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# LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**HOLMES ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE  
HORNCastle**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**for**

**EAST LINDSEY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

EVENT LI 4357

SOURCE LI 8931 LI 8932

NEGATIVE

**HOLMES ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE**

**HORNCastle**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

25th January 1994

***SUMMARY***

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the eastern outskirts of Horncastle. Despite extensive trial trenching no archaeological features were identified.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1** The proposed development site comprises a plot of land on the eastern outskirts of Horncastle. This is centered at NGR TF 268 696 and is north of the Holmes Road Industrial Estate, covering an area of c.11.5ha.
- 1.2** Following a desk top assessment and brief produced by the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Section, Lindsey Archaeological Services were appointed to undertake an archaeological evaluation in January 1994.
- 1.3** The land slopes from the North into a shallow dry valley and rises again to the south where it flattens out. The aspect is generally bleak and not an area in which to expect settlement. Slight undulations running north to south may be the remnants of medieval ridge and furrow.
- 1.4** The weather was clear with sunny periods and the ground firm and well drained. Both fields had the appearance of abandoned agricultural land with remains of stubble and weeds in the East field, more weedy in the West field.

## **2.0 PROCEDURE**

- 2.1** The procedures would followed those set out in the specification produced by Lindsey Archaeological Services dated January 12th 1994.
- 2.2** A grid was laid out on a 100 m. base, but the fields were not as rectangular as they appeared on the O.S. map. To provide a reasonable sample in both fields, a random element was introduced to the siting of the trenches. Twenty trenches 10 m x 1.5 m. were laid out and excavated using a JCB CX 3 with a 1.5 m. backactor bucket. The intention was to mechanically excavate as far as any identifiable archaeological remains and then to continue by hand using sampling techniques as required.
- 2.3** Plans and sections would be drawn at relevant scales and photographically recorded. In the event of no archaeological features being recognised the depth of soil and natural geology in each trench would be recorded and photographed.



### 3.0 RESULTS

3.1 In the majority of trenches three layers were found.

- 3.2
- i) Ploughsoil a dark brown soil varying in thickness from 0.48 m. to 0.23 m.
  - ii) Subsoil light brown sandy silt, ranging from a maximum thickness of 0.34 m. to being non-existent.
  - iii) Natural yellow and grey clay with inclusions of flint, gravel and chalky rubble which varies considerably the site. The colour and texture of the ploughsoil and subsoil was the same in each trench.

Note: Measurements of soil depth were taken at the centre of each trench.

3.2	Trench 1	Ploughsoil	0.40 m.
		Subsoil	0.12 m.
		Natural	Yellow clay with flints and some chalk and patches of gravel

Photograph C/1

3.3	Trench 2	Ploughsoil	0.35 m.
		Subsoil	0.11 m. max.
		Natural	Gravelly sand patches and chalky rubble

Photograph C/2

3.4	Trench 3	Ploughsoil	0.30 m.
		Subsoil	only surviving in part to a maximum of 0.80 m.
		Natural	Chalky rubble and sand patches - ? plough mark along length of trench

Photograph C/3

3.5	Trench 4	Ploughsoil	0.40 m.
		Subsoil	0.80 m.
		Natural	Chalky rubble and patches of gravel Trace of a possible field drain running across width and ? plough mark along length of trench

Photograph C/4

3.6	Trench 5	Ploughsoil	0.48 m.
		Subsoil	0.80 m. - where it survives
		Natural	Chalk with sand and gravel

Photograph C/5

3.7	Trench 6	Ploughsoil	0.27 m.
		Subsoil	0.60 m. - where it survives
		Natural	Chalk with sandy patches

Photograph C/6

3.8	Trench 7	Ploughsoil	0.28 m.
		Subsoil	0.20 m.
		Natural	Chalk with sandy clay patches

Photograph C/7

3.9	Trench 8	Ploughsoil	0.28 m.
		Subsoil	0.90 m.
		Natural	Chalk with patches of clay and sand

Photograph C/8

Feature cut into natural - 8.1 - Cut through ploughsoil and at the base is about 35 cms wide where it cuts into the natural, filled with grey brown soil which grades into ploughsoil and probably is of the same material. Considered to be of recent origin - possibly a field boundary (shown on the 6" O.S. as a drain). Lines up with boundary at rear of housing development to the west and running at right angles to the ditch separating the two fields within the development site.

Photographs C/8.1 and C/8.1.1

3.10	Trench 9	Ploughsoil	0.26 m.
		Subsoil	0.18 m.
		Natural	Chalk with sand, gravel and clay
		Photograph C/9	

3.11	Trench 10	Ploughsoil	0.26 m.
		Subsoil	0.11 m.
		Natural	Chalk with large patch of grey clay with chalk
		Photograph C/10	

3.12	Trench 11	Ploughsoil	0.27 m.
		Subsoil	0.34 m.
		Natural	Grey clay with chalk and gravel
		Unnaturally thick subsoil - land is sloping gently towards shallow dry valley and this probably represents an area of better preserved subsoil/soil creep	

Photograph C/11

3.13	Trench 12	Ploughsoil	0.26 m.
		Subsoil	0.40 m.
		Natural	Sand/gravel, clay and chalky wash. Patches of flints in gravel.
		Large field drain running East-West broken, digger driver promised to repair it when back filling.	

Note: Clay and chalk overlain by gravel layer

Photograph C/12

3.14	Trench 13	Ploughsoil	0.28 m.
		Subsoil	None
		Natural	Chalky rubble with patches of sandy clay and sand
		Photograph C/13	

3.15	Trench 14	Ploughsoil	0.26 m.
		Subsoil	0.11 m.
		Natural	Chalky rubble with gravel patches and grey clay

Photograph C/14

3.16	Trench 15	Ploughsoil	0.28 m.
		Subsoil	None
		Natural	Chalky rubble with clay and gravel.

Photograph C/15

Note: This side of the field seems to have been ploughed down to natural with little or none of the subsoil surviving

3.17	Trench 16	Ploughsoil	0.30 m.
		Subsoil	None
		Natural	Chalky rubble with clay and gravel.

Photograph C/16

3.18	Trench 17	Ploughsoil	0.30 m.
		Subsoil	0.09 m.
		Natural	Chalky rubble with clay and gravel patches.

Photograph C/17

3.19	Trench 18	Ploughsoil	0.30 m.
		Subsoil	0.20 m.
		Natural	Chalky rubble with clay and gravel.

Photograph C/18



3.20	Trench 19	Ploughsoil	0.23 m.
		Subsoil	0.07 m. were it exists
		Natural	Chalky rubble with clay and gravel.
		Photograph C/19	

3.21	Trench 20	Ploughsoil	0.35 m.
		Subsoil	0.03 m. were it exists
		Natural	Chalky rubble with clay and gravel.
		Photograph C/20	

#### **4.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1** No archaeological features were identified in any of the machine-excavated trenches. A general walkover of the site produced two sherds of Roman pottery (HW 94/2 and HW 94/3) and one medieval sherd (HW 94/1) which cannot be considered unusual in that area.
- 4.2** Features which were identified in the desktop assessment on aerial photographs as of potential archaeological interest are most likely due to the changeable sub-surface geology.
- 4.3** A local man who visited during the excavation, commented that he had never found anything on the site with his metal detector. Given the great popularity of metal detecting in this area that may be a good indication of the site's low archaeological potential. There is no evidence to show that the proposed development will affect any archaeological remains and no further archaeological work should be required. However, any contractor working on the site should be made aware of his responsibilities regarding any artifacts or remains that may be found.

***Key to Figure 1***

- +** Indicates trenches numbered 1 - 20
- ⊙** Indicates finds numbered HW94/, -94/3

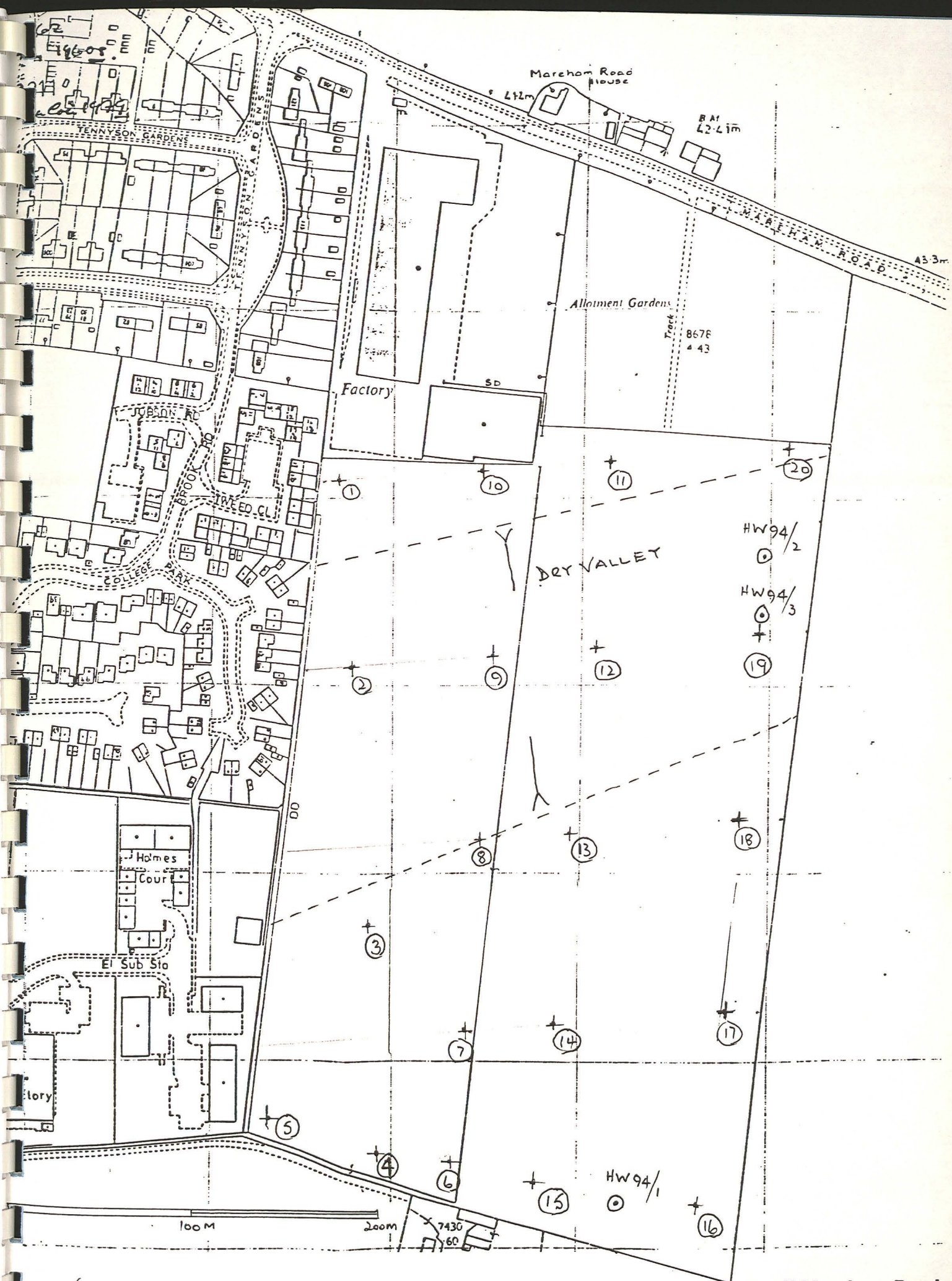


Fig. 1. Horncastle off Mareham Road  
January 1994



*Holmes Road Industrial Estate  
Horncastle January 1994*



C/1



C/2



*Holmes Road Industrial Estate  
Horncastle January 1994*



**C/3**



**C/4**



*Holmes Road Industrial Estate  
Horncastle January 1994*



C/5



C/6



*Holmes Road Industrial Estate  
Horncastle January 1994*



**C/7**



**C/8**



*Holmes Road Industrial Estate  
Horncastle January 1994*



C/8/1



C 8/1.1



*Holmes Road Industrial Estate  
Horncastle January 1994*



**C/9**



**C/10**



*Holmes Road Industrial Estate  
Horncastle January 1994*



**C/11**



**C/12**



*Holmes Road Industrial Estate  
Horncastle January 1994*



**C/13**



**C/14**



*Holmes Road Industrial Estate  
Horncastle January 1994*



C/15



C/16



*Holmes Road Industrial Estate  
Horncastle January 1994*



**C/17**



**C/18**



*Holmes Road Industrial Estate  
Horncastle January 1994*



C/19



C/20



