ditch follows the curving line of the dale-side and takes a multiple form towards the bottom of the valley. See also fig 41.
Figure 61: Aerial photograph of triple linears at the head of Warren Dale. Cropmark ditch aligns on the gap between the earthworks (RCHME crown copyright).
Figure 62: Great Wold Dyke and Cowlam area, showing linears and relief.
Figure 63: Cowlam DMV. Extract from OS 25" map 1910 edition. The linear ditch mapped in fig 62 can clearly be seen passing through the village. It emerges to both the north and west as a cropmark. If it is prehistoric in date, it seems to have been reused as toft and croft boundary or trackway, in the same way as the Iron Age ditches at Wharram Percy.
Figure 64 (above): Plan of linear incorporating barrow (C76) at Aldro Rath (from Mortimer 1905).

Figure 65 (below): Plan of linear cutting through the centre of barrow at Vessey Pasture. An Anglian inhumation was inserted into the bank at this point (from Mortimer 1905).
Figure 66 (above): Linears incorporating barrow 256 at Aldro (from Mortimer 1905).

Figure 67 (below): Linears incorporating barrow 88 at Aldro (from Mortimer 1905).
Figure 68: Dry valleys and trackways across the Wolds. These tracks seem to have been followed by the earliest long distance linear ditches. 1. Blealands Nook; 2. Green Lane; 3. Towthorpe rideway; 4. Huggate Dykes; 5. Vessey ponds; 6. Warren Dale.
Figure 69: Linears and water sources on the central Wolds. The linear ditches seem to enclose or else connect to ponds. Equally, at Aldro in the north west Wolds, the linears relate closely to springs at the base of the scarp slope here.
Figure 70: Iron Age funerary sites in East Yorkshire.
Figure 71: Iron Age cemetery at Wetwang Slack. Excavation plan showing the linear ditch cutting existing barrows and acting as boundary for later cemetery (from Dent 1982).
Figure 72: Iron Age settlement at Wetwang Slack. Excavated area reveals roundhouses and square barrow cemetery. The linear ditch is seen to have formed a large enclosure on the valley side abutting the Green Lane linear to the north (from Dent 1982).
Figure 73: Garton Station Iron Age cemetery. Excavation plan showing square barrows and graves of both Iron Age and Anglian date (from Stead 1991).
Figure 74: Iron Age cemeteries in the northern Wolds. Most barrow groups are known only from the air as cropmarks. They concentrate in the valleys that encroach into the Wolds from the vale of Holderness and the Hull Valley. Data from Stoertz 1997 and Stead 1979.
Figure 75: Later prehistoric settlement in East Yorkshire. Sites of recent excavations or surveys.
Figure 76: Excavation phases at Wetwang-Garton Slack. Late Iron Age and RB enclosures overlie earlier barrows and roundhouses (from Dent 1983a).
Figure 77: Late Iron Age and RB enclosures at Wetwang Slack. Note the presence of the Green Lane earthwork to the north (from Dent 1983b).
Figure 78: Later Iron Age and RB ladder sites or similar enclosures in the central Wolds. They are found only in certain areas, in a way that suggests that their distribution is influenced by the existence and continued meaning of linear earthworks as boundaries. Information from Stoertz 1997.
Figure 79: Ladder sites as cropmark plots. Typical examples from Stoertz 1997.
Figure 80: Romano-British sites in East Yorkshire. Squares represent towns, triangles forts and circles villas or other rural sites. Open circles are the modern towns of Driffield and Beverley where some RB evidence has come to light. Roman roads are either likely (solid line) or more tentative (dashed line). The western Wolds are clearly more favoured than the east, where Romanisation seems to have been less apparent.
Figure 81: Cropmarks between Huggate and Elmswell. The central Wolds study area as mapped by the RCHM, showing simplified cropmark plot (after RCHME).
Figure 82: Cropmarks surrounding the Great Wold Dyke (after RCHME).
Figure 83: Cropmarks around the Sledmere Green Lane, showing enclosures of Wetwang Slack and the respect given to the existing earthwork as well as the empty unenclosed area of Life Hill (after RCHME).
Figure 84: Extract from Howse's map of 1744, around Huggate, showing upstanding earthworks at Huggate Dykes (NOS 85 D 15).

Roman Road to Melton, the Campilonomus of Ptolemy.

Fig. 84: Extract from Howse's map of 1744, around Huggate, showing upstanding earthworks at Huggate Dykes (NOS 85 D 15).

Roman Road to Swarby and Burlington, the sons of Saintaux, near Priory of Plooky.

These Works continued towards Swarby, then towards Ryland.
Figure 85: Extract from Jeffreys map of 1772, showing Green Lane running north of Wetwang as a main long distance highway (DDX 16 335).
This Plan contains Ninety Six Thousand Acres, the situation of the villages being taken from Mr. Warburton's actual Survey.

Figure 86: Warburton's map of the Wolds (mid 18C) showing Wolds villages and roads.
Figure 87: East Yorkshire townships showing outline of study area in central Wolds.
Figure 88: Townships of the study area showing boundaries that have reused linear earthworks.
open field

pasture

- - - - pre-enclosure track

- - fossilised furlong boundary

- - - - linear earthwork

- - - - - former township boundary

- - township boundary

- - long distance track

Figure 90: Key to following maps of townships. The style of these maps is based partly on those in Neave 1990.
Figure 51: Wetwang township showing land-use and landscape immediately prior to enclosure.
Figure 92. Wetwang Rakes, copy of map from 1760 of detached pasture, now found in Bishop Wilton parish, but originally allotted to Wetwang (DDCV179/22).
Figure 94: The Tatton Sykes monument.

Figure 95: Inscription memorial plaque to Sir Tatton Sykes of Sledmere, located in Sledmere church. See text for transcription of the sentiment. The Wolds are not only his memorial.
Figure 96: Aerial photograph of Sledmere Park from the south west (RCHME crown copyright).
Figure 97: Huggate township map.
Figure 98: Fridaythorpe township map.
Figure 99: Fimber and Towthorpe townships.
Figure 100: (above) Fimber Grange, showing ridge and furrow crossed by coach road soilmark. The main road in foreground can also be seen to have overlain the ridge and furrow which is also visible in the grass field as earthworks. This road, therefore cannot be of Roman date, as was believed by Margary.

Fig 101: (below) Fimber church is of Victorian date, but is the third church to have occupied this position on top of an EBA barrow. There are also Anglian burials from here and the close vicinity. The second of the two Fimber ponds was originally located in the foreground of this picture.
Figure 102: Cottam and Cowlam township maps.
Figure 104: Warter township map.
Figure 105: North Dalton township map.
Figure 106: Tibthorpe township map.
Figure 107: Bainton and Neswick township maps
Figure 108: Kirkburn, Eastburn and Southburn township maps.
Figure 109: Driffield and Elmwell township maps.
Figure 110: Anglian burials in the Wolds and Wold-edge. Secondary burials tend to concentrate on the Wolds with those in flat cemeteries lying in the settled zones of the Wold-edge. Three main concentrations occur along the western scarp-base, the area around Kilham-Nafferton and that around Rudston. Information from Eagles 1979 and Lucy 1998.
Figure 111: Anglian archaeology in the central Wolds study area. Primary burials concentrate around Driffield with secondaries found in both barrows and linear earthworks on the Wolds. Those found in linear earthworks are marked with mini hachures. Evidence which may come from settlements concentrates in the main valleys. Information from Eagles 1979; Hayfield 1987; Lucy 1998.
Figure 112: Anglian inhumations inserted into EBA barrow at Driffield C38 (from Mortimer 1905).
Figure 113: Anglian inhumations inserted into ditch of linear earthwork at Garton gatehouse (from Mortimer 1905).
Figure 114: Multi-period settlement evidence from Wharram fieldwalking project, showing predominance of RB sites over those of other periods (from Hayfield 1987).
Figure 115: East Yorkshire hundreds, as recorded in Domesday Book. Detached dependencies are denoted with arrows. Information from Faull and Stinson 1987.
Figure 116: Towards a sense of region in the Middle Ages. Some villages are given the suffix, 'on the Wolds' between the 13th and 16th century (large dots); Others are described as lying 'in Cranedale' between 12th and 14th century (triangles); Others have the suffix 'in Hertfordlyth' and are marked with smaller dots. Their distribution gives the impression of 2 distinct regions (along north escarpment and Gypsy Race) at this time, but which ceased to exist by the 15th or 16th century. Information from Smith 1937.
Figure 117: Distribution of references to wold in land grants of 11th-13th century. Also marked are places with the wald element in their place-name. Information from Smith 1937.
Figure 118: The estate centres recorded in Domesday Book, to which are attached subsidiary sokelands and berewicks. This may suggest the former existence of more widespread estates in the pre-conquest period (but see text). They tend to concentrate around the edges of the Wolds and correlate closely with the locations of major churches and places with earlier significance in the Anglian centuries.
Figure 119: Townships and relief in the central Wolds. See figs 88 and 89 for names of townships. The regular strip townships of the Great Wold Valley are visible in the top of the frame and the distinction between blocky townships of the dry Wolds and the smaller and more intricate township plans of the springheads of the river Hull, is also clear.
Figure 120: Townships of the northern Wolds mapped against relief. Groups of strip townships are highlighted: 1. northerm escarpment and Vale of Pickering; 2. Great Wold Valley; 3. Carnaby to Elmswell; 4. Upper Hull Valley; 5. Eastern dip slope between the Wolds ridgeway and the springline. Contours are at 50m and 150m.
Figure 121: Townships in the central Wolds. Areas of designated pasture are mapped and seen to form discrete areas that cut across township boundaries. This suggests that these pasture zones may have pre-dated the foundation of the townships.
Figure 122: Trackways across the Wolds which pre-date the foundation of townships as their lines are used as lengths of boundary. They pass through the pasture zones mapped on fig 121.
Figure 123: Areas of wold land referred to in land grants of the 11th - 13th century. All contain howe and/or wald elements and may refer to pre-Norman areas of pasture, high up on the open Wolds. Contours are at 50m and 150m.
Figure 124: Early Medieval trackways (suggested) and dry valleys. The long distance outlook of these routes is clear from the way they adopt the easiest route across the Wolds. It is suggested that they form part of a Wolds landscape which is open and used mainly for pasture in the pre-Norman centuries. Significantly they remain important features in the later, Medieval landscape of townships and boundaries. Compare this with fig 68.
Figure 125: Trackways across the Wolds and their relationship with large pasture zones in the early Medieval period.
Figure 126: The Sledmere Green Lane, today preserved as a wide grass bridleway. Looking south west from Blealands Nook towards Fridaythorpe.
Figure 127: The Green Lane again as wide grass track, here at the head of Holm Dale.
Figure 128: Anglian burials alongside township boundaries and trackways. Many of these burials are found close to the trackways argued above to be important structuring features of the pre-Norman landscape.
Figure 129: Early Old English names on the Wolds and Wold-edge. Names in ham are open circles, those topographic names deemed to be early by Gelling are solid dots. These include the burn names around Kirkburn as well as Fimber and Sledmere. Information from Gelling (forthcoming) and Smith (1937).
Figure 130: Scandinavian habitative names on the northern Wolds and margins. Place-names in by and thorpe are marked. Information from Gelling (forthcoming) and Smith (1937).
Figure 131: Place-names which contain the element tun on the northern Wolds and its margins. The majority are seen to be Old English rather than Scandinavian in origin. Information from Gelling (forthcoming) and Smith (1937).
Figure 132: Scandinavian topographic names (open circles) and dative plurals (solid dots). These are seen to occupy more positions on the Wolds than the settlement names in fig 130 and 131. They may have been names given to natural features or temporary sites on the open Wolds which later were given to permanent settlements around the time of the Norman conquest (see text). Information from Gelling (forthcoming) and Smith (1937).
Figure 133: Craike Hill and Garton Station multi-period monuments. Burial monuments of many periods congregate here along the former stream and Green Lane trackway. In the Anglian period, especially, the significance of earlier monuments was expressed through the insertion of Anglian burials into barrows and linear earthworks. Anglian secondaries are marked with triangles, Hachured areas are Iron Age cemeteries, Other monuments are round barrows of both Neolithic and EBA date. Those in solid black were relict in the 19th century, others are cropmarks. Lineas and hachures are linear earthworks, now reduced to cropmarks. Information from Stead (1991), Mortimer (1905), Stoertz (1997) and Dent (1983a).
Figure 134: Kemp Howe and Cowlam multi-period monuments. This ridge top position was furnished with monuments throughout prehistory, both barrows and linear earthworks. Anglian secondary inhumations were inserted into the round barrow of Kemp Howe, which was later used as a beacon. Information from Stoertz (1997), Mortimer (1905), OS 6''1854 series.
Figure 135: Linear earthworks and the historic landscape around Fimber. Although most of these earthworks are now levelled they were extant in the 19th century. Many formed the basis for field boundaries and township boundaries of the historic period.
Figure 136: Sledmere Green Lane in the modern landscape. Its line is visible as a continuous field boundary and trackway as well as township boundary (dotted).
Figure 137: Sledmere Green Lane: The many phases of the line of this track-cum-boundary can be seen as a microcosmic index of the changing character of the Wolds landscape in general, fluctuating between open and enclosed. Its origins lie in a cross wold trackway which is followed by LBA linear earthwork. This remains a strong feature of the late prehistoric landscape and is used as a cross wold trackway in the Anglian centuries then followed by township boundary around the Norman conquest. Later, in the 18th century it forms the basis for a coach road (see text).