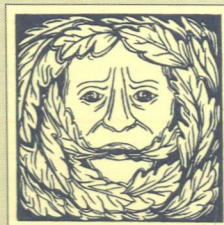


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ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS
OF THE REAPPRAISAL OF
GEDNEY DAWSMERE
CONSERVATION AREA,
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(SCA 99)

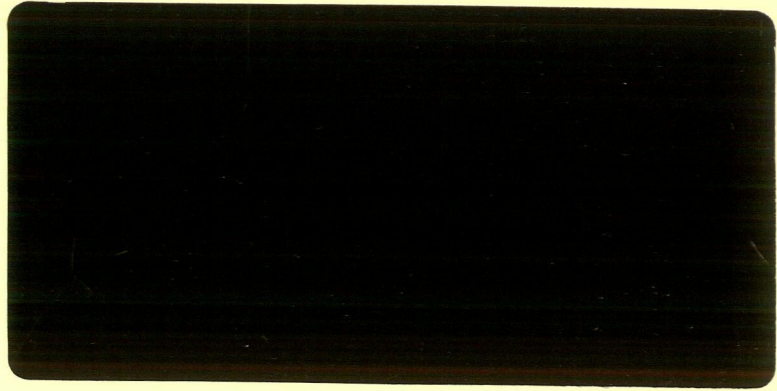


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Lincolnshire County Council
Archaeology Section

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS
OF THE REAPPRAISAL OF
GEDNEY DAWSMERE
CONSERVATION AREA,
GEDNEY,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(SCA 99)**

Work Undertaken For
South Holland District Council

Report compiled by
Paul Cope-Faulkner BA (Hons) AIFA

April 2000

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1. SUMMARY

A desk-top assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological setting of the Conservation Area, Gedney Dawsmere, Lincolnshire. Several archaeological sites and findspots are located within and in the vicinity of the Conservation Area.

Gedney Dawsmere is located in an area of 17th century land reclamation from the sea. The sea bank that formed the outer limit of this reclamation runs through the village and survives as an extant earthwork south of the main road. The village was built in 1855 with the church and vicarage built later, though a building is mentioned in the accompanying schedules of early plans.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by South Holland District Council to undertake a desk-top assessment of Gedney Dawsmere Conservation Area, Gedney, Lincolnshire. This was to form part of an appraisal of the current Conservation Area. This archaeological assessment was undertaken in accordance with a specification previously designed by Archaeological Project Services for appraisal of the Holbeach Conservation Area.

2.2 Aims

The aims of the archaeological assessment were to gather and appraise all known archaeological and historical information. Such location and assessment of significance would permit the formulation of an appropriate management policy for the archaeological resource of the Gedney Dawsmere Conservation Area.

3. TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Gedney Dawsmere is located 20km east of Spalding and 18km southeast of Boston in the civil parish of Gedney, South Holland District, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The Conservation Area is centred on National Grid Reference TF 441 301 and is focused upon Christ Church. The Conservation Area includes properties north of the main thoroughfare and the playing field to the south. Buildings alongside the road aligned north out of the village are excluded. This assessment examines the conservation area and surrounding 1km.

The local topography describes a relatively flat landscape, although there is a general undulation in height from 4.3m to 3.6m OD through the village. This may relate to former sea banks known in the vicinity.

The village is located on soils of the Romney Series, generally coarse silty gleyic brown calcareous alluvial soils (Robson 1990, 26). Surrounding the village are Agney Series, medium silty calcareous alluvial gley soils (*ibid.* 9). These soils overlie a drift geology of marine alluvium (generally sandy silt, sand and clay) which in turn overlie a solid geology of Upper Jurassic Ampthill Clay (GSGB 1978).

4. METHODS

Compilation of the archaeological and historical data relevant to the area of the proposed development site involved examination of all appropriate primary and secondary sources available. These have included:

- historical documents, held in Lincolnshire Archives

- enclosure, tithe, parish and other maps and plans, held in Lincolnshire Archives
- recent and old Ordnance Survey maps
- the County Sites and Monuments Record
- the parish files of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire
- aerial photographs
- archaeological books and journals

Information obtained in the literature and cartographic examination was supplemented by a site visit to investigate the present land use and condition. Results of the archival and field examinations were committed to scale plans of the area.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Historical data

Gedney is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086 and is referred to as *Gadenai*, derived from the Old English and meaning 'Gyddas island' (Ekwall 1974, 195). Gedney Dawsmere is much later and is named after a former creek that bore the name of either Sir Abraham or Sir Thomas Dawes, undertakers of land reclamation during the mid 17th century (Healey nd, 2). Dawsmere Creek was also called 'The Division Creek' as detailed in the Enclosure Act of 1791 (Gedney 1791, 26).

The area around Gedney Dawsmere was reclaimed from Gedney Marsh under a grant from James I in 1635 (Wheeler 1896, 126). The seabank that marked the limit of these reclamations was finished in 1660 (*ibid.*, 116). A further stage of reclamation was undertaken by Act of Parliament in 1793 and included a strip, no more than 1km wide, east of the 17th century bank (*ibid.*, 126).

In 1852, 2,300 acres of land were sold by the Sers family to Edward Cardwell, a renowned politician in Gladstone's government (Healey nd, 7). Cardwell's first act was to build a new village, Gedney Dawsmere, the cottages of which were completed by 1855 and a school in 1857. Cardwell also provided money for the construction of a church and a parsonage which were not completed until 1869 and 1871 respectively (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 307).

Although the church was in Dawsmere, it was the centre of the ecclesiastical district of Drove End (Healey nd, 4).

5.2 Cartographic Data

The earliest map available is entitled '*A Description of Gedney marsh in the Parish of Gedney in the County of Lincolne*' dating to 1679 (Fig. 3). This shows Dawsmere Creek, although it is labelled as The Division Creek, and a larger creek to the south called Sluice Creek. No buildings are depicted at all on this plan (LAO HD 42/22/2).

Gedney Marsh is also shown on Armstrong's '*Map of the County of Lincoln*' dating to 1788 (Fig. 4). No creeks are depicted and the nearest building shown is referred to as Red House. A thoroughfare south of Dawsmere's position is labelled Gedney Drove (Fig. 4).

The parish was finally enclosed in 1794 following an act of parliament dating to 1791. No map or accompanying schedule was available at the time at Lincoln Archive Office, although the document is referenced (LAO *parish depts. Par. Plans*).

Bryant's map of the County of Lincoln dating to 1828 indicates the layout of roads, farms and other features (Fig. 5). The main thoroughfare through Dawsmere is shown

and a few possible buildings are depicted in the vicinity of Dawsmere. Gedney Drove End had established itself as a small village by this time.

Dating from 1841, a map entitled *Plan of the The Parish of Gedney in the County of Lincoln* (LAO K246) depicts the entire parish for Tithe Awards (Fig. 6). The main thoroughfare through Dawsmere is depicted and the surrounding fields have been enclosed. No buildings are depicted, although a single plot (No. 54) is labelled as a building and yard.

A map entitled '*Map of Estates belonging to the R^t. Hon. Edward Cardwell and Cha^s Cardwell Esq^r*' dating to 1854 shows the main thoroughfares and individual plots of land. No buildings are depicted in the vicinity of Dawsmere, although the accompanying schedule records an old sea bank, a paddock and cottage at the subsequent location of the village. This map also shows a realignment of the road through the village, away from the 1660 sea bank.

The subsequent Ordnance Survey maps of Dawsmere indicate little change occurring in the field layout from 1841 to the present day. Illustrated is the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1905 (Fig. 7). Within Dawsmere the full extent of the village and its buildings can be ascertained. This pattern of buildings has been retained to the present day.

5.3 Aerial Photograph Data

Aerial photographs of Gedney Dawsmere, published or transcribed in secondary sources, were examined for evidence of archaeological remains.

Three aerial photographs are located within the parish files of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire (Codes: 23 and W35). These

photographs are undated and are taken from a relatively high altitude. No archaeological remains are apparent, although the system of creeks show as both cropmarks and changes in the colour of the soil.

Two photographs are held by the County Sites and Monuments Record (Code: CUCAP PB27 and 28). These duplicate the photographs stored at the Department of Aerial Photography at Cambridge University. Again no archaeological remains are apparent and only the courses of former creeks are clear.

5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds held in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Record and the files of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire were consulted. Other, secondary, sources were also examined. Details of archaeological and historical remains falling within 1km of the Conservation Area are collated in Table 1 and committed to Figure 8.

Table. 1 Archaeological Sites in the Vicinity of Gedney Dawsmere Conservation Area.

Map	County	Description	Grid. Ref.
1	20475	Post-medieval settlement	TF 4430 3015
2		1660 sea bank	
3		1793 sea bank	

Prehistoric to Medieval Archaeology

No remains of these periods has been found within the investigation area or are believed to exist in the vicinity. Apart from the earlier prehistoric period, for which a buried land surface might survive at depth, the area would have been inundated until the reclamations of the 17th century.

Post-medieval Archaeology

Post-medieval archaeology is represented by the two sea banks of 1660 and 1793 (Fig. 8, No. 2 and 3) and the subsequent post-medieval settlement of Gedney Dawsmere in 1855. The 1660 sea bank survives as a low earthwork to the south of the village. The 19th century settlement comprises several cottages, the church, school and vicarage. A few of the outlying farms can also be considered to be contemporary.

No industrial activity is known from the village during the 19th century, apart from a single smithy depicted on maps of the area.

5.5 Site Visit

A site visit was made to Gedney Dawsmere on the 3rd December 1999. This was to assess the possible level of surviving archaeological deposits and to identify hitherto unknown archaeological sites.

Christ Church provides the focal point of the village and is set within its own grounds. Adjacent to the church is the former Vicarage, now a private home. Through the

village the estate cottages are set in pairs. The school is a detached private residence.

Little recent development has occurred in the village.

6. DISCUSSION

Prehistoric to medieval remains have not been identified in the vicinity of Gedney Dawsmere. Apart from prehistoric remains which may lie at some depth below the present ground surface, no remains of Romano-British or later periods are thought to exist until the area was reclaimed from the sea in 1679. Gedney Dawsmere is a planned 19th century village established in 1855.

The earliest maps of the region indicate the extent of former salt marsh and gradual changes as the land was enclosed and reclaimed from the sea. At least one building existed at Dawsmere prior to the planned village of 1855, although this building's extent cannot be determined from the available maps.

A visit to Gedney Dawsmere, undertaken as part of this investigation, confirmed that the village maintains its 19th century character with limited development.

7. MANAGEMENT

The management of the archaeological resource within Gedney Dawsmere should follow the guidelines set out by English Heritage (1992a, 1992b) and in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) notes 15 (buildings) and 16 (archaeology) (DoE 1990, 1994).

Some nationally important archaeological monuments are singled out for statutory protection under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (AMAA) 1979. Such monuments are known as Scheduled Ancient Monuments and are statutorily protected from any damage or alteration. The scheduling of monuments is the responsibility of the Secretary of State for National Heritage, advised by English Heritage. There are no sites within the Conservation Area that are presently Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

This study has identified the location of three archaeological sites within the conservation area. As no sites are scheduled ancient monuments, the management of these sites is the responsibility of their respective landowners. There appear to be no major management problems at present.

The management strategy for archaeological sites is dependent on their importance. Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG16) states: *Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development their should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation* (PPG16, para 8).

The determination of the importance of an archaeological site is judged on the basis of a set of criteria given in PPG16 and shown here as Appendix 2. All nationally important archaeological monuments should be

protected from the effects of development through the application of PPG16 which presumes in favour of their physical preservation (although they are not necessarily protected from other forms of damage). South Holland District Council has adopted suitable policies for the use of PPG16 in its Local Plan (SHDC 1995, 30 - Policy E6).

Knowledge of many of the archaeological sites listed on the Sites and Monuments Record is minimal and it is difficult to make a judgement of their importance on a national scale without further information. PPG16 suggests: *.... it is reasonable for the planning authority to request the prospective developer to arrange for an archaeological field evaluation to be carried out before any decision on the planning application is taken.* (PPG16 para 21). Such evaluations may take several forms:

a) Desk-top Assessment

This is defined as an assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area. They consist of a collation of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely character, extent, quality and worth of the known or potential archaeological resource in a local, regional or national context as appropriate (IFA 1997a).

b) Archaeological Field Evaluation

This is defined as a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land. If such remains are present Field Evaluation defines their character and extent, quality and preservation, and it enables an assessment of their worth in a local regional or national context as appropriate (IFA 1997c).

From the results of the evaluation, an appropriate management or mitigation strategy may be determined. The main options are:

Preservation in Situ:

- a) Exceptionally, evaluation may reveal a site of such importance that it is scheduled under the provisions of AMAA1979
- b) Planning applications may be refused on the basis of the importance of buried archaeological remains.
- c) Developers may be requested to alter estate layouts or change foundation designs in order to preserve buried remains.

Physical preservation, or preservation in situ is not always the most appropriate strategy and it may be necessary to preserve 'by record'. PPG16 states: *Where planning authorities decide that the physical preservation in situ of archaeological remains is not justified in the circumstances of the case and that development resulting in the destruction of the archaeological remains should proceed, it would be entirely reasonable for the planning authority to satisfy itself before granting planning permission, that the developer has made appropriate and satisfactory provision for the excavation and recording of the remains.* (PPG16 para25). Once again, several strategies are available, depending on the importance of the remains:

Preservation by Record:

- a) Archaeological Excavation
Defined as a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines and records archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within

a specified area or site. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the Project Design (IFA 1997d).

- b) Archaeological Watching Brief
This is defined as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site on land, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. Such a programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive (IFA 1997b).

- c) Building Investigation and Recording
Defined as a programme of work intended to establish the character, history, dating, form and archaeological development of a specified building, structure, or complex and its setting, including buried components, on land. (IFA 1996).

Archaeological management strategies for Gedney Dawsmere

For the short to medium term, it would be judicious to define research strategies for the archaeological heritage of Gedney Dawsmere and to recommend a framework by which such strategies could be implemented. The management options discussed above should be applied to this end.

A single key question relating to the development of Gedney Dawsmere has been identified. A building is depicted on the tithe award map of 1841 and indicates settlement prior to the building of the village in 1851. It would be interesting to identify how this earlier settlement developed into the present village.

The present conservation area includes the

extent of the post-medieval village. It is proposed that any development within the present conservation area automatically triggers archaeological intervention, particularly in relation to the 17th century sea banks, of which there are no known excavated examples. Development outside the Conservation Area is still subject to PPG 16 and intervention is dependant on factors such as size of development and proximity to known archaeology.

The Conservation Area would not represent an immutable boundary and would be subject to change as new evidence came to light in future archaeological investigations.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The types of archaeological remains present in Gedney Dawsmere are unique to this part of Lincolnshire and relate to post-medieval land reclamation and the establishment of an estate village in the 19th century. Artefacts and ecofacts are likely to represent these periods.

Post-medieval features are restricted to the extant remains of a sea bank and the buildings within the village. No earlier remains are considered likely.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to thank Mr R. Scriven of South Holland District Council who commissioned this assessment. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Dave Start permitted examination of the relevant parish files maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was kindly provided by Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of the

Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Jim Bonnor, the Assistant Archaeological Officer for Lincolnshire County Council, commented upon draft copies of this report. Hilary Healey provided access to maps and the original Enclosure Act of 1791.

10. REFERENCES

All of the following sources were consulted in the data-gathering exercise. However, as some references duplicated information available in others, not all of them have been specifically referred to in the text.

Bryant, A., 1828, *Map of the County of Lincoln*

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DoE, 1994, *Planning and the Historic Environment* Planning Policy Guidance note 15

Ekwall, E., 1974, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* (4th ed)

English Heritage, 1992a, *Managing the Urban Archaeological Resource*

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Gedney, 1791, *An Act for Dividing and Inclosing the Common Marshes, Drovers, Waste Lands, and Grounds, in the Parish of Gedney, and Hamlet thereof, called Gedney Fen, in the County of Lincoln*

GSGB, 1978, *King's Lynn and The Wash*, Solid and drift geology, 1:50,000 map sheet

145 with part of 129

SHDC South Holland District Council

Healey, K., nd, *Dawsmere; The Story of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Gedney Drove End*

SMR County Sites and Monuments Record number

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IFA, 1997a, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments*

IFA, 1997b, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

IFA, 1997c, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*

IFA, 1997d, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*

Pevsner, N. and Harris, J., 1989, *Lincolnshire, The Buildings of England*, (2nd ed, revised Antram, N)

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

DoE	Department of the Environment
GSGB	Geological Survey of Great Britain
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists
LAO	Lincolnshire Archive Office, followed by accession code

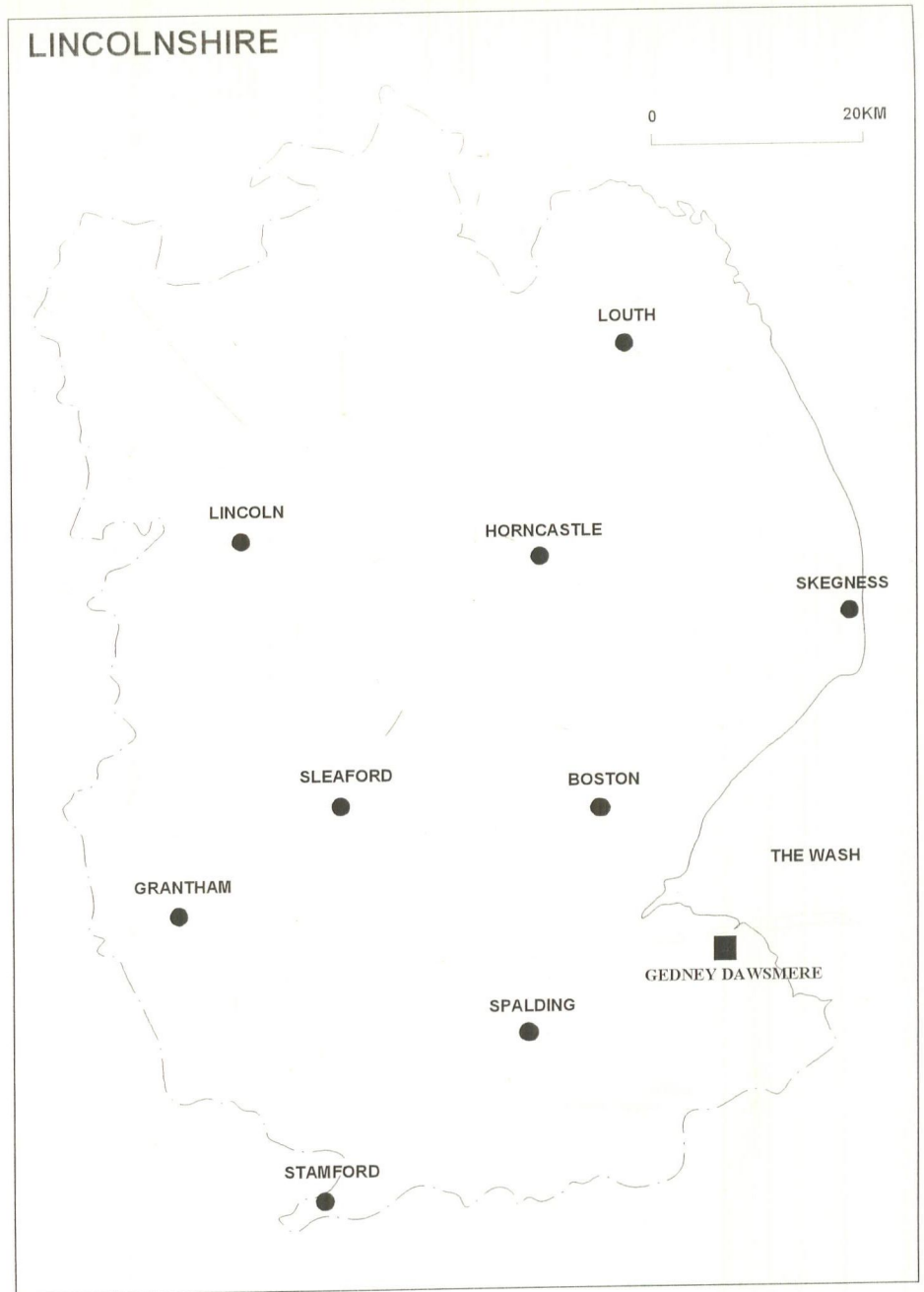


Figure 1 - General location map



Figure 2 - Location of Gedney Dawsmere Conservation Area

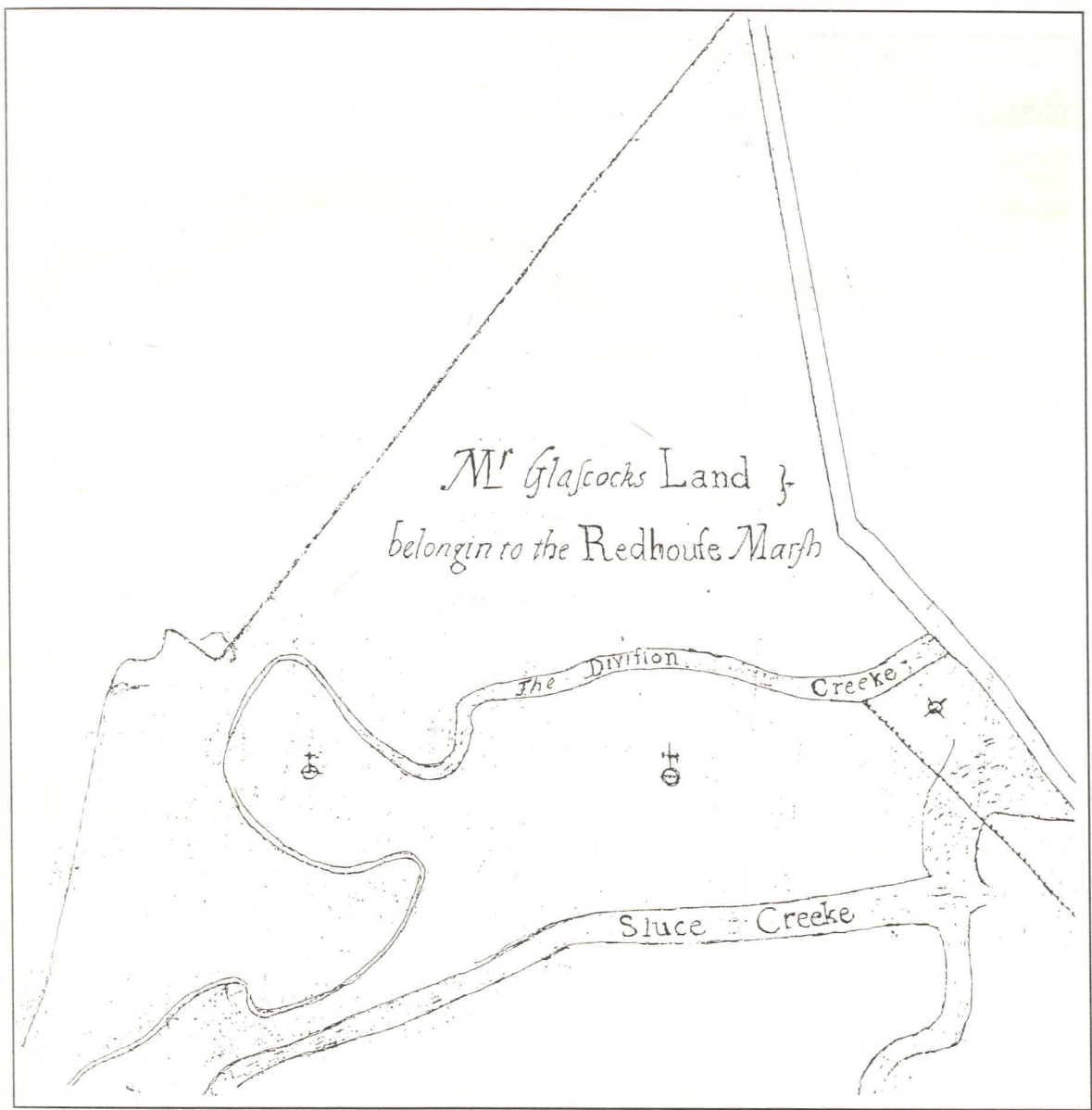
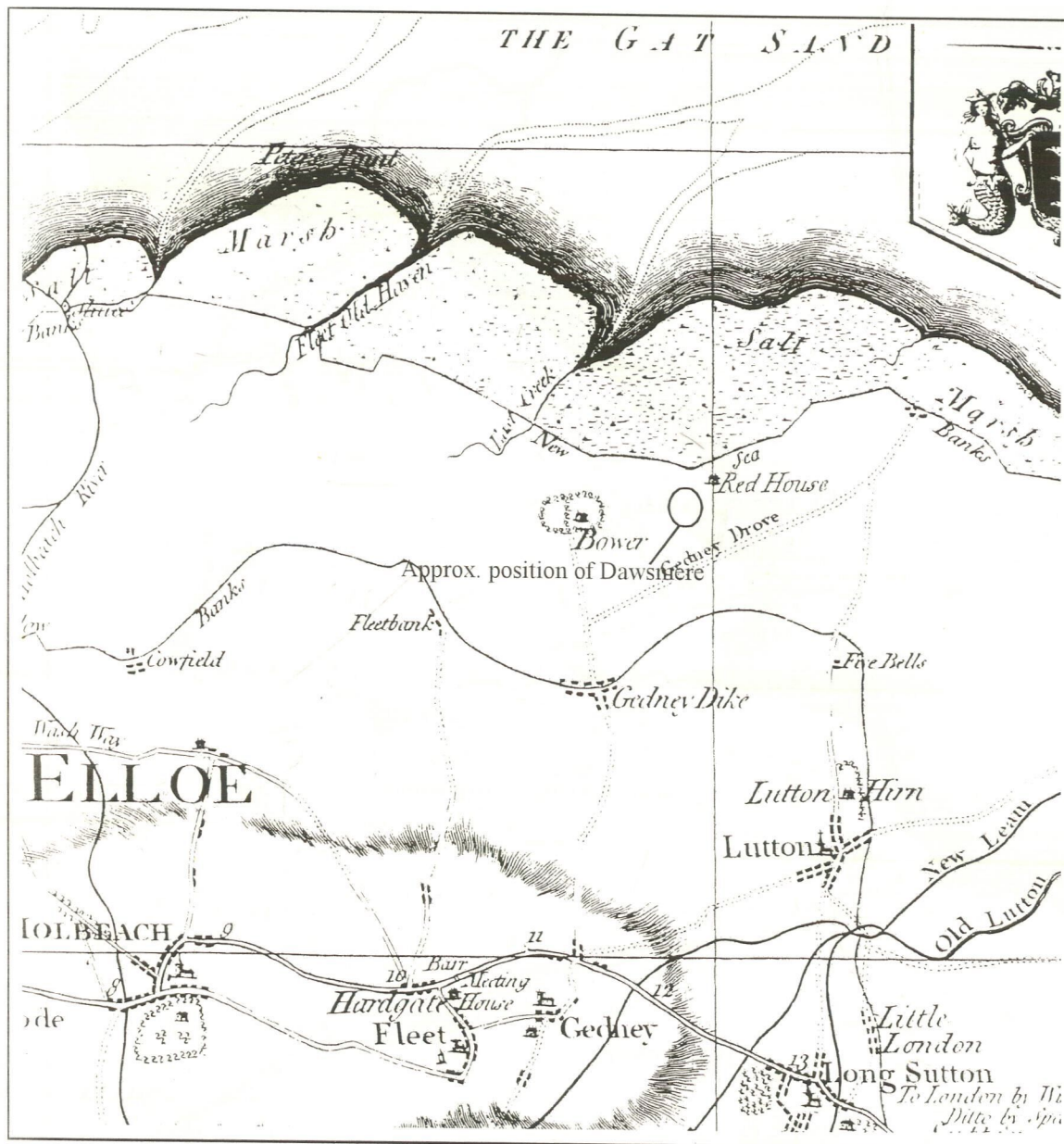
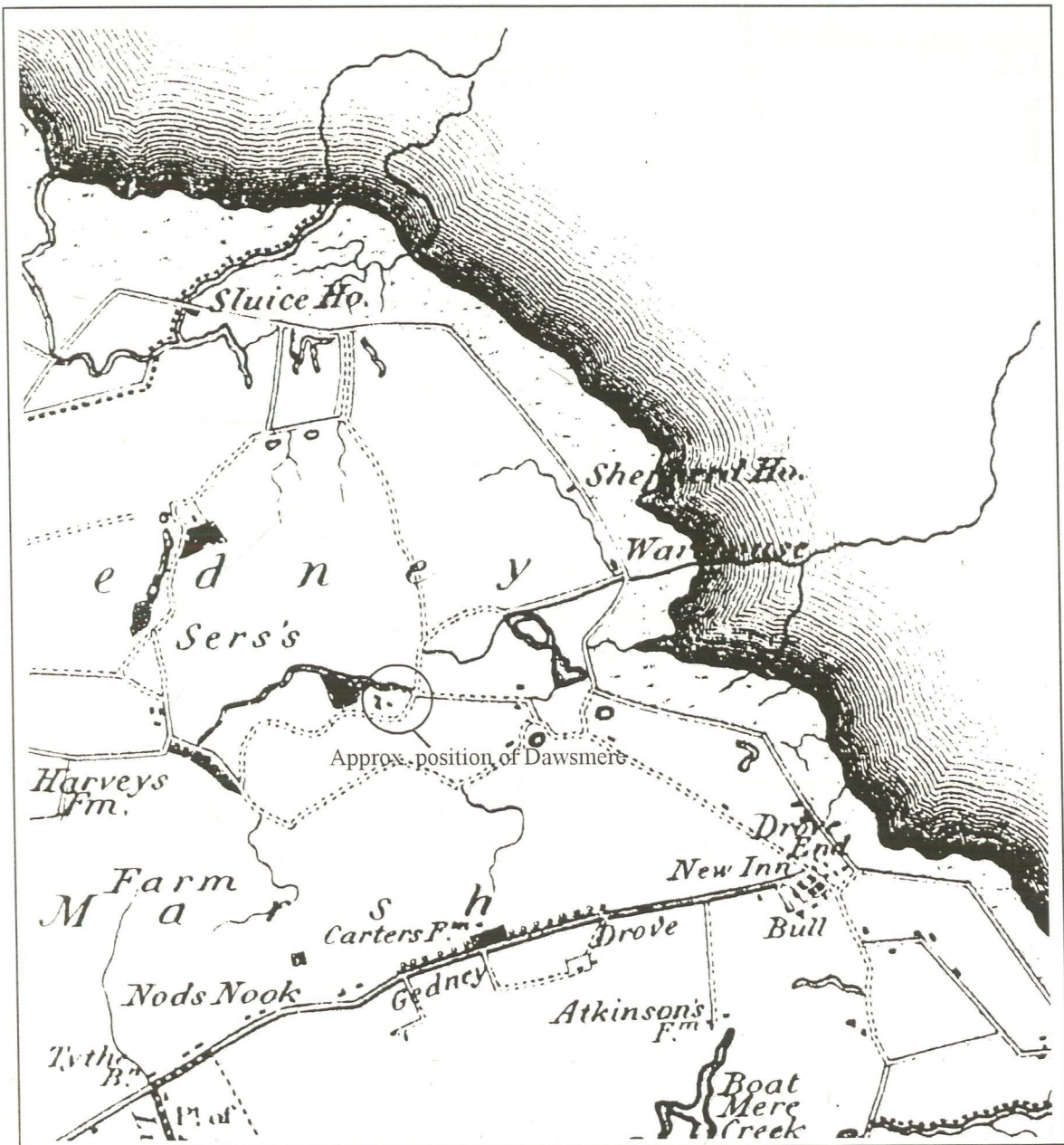


Figure 3 -Extract from 'A Description of Gedney Marsh in the Parish of Gedney in the County of Lincolne', 1679



(no scale available)

Figure 4 - Extract from Armstrong's 'Map of the County of Lincoln', 1789



(no scale available)

Figure 5 - Extract from Bryant's 'Map of the County of Lincoln',



Figure 6 - Extract from 'Plan of the Parish of Gedney in the County of Lincoln', 1841

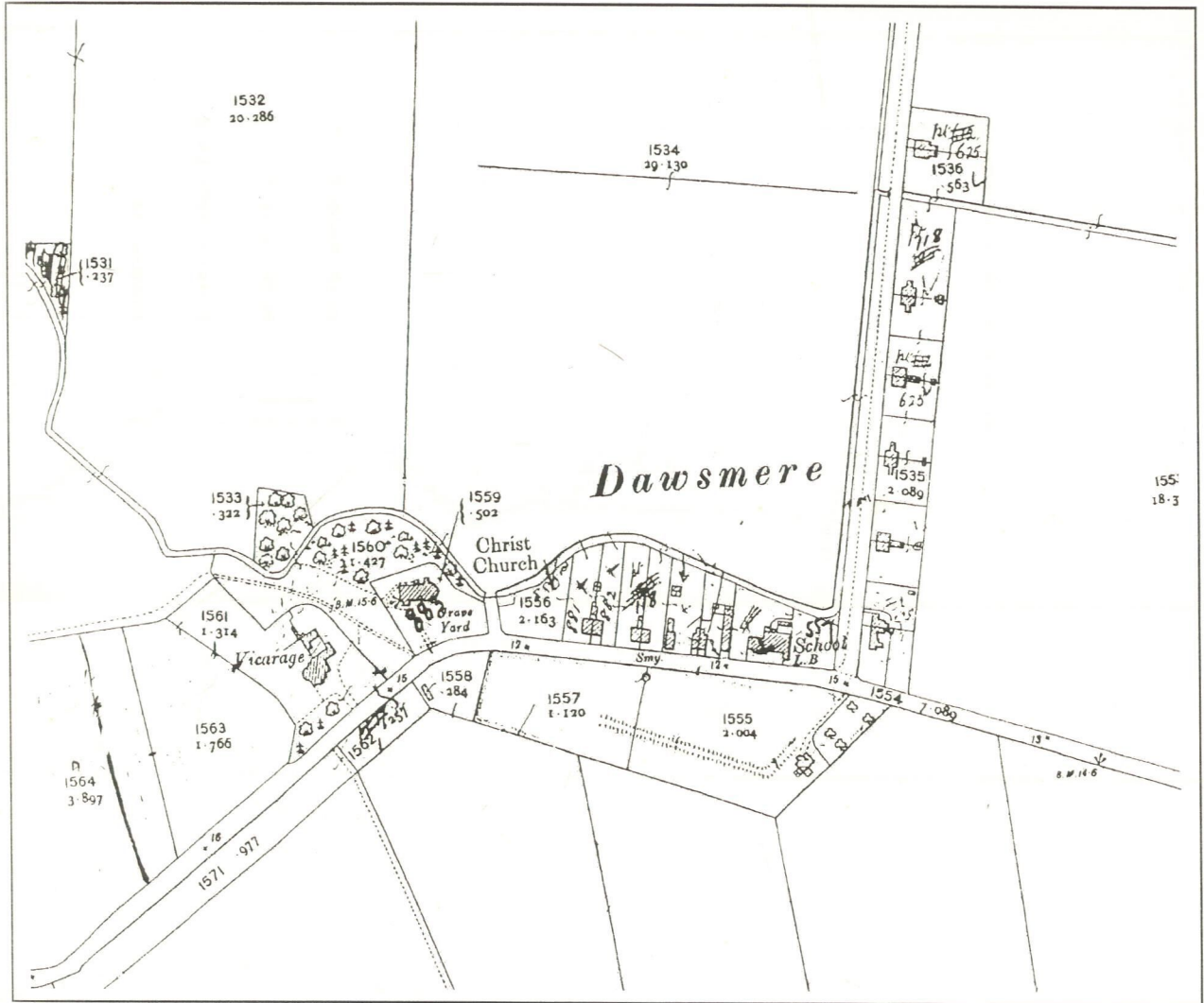


Figure 7 - Extract from 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Plan, 1905

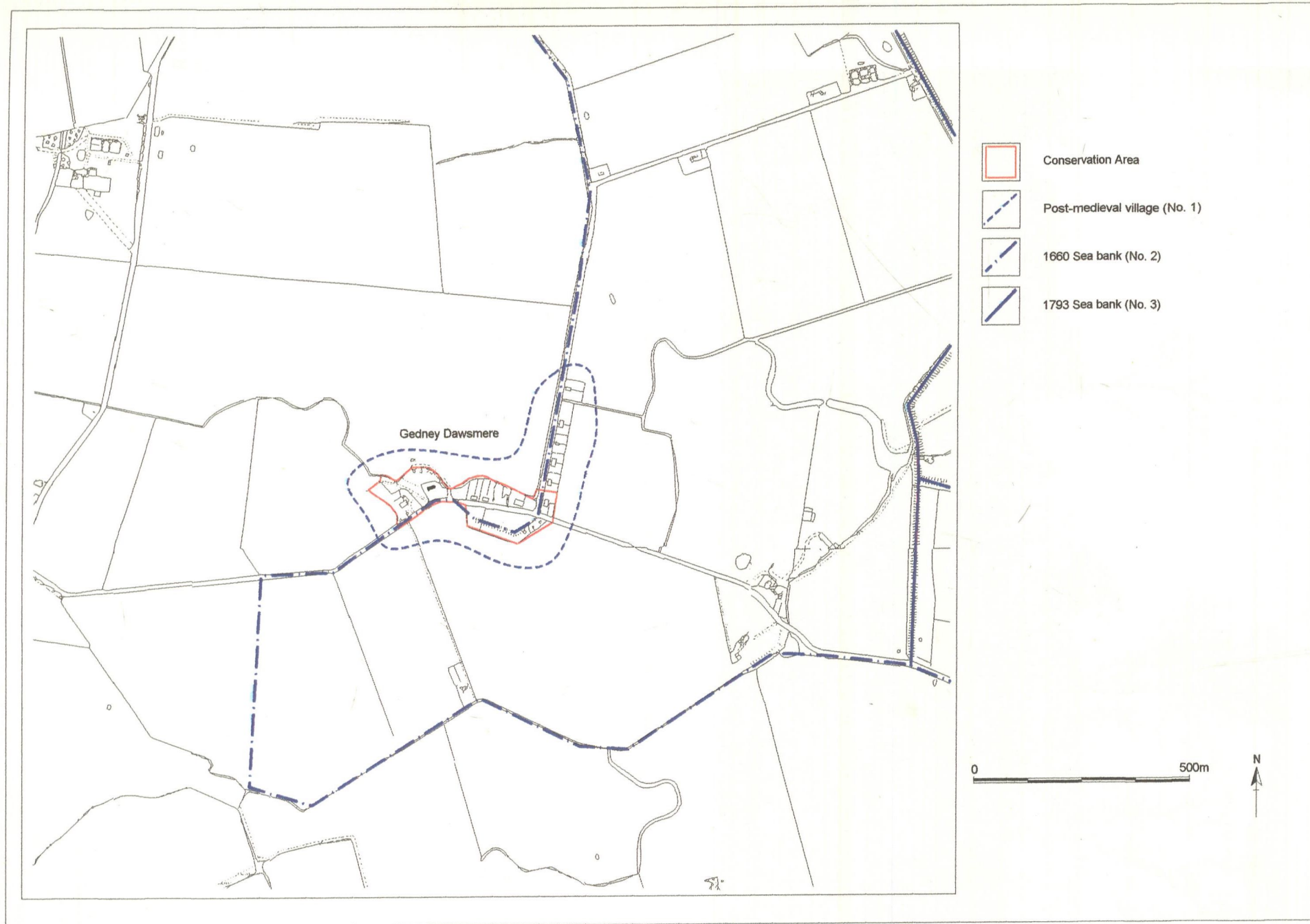


Figure 8 - Archaeological sites in the vicinity of Gedney Dawsmere Conservation Area



Plate 1 - Gedney Dawsmere, looking east towards the church and former vicarage

Appendix 1

SECRETARY OF STATE'S CRITERIA FOR SCHEDULING ANCIENT MONUMENTS - extract from *Archaeology and Planning* DOE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, November 1990

The following criteria (which are not in any order of ranking), are used for assessing the national importance of an ancient monument and considering whether scheduling is appropriate. The criteria should not however be regarded as definitive; rather they are indicators which contribute to a wider judgement based on the individual circumstances of a case.

- i *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation.
- ii *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context.
- iii *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of records of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records.
- iv *Group value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement or cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group.
- v *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features.
- vi *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection that scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed buildings.
- vii *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute.
- viii *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School • Cameron Street • Heckington • Sleaford • Lincs • NG34 9RW
Tel. (01529) 461618 • Fax (01529) 461001

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