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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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**Saltfleetby B Drill Site
Howdales, South Cockerington**

Archaeological Watching Brief

**NGR: TF 425 913
Site Code: SCH 98
LCNCC Museum Accession No: 40.98**

prepared on behalf of

Candecca Resources Limited

**LAS Report No. 284
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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during topsoil stripping for a new oil exploration drill site at Howdales, South Cockerington. The groundworks did not reach a sufficient depth to affect any archaeological remains that may have been present. A single piece of post-medieval pottery was found in the topsoil. Alluvial horizons indicating uneven ground were seen in the perimeter trench.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Candecca Resources Ltd in February 1998 to carry out an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping and excavation of a compound perimeter ditch at the Saltfleetby B drill site, in accordance with the requirements of the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council.

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to record any archaeological deposits disturbed during groundworks at the above site.

Site Location

The site consisted of c. 1ha of open arable ground SE of a farm at Newfoundland, Howdales, South Cockerington (Fig. 1). Access to the site was along the western side of a field drain forming the parish boundary between South Cockerington and Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven. The site formed part of a larger field, with another open drain defining the SE side (Pl. 1). An existing Conoco gas pipeline crosses the field immediately west of the drill compound.

Archaeological Background

The site is located in the Lincolnshire Marsh which is covered in marine silts. Medieval salt workings, other medieval and post-medieval remains in the Lincolnshire Marsh lie close to the modern land surface. Any archaeological features predating the medieval period are usually buried below this deposit at depths between c.1m-3m below modern ground level. The area was subject to periodic marine inundation and there is potential for buried salt making sites of Iron Age or Roman date in the vicinity.

Watching Brief

The watching brief was carried out between 9th and 18th February 1998 by Naomi Field and Geoff Tann; four monitoring visits were made. Topsoil was removed by bulldozer to a depth of about 370mm below the existing ground surface (Pl. 2).

The topsoil was a dark brown silty clay and overlay light brown silty clay which was mottled by yellow and grey silty clay patches. The only finds (a post-medieval pot sherd and a fragment of slag, both discarded) were from the western edge of the stripped area and may have derived from material introduced for the adjacent existing gas pipeline.

A perimeter ditch was excavated to a depth of about 0.5m. This exposed earlier alluvial deposits. The subsoil was about 0.1m thick and covered a thin sandy band up to 0.02m thick. Below this was a thicker deposit (about 0.25m thick) of identically coloured light brown silty clay. The lower deposit had levelled an undulating surface to the alluvium deposit below.

The undulating horizon was a light blue/grey silt above a grey/brown deposit (Pl. 3). The blue colouration may indicate a former ground surface where vegetation had become waterlogged in advance of inundation and subsequent burial by silt. This would suggest a longer period of dry conditions at that (undated) stage than between later inundations.

Conclusions

No archaeological remains were encountered. The depth of groundworks was insufficient to impact upon any archaeological remains which may be present.

Acknowledgements

LAS would like to thank Candecca Resources Ltd. and their contractors for their co-operation during this project.

Naomi Field and Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
24th March 1998

Archive Summary

Developer's site location plans, annotated

Photographs: LAS film nos. 98/11/37; 98/13/6-8; 98/17/16, 17; 98/18/15-19

Correspondence

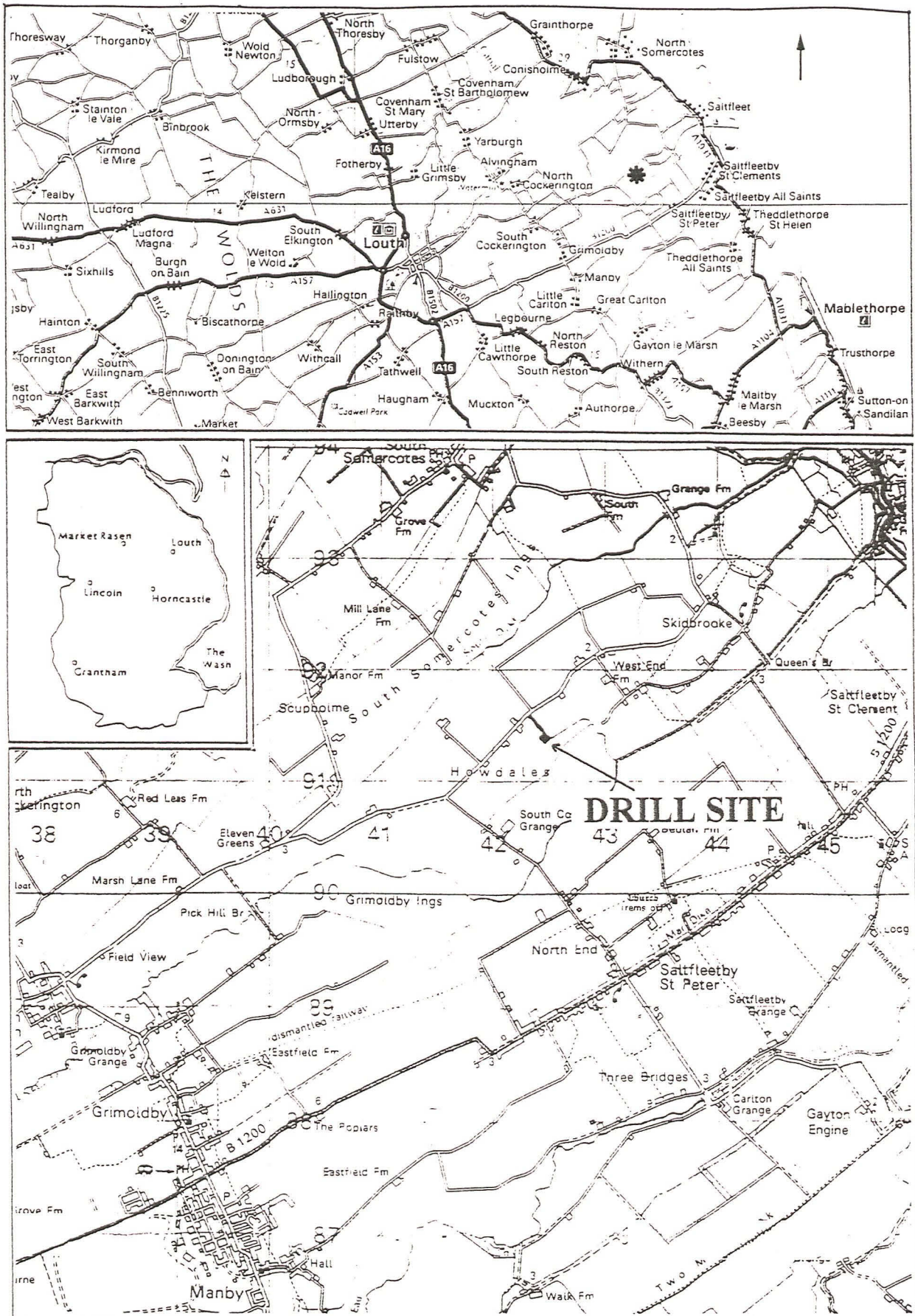


Fig. 1 Site Location (based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 map supplied by the client. Crown Copyright, reproduced with permission of the Controller of HMSO. Licence No. AL 50424A).

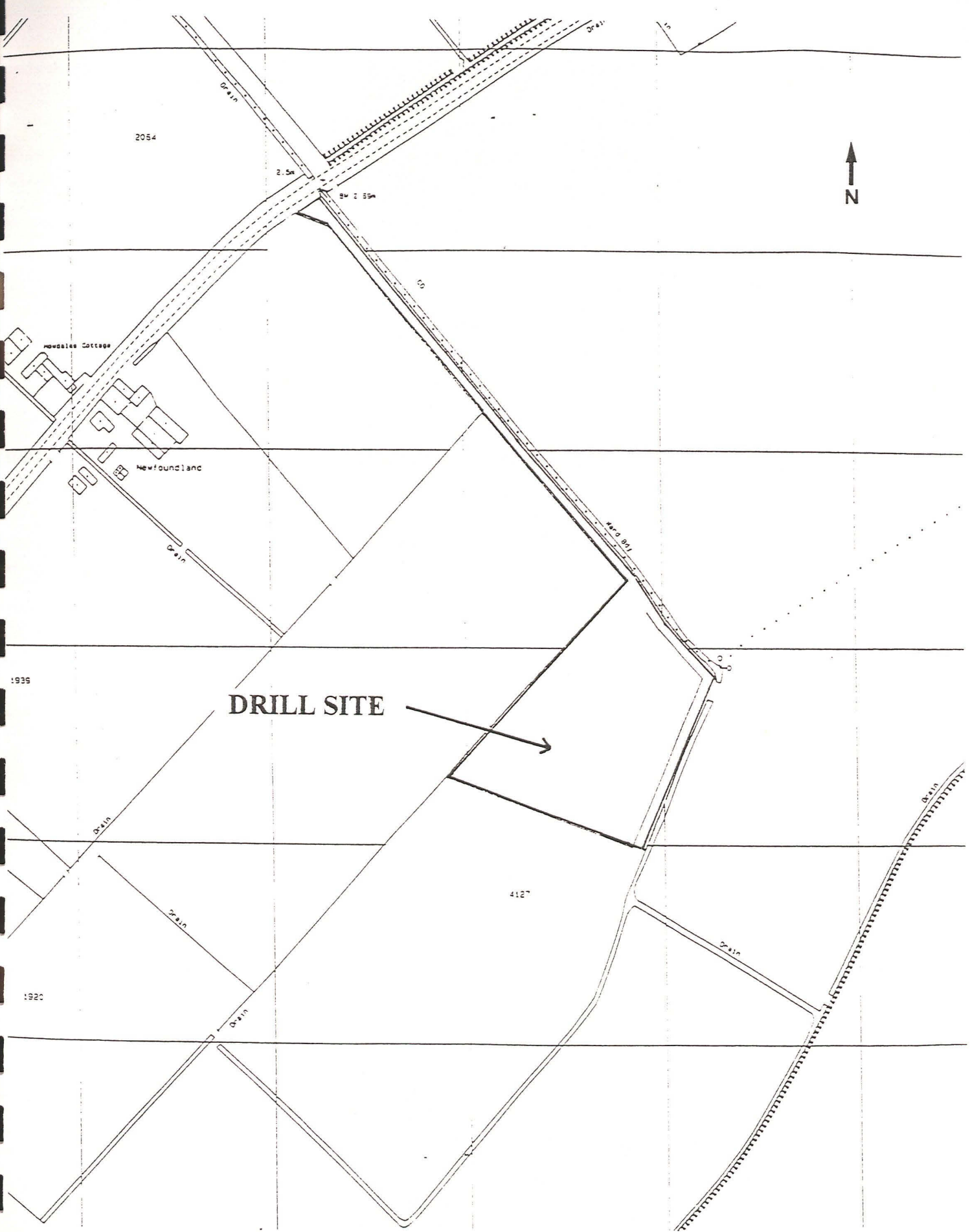


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