

unearthed

Four iron age square barrows in Pocklington.
Straight-sided enclosures in the Yorkshire wolds.
Cursus monuments in North Bedfordshire.
Ritual processional routes in Clifton Reynes -
revealed by aerial archaeology.

Awed by gorse fire
among shrivelled crops
and scorched gardens,
grave goods laid out in a grid -
recalled by aerial reconnaissance.

Human matters scattered
along overlaid lines;
a fragile diagram in well-trodden earth.
Deaths and births recorded in circles,
brief and multiplying hopes -
recorded by aerial photography.

Once brown shadows have faded,
to become sallow and parched.
The earth strains to contain past.
Love pressed firm in sediment,
Fear etched into the grass.

We perish amid countless humble souls -
laid bare by a laser scanning project.