Field boundaries and lynchets in Highbury Park

Highbury Park is now mainly grassland with some woodland, but it used to consist of several fields. The old boundaries, which are all shown on the Tithe Map of 1840 can now be picked out as lines of trees, which would originally have had hedges joining them. Branches would be cut off the trees from time to time to use in buildings and for other purposes.

Ridge and furrow in many of the former fields in Highbury shows that they were ploughed at some time in the past. On a slope, ploughing would move soil from the top of the field to the bottom, where it would accumulate against the field boundary forming a bank or “lynchet”. At the top of the field, a lynchet would form where the soil was moved away from the boundary.

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