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Sent: 23 January 2022 23:29
To: Planning Enquiries <planning_enquiries@herefordshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Application 220072/H

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Please see attached comment on Application 220072/H

submitted on behalf of Herefordshire CPRE

(Mrs) R. Bradbury
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Application 220072/H

Proposed hedge removal to amalgamate small irregular fields to make a more efficient size and shape for modern economic farming

Location: Land at 4110 Walford, Litton & Newton, Adforton, Leintwardine, Herefordshire.

23rd January 2022

Dear Mr Koch,

The comment that follows is submitted on behalf of the Executive Committee of Herefordshire CPRE.

We **object very strongly** to this Application for the reasons detailed below.

1.The hedgerow identified runs in a NW to SE direction, in a continuous slightly arced line across two fields. At the NW end it terminates at a hedge that is a boundary of the A4110 and at the SE end at the foot of **Brandon Camp**, a scheduled historic monument.
(Fig 1 current OS map)

Removal of the hedge would create two fields from the existing four.

2.On the Application Form the total length of the hedge is given as **435 m** and is stated to be **more than 30 years old**.

The length, age and location next to an archaeological site identifies it as an **important** hedgerow that is afforded **protection** under the Hedgerow Regulations for England (1997). It is **important** under the Regulations because of its location adjacent to Brandon Camp.

3.**Brandon Camp** is described as an Iron Age univallate hill fort that was subsequently occupied and enlarged by the Romans.

The hill mound on which it is sited rises to a height of 165m from its base at 120m and is a prominent landscape feature to the south of the historic settlement of Leintwardine. The Roman Road from Leintwardine towards Wigmore borders its eastern flank.

The fields that surround the camp provide part of the **setting** for one of Herefordshire's important scheduled historic sites.

(Fig 2 Brandon Camp and 'application' hedge)

Policy LD4 requires that heritage assets and their settings in the wider environment should be protected and where possible enhanced through appropriate management.

Removing this important hedge would breach Policy LD4.

4.Whether or not the hedgerow proposed for removal contains protected species was impossible for me to determine since there is no public access to the fields. However, sufficient can be seen from the roadside to indicate that it is in a poor and probably degraded condition through lack of proper hedgerow maintenance. However, it should be relatively easy to bring it back to a good condition if given appropriate care.

(Fig 3 'application hedge' 19.01.2022)

5. The Applicant's reason for wanting to remove the hedgerow is to "*amalgamate small irregular fields to a more efficient size and shape for modern economic farming*".

Both the description and the motive expressed can be shown to be unjustified.

Neither field appears to be very small, and the sole 'irregularity' is one slight curve.

The size of each of the fields is not dissimilar from those opposite on the western side of the A4110

6. Aerial views of the area in the years 2000 and 20018 show changes in the use of the land. (Figs 4 and 5)

The aerial view of the fields in 2018 show them both to have been ploughed; comparing the lighter colours of the pasture fields to the east with the darker colours of the fields on the application site suggests the latter had planted crops. So it has been possible to use appropriate equipment to cultivate the land very recently.

7. The 2018 view reveals that other hedgerows in the north-east part of the applicant's land appear to have been removed since the current OS map was published in 2010; this is evidenced in the map provided by the Applicant. Is it known when those removals took place?

8. The hedgerow that it is proposed to remove was present in 1884, as shown on the first edition of the OS map (Fig 6).

It was also present in 1840 as depicted by the **Tithe map (Fig 7)**. This is clear evidence that the boundary hedge has been in existence for nearly 200 years.

It can be seen on the OS map and the 2018 aerial map that beyond the applicant's land to the north-east there is a pattern of smaller fields, each bounded by a hedgerow. Those fields were in existence in 1884 and also in 1840.

9. A **Lidar scan** of the Applicant's land and the immediately surrounding area shows a wealth of interesting features worthy of future investigation (Fig 8).

To summarise:

The evidence presented above demonstrates that the hedgerow has been in existence for at least 200 years and is located adjacent to a scheduled heritage asset.

It is therefore an important historic hedgerow; The Hedgerow Regulations require that it be protected; removal would be unlawful

It forms part of the setting of a scheduled historic asset that is required to be protected; removal would be in breach of a Core Strategy **Policy, LD4**.

Removal of over 400m of hedgerow without good cause would be contrary to the well-advertised intentions and strategies of Herefordshire Council and the national Government to retain and increase hedgerow coverage as a contribution to reducing the effects of atmospheric CO2.

Herefordshire CPRE urge that the application be **refused**.

Mrs R.J.Bradbury on behalf of HCPRE
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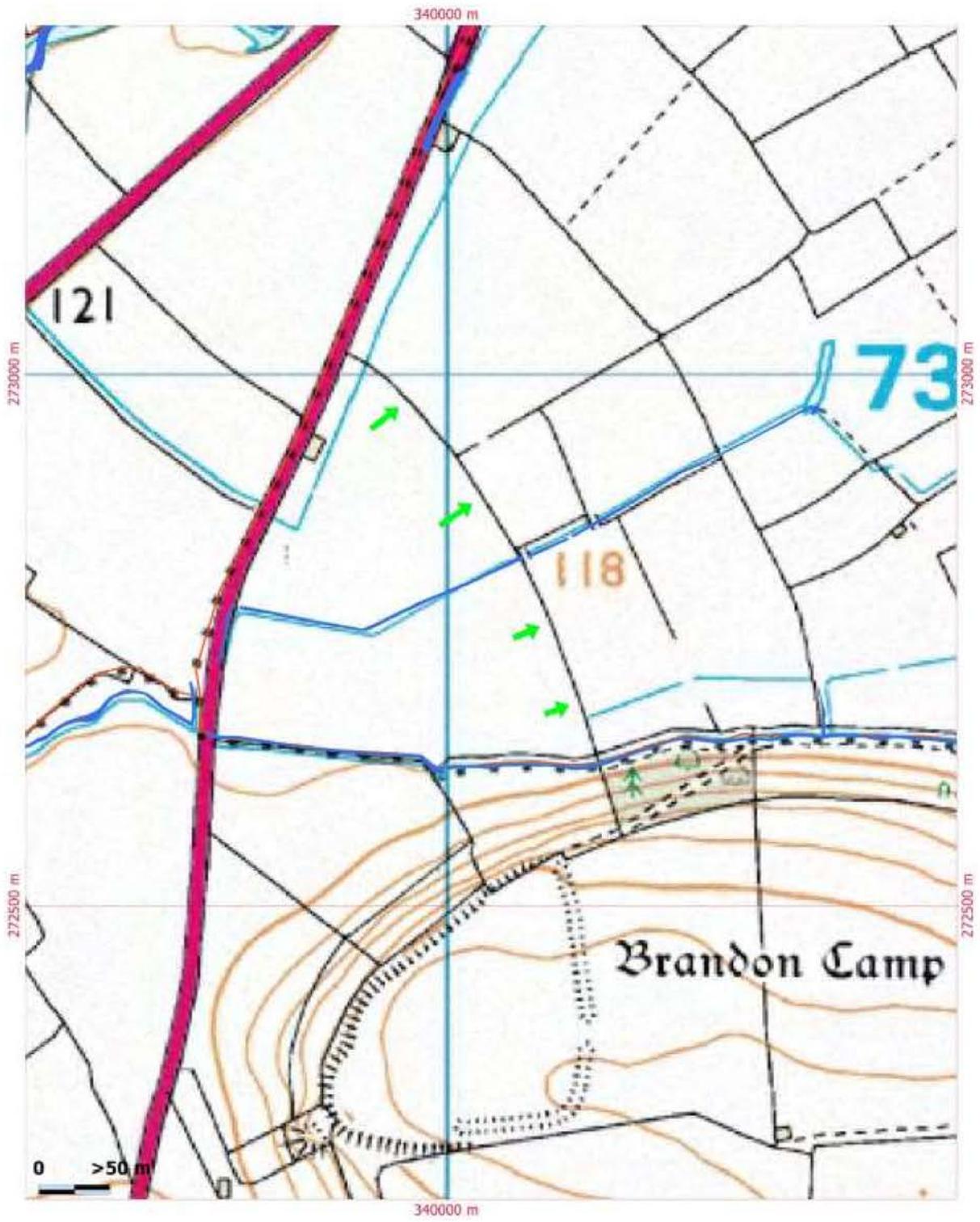


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

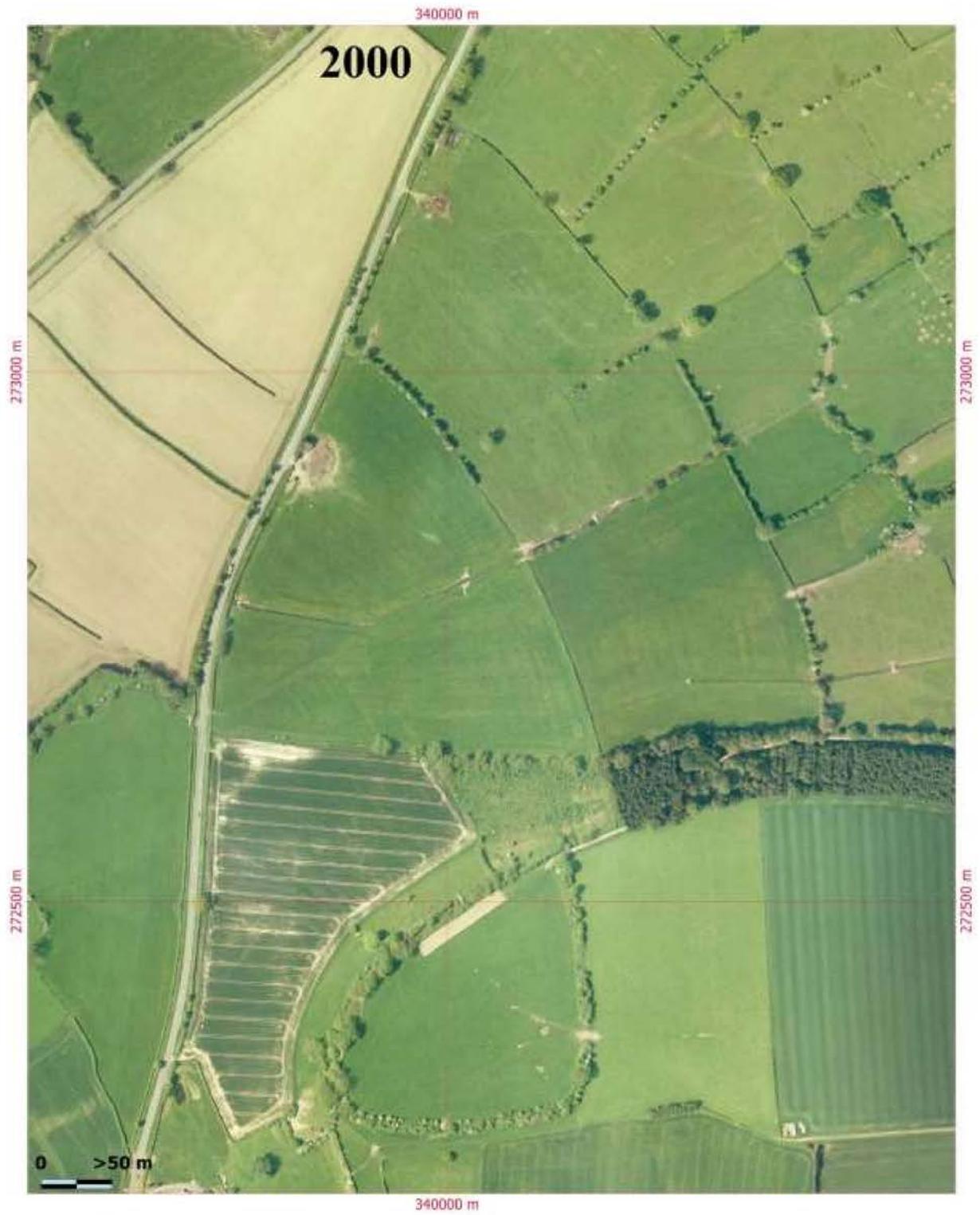


Figure 4



Figure 5

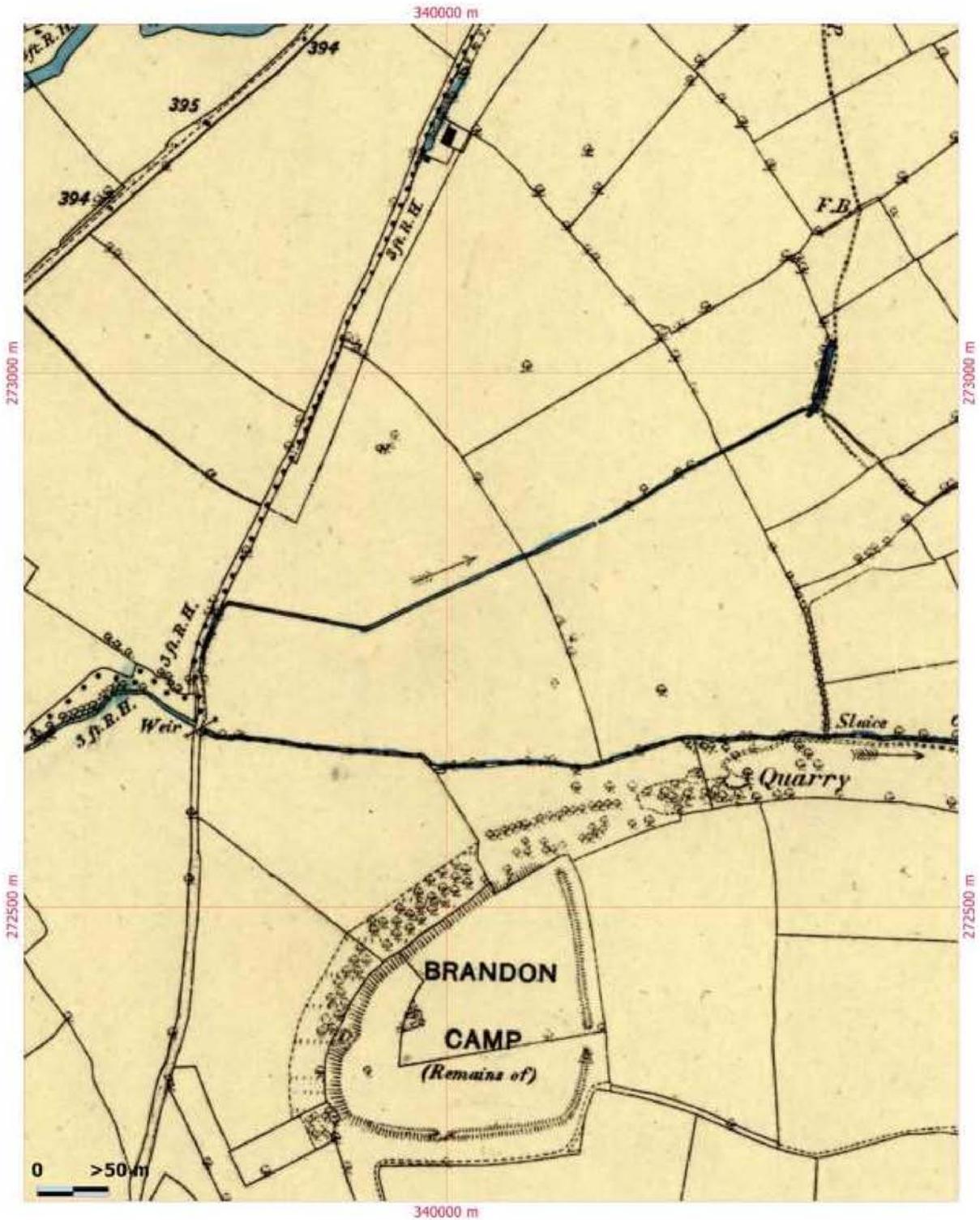


Figure 6

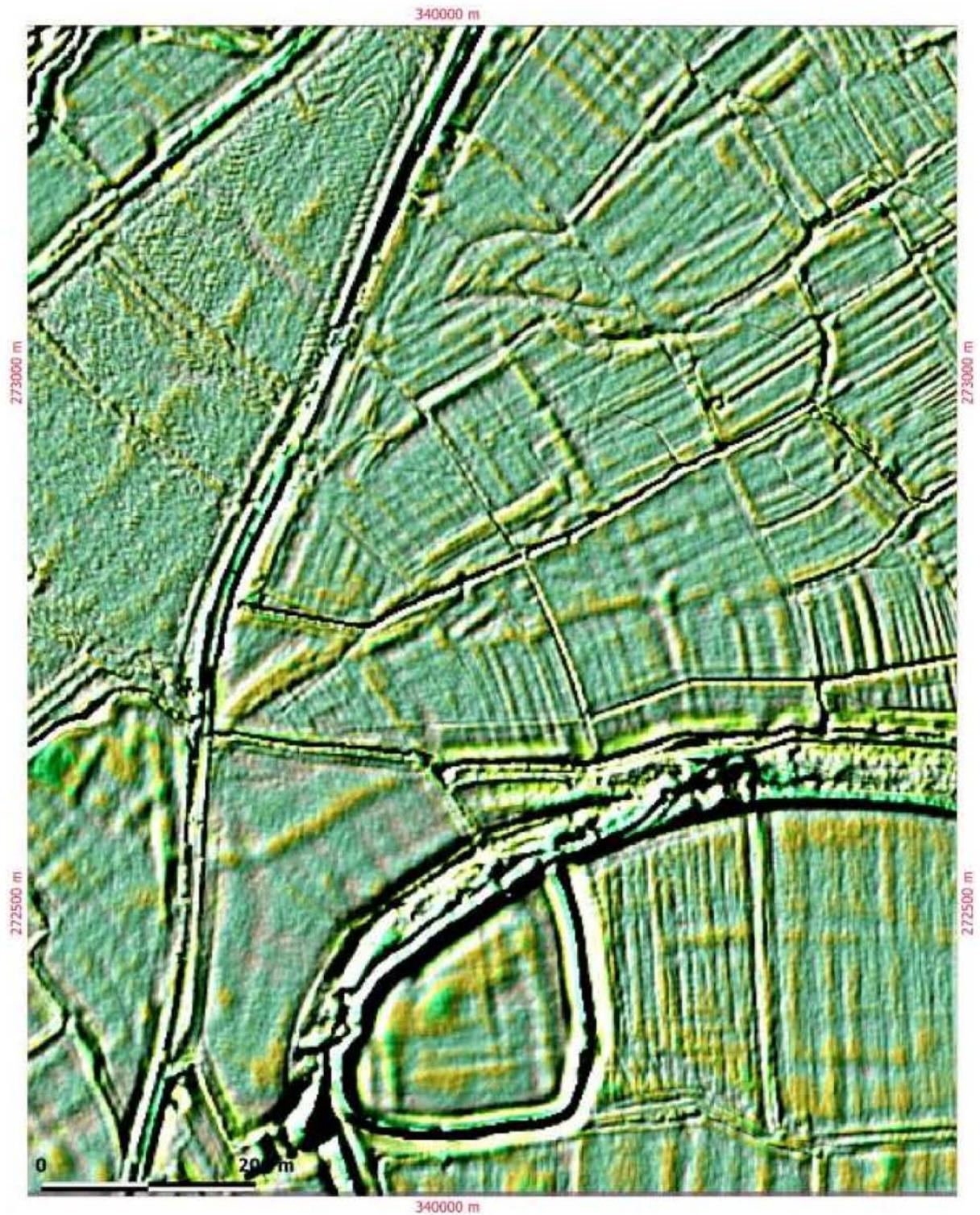


Figure 8

