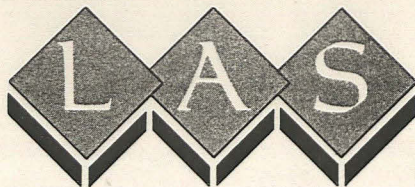


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# LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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Brogden's Farm, Mill Road, Addlethorpe:  
Archaeological Monitoring of a Building Development  
(NGR: TF 5492 6776)

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Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was asked to monitor the foundation trenches of a new building on land to the NE of Brogden's Farm in Addlethorpe, for Mrs. S. Hobbins (Figs 1 and 2). This work was required as a condition of planning permission imposed by East Lindsey District Council. The trenches were inspected on 3rd March 1994.

Archaeological Background

The building plot lies 2.8km east of the present coastline, on land which was submerged by a transgression of the North Sea between the Romano-British and the Saxon periods. A thick deposit of about 1m-1.5m of marine silts covers the prehistoric land surface in this area, protecting and masking early archaeological sites.

The marginal nature of this land throughout various periods of human history resulted in a specific form of habitation and land-use between inundations. The marshlands, transected by small creeks and channels, were apparently occupied on a seasonal nature by small communities of sea-salt collectors who processed salt water into salt for trading inland. Their working areas, known as salterns, are easily recognised by the large quantities of waste products present. These consist of heat-affected soil, charcoal fragments, pottery sherds and briquetage, a term used throughout Britain to describe fired clay items used in the evaporation of brine.

Salterns are known in this area from the Early Iron Age until the medieval period. The medieval examples can be located from the ground surface or by investigation of shallow ditches, pits or other disturbances. Romano-British and prehistoric salterns are only exposed by deeper excavations which penetrate the silt to the underlying layers. Voluntary observations by a local fieldworker, Betty Kirkham, have shown that this area has had a dense concentration of salterns, mostly Romano-British or medieval. A medieval saltern was found by a member of the Hobbins family in 1959 about 0.2km NW of the building plot; recent discoveries by LAS on the nearby Burgh-le-Marsh to Ingoldmells Rising Main have included other (probably Romano-British) salterns 0.2 and 0.4km NE of the site. Slight traces of another were located 0.3km to the west, and the SMR notes another, Early Iron Age, saltern (41818) about 0.1km east, but the location for this is in doubt.

A palaeolithic worked flint tool has been reported from a field close to Brogden's Farm (SMR 41804). The circumstances of this find are not known, but prehistoric flints of more recent date were found on the upper surface of the marine

silt along the Rising Main easement in this vicinity (Fig.2). All these finds have been disturbed from their original context.

There were slight undulations visible in the pasture in this field before the building work commenced, particularly in the eastern half (Pl.3). These could not be readily interpreted from the surface and there remained a possibility that building remains of a medieval dwelling might be present.

#### The Watching Brief

(Pls. 1-5)

The site was visited during the mechanical excavation of 12 holes for upright supports. The sections of these were inspected and found to contain no material other than 0.20-0.25m of topsoil above marine flood silts from the major post-Roman inundation (Pl.5). None of the holes penetrated this thick deposit and no earlier land surfaces were revealed.

During the visit, three backfilled drainage trenches were investigated; these had not exposed lower deposits and no archaeological finds were visible in the disturbed topsoil.

The open drain on the north side of the field had been cleaned shortly before the development started and the upcast from this was examined. At the east end of the field the drain had been bridged, using a quantity of reclaimed red, unfrogged house bricks measuring 230 x 110 x 75mm. Smaller quantities of roof tile fragments were present. This probably represents reuse of the demolition material from a post-medieval (?18th century) structure, perhaps a farm building on the existing Brogden's Farm location. A much more recent building of concrete breeze-blocks and bricks with 3 holes had been demolished and spread over much of the western part of the field.

#### Conclusion

No medieval habitation remains or artefacts were found on this building plot. It is unlikely that the undulations in the pasture represent more than compacted access paths into other fields or redundant drainage channels. The building excavations did not penetrate beyond the post-Roman flood silt deposit (approximate thickness in nearby fields between 1.1 and 1.3m). Earlier archaeological remains may be present on this site, undamaged by the groundworks for this development.

#### Acknowledgements

LAS thanks Mrs. S. Hobbins and the builders for their co-operation and interest during the monitoring of the excavations.

Geoff Tann

Lindsey Archaeological Services  
16th March 1994

## Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record Summary

SMR No.	NGR (TF)	Description
OS Sheet TF 56 NW 41801	5480 6775	Traces of briquetage from saltern, seen 1m below ground surface in side of a small pit. 'Hand-bricks' (pedestals), hearth, trough fragments etc. Found 1978.
41804(F)	5482 6790	Palaeolithic flint, 127mm (5") x 90mm (3.5"). Found c.1964 by H. Hobbins.
41806(H)	548 679	2 coins: Edward II and Edward III, found 1958.
41807(I)	548 679	?Medieval saltern and associated finds of 'hand-bricks' and large pieces of crude medieval pottery (perhaps trough fragments), found 1959 by Miss J. Hobbins. Slight earthworks of hollows and a low mound survived in pasture to the north of the findspot.
OS Sheet TF 56 NE 41818(N)	5535 6768	Early Iron Age salterns: OS Records. NGR may be incorrect; ?5523 6767.
41820(T)	552 682	3 salterns with briquetage, including 'hand-bricks' and short rods. Found 1970-1.

### Archaeological Finds Found on the Burgh-le-Marsh to Ingoldmells Rising Main Pipeline

These finds in the vicinity of Brogden's Farm were retrieved during archaeological monitoring of the pipeline in 1993 and have not yet been added to the SMR.

BLM no.	NGR	Description
33A	5460 6772	1 medieval pot sherd, Toynton/Bolingbroke
33B	5467 6775	4 " " " " , 16-17th century "
33C	5473 6782	1 worked flint
33D	5463 6773	1 fragment ?Romano-British briquetage
34A	5476 6782	1 sherd medieval pot
35A	5497 6784	1 worked flint; 4 shell-tempered medieval pot sherds
36A	5515 6784	?Romano-British briquetage from saltern
36B	5513 6784	Medieval pottery sherds
36C	5512 6784	?Romano-British briquetage from saltern
36D	5510 6784	Medieval pottery sherds
37A	5522 6784	1 sherd medieval pot
37B/38B	5540 6781	?Romano-British briquetage from saltern



Fig. 1. Addlethorpe, site location. (Reproduced from the 1960 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright).

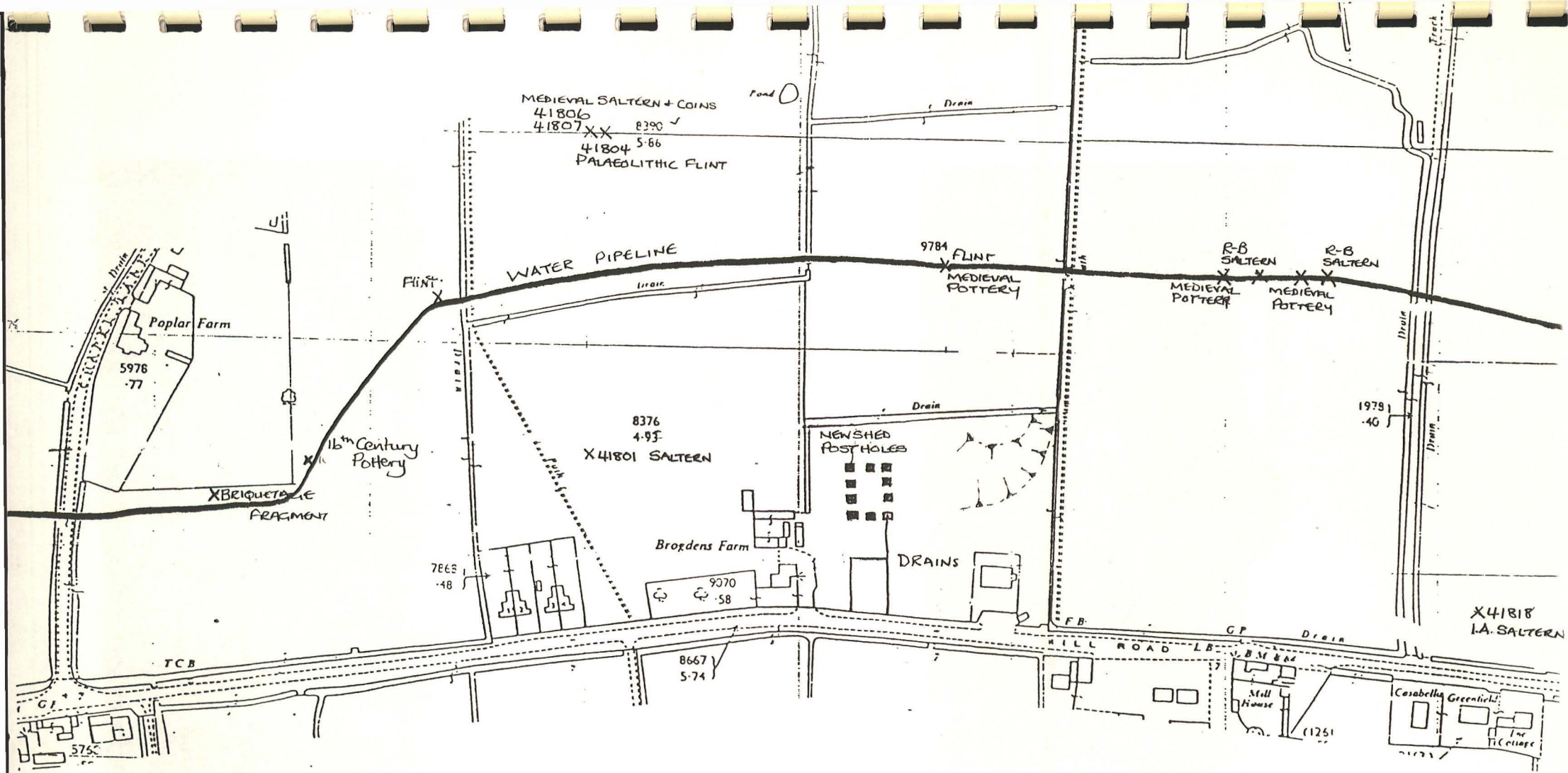


Fig. 2. Position of new shed showing position of post-holes and service trenches. Previous archaeological discoveries shown and route of water pipeline constructed in 1993. (Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of the Controller of HMSO, Crown copyright.)



Pl. 1. Demolished building on west half of new shed.  
(looking south).

Pl. 2. Demolished building on west half of new shed.  
(looking south-east).







Pl. 3. General view of field to east of new shed.

Pl. 4. Levelled modern building looking north.





Pl. 5. Excavated post-hole for new shed dug through topsoil and silt deposits.