
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
OF LAND AT
THE FOOD ENTERPRISE ZONE,
DISTILLERY FARM,
HOLBEACH,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

Work Undertaken For
South Holland District Council
C/O Robert Doughty Consultancy

August 2016

Report Compiled by
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National Grid Reference: TF 3474 2579

APS Report No: **55/16**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



Quality Control
Food Enterprise Zone,
Holbeach,
Lincolnshire

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1. SUMMARY

A desk-based assessment was undertaken to determine the archaeological implications of proposed development at Distillery Farm, Holbeach, Lincolnshire.

There are no prehistoric or Roman remains within the assessment area. Any such remains are likely to be buried beneath later alluvial deposits and lie at considerable depth from the ground surface.

There are no Saxon (AD 410-1066) remains within the assessment area.

During the medieval period (AD 1066-1540), the site probably lay within the open fields of Holbeach. There is some evidence for medieval settlement 250m to the south of the site. However, investigations immediately east of the site did not reveal any remains.

Cartographic sources indicate that the site was used as arable and/or pasture land in the 19th century, and historic records show it operated as a mint distillery in the first half of the 20th century.

A site visit recorded only recent finds across the field surface. The site will become suitable for fieldwalking and geophysical survey upon harvesting of the crop, as the next appropriate means of evaluating the archaeological potential for the area.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Definition of a Desk-Based Assessment

An archaeological desk-based assessment is defined as an ‘assessment of the known or potential archaeological resource within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. It consists 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, national or international context as appropriate’ (Cifa 2014).

2.2 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by the Robert Doughty Consultancy, on behalf of South Holland District Council, to undertake a desk-based assessment of land at Distillery Farm, Holbeach, Lincolnshire. The assessment is required in support of a proposed planning application for development of the site.

2.3 Site Location

Holbeach is situated 11km east of Spalding and 20km south of Boston, in the administrative district of South Holland, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The proposed development site is located 1.4km northwest of the centre of Holbeach, as defined by the Market Place, at National Grid Reference TF 3474 2579 (Fig. 2). The site lies to the west of the junction of the A17 and A151.

2.4 Geology and Topography

Local soils are of the Wisbech Series, typically coarse silty calcareous alluvial gley soils (Robson 1990, 36). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of younger marine alluvium which in turn seals a solid geology of Upper Jurassic West Walton Formation mudstones and Amphill Clay (BGS 1992).

The local topography describes a generally flat area of land within the fens of South Lincolnshire. The site lies at a height of c. 3m OD. The site encompasses some 16.9 hectares.

3. AIMS

The purpose of the desk-based assessment is to obtain information about the known and potential archaeological resource of the assessment area. In addition to the above, statutory and advisory heritage constraints are identified.

4. METHODS

In the following text, the term *Site* refers to the limits of the application site and the *Assessment Area* comprises an area of 1km radius from the centre of the application site.

The research undertaken in the compilation of this archaeological desk-based assessment involved the examination of all available sources relevant to the Site at Holbeach, and the immediate surrounding area. These sources consisted of:

- Historical documents, held in the Lincolnshire Archives.
- Enclosure, and other maps and plans, held in the Lincolnshire Archives.
- Recent and early edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps.
- The Historic Environment Record, located at Lincolnshire County Council.
- Archaeological and historical books and journals.
- Aerial photographs
- Lidar

A full list of the sources is contained within the bibliography.

This research was supplemented by a walkover survey of the Site, undertaken to assess the current ground conditions, land-use patterns and to ascertain the presence of any surface finds of an archaeological character, and of features that might indicate the presence of archaeological remains.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Historical Data

Holbeach is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of *c.* 1086. Referred to as *Holobec*, *Holobech* and *Holebech*, the name is derived from the Old English and means the ‘hollow (*hol*) back (*bæc*)’, derived from the local topographic position of the town on raised ground (Cameron 1998, 64).

The Domesday Survey records that Holbeach was held by the King (as sokeland of Gedney), by Crowland Abbey (as a manor), Count Alan (as sokeland and a berewic) and Guy of Craon (also manorial) and contained 5210 acres of arable land and 182 acres of meadow, though the acreage was shared with Whaplode (Foster and Longley 1976, 1/32-3; 11/1; 12/83-4; 57/50).

The de Craon manor was being held by the main tenant-in-chief, the de Moulton family, from perhaps the early 12th century until the mid 14th century after which it was held by the D’Acre family until 1470. It then split into three smaller manors, Fitzwalter Manor, Harrington Manor and the Moiety of Dominorum (Allen 1834, 334). These had become united by the mid 19th century and were known as Holbeach Lord D’Acre (White 1856, 830).

The manor belonging to Crowland Abbey was the principal manor in Holbeach and seems to have formed part of the demesne lands of the abbey at the time of the dissolution in 1539 (Dugdale 1819, 124). The descent of the manor is generally unknown but was held by Sir Joseph Banks in the 18th century and was known as Holbeach Abbots.

A probable manorial chapel dedicated to St Nicholas is recorded at Holbeach prior to 1300. It was founded by Laurence Holbeche and is believed to have been

located one mile northeast of the church (Owen 1975, 18).

The Site itself may have been the subject of a boundary dispute between the Bishop of Lincoln and the Abbot of Crowland. There had been “gradually arising occasion of question” about tithes owed and the animals pastured in the parish, when the two dignitaries formally settled the boundary between Whaplode and Holbeach in 1370. One section of the boundary is described as “direct towards the south by said lane of Hungerdik to a single stream on the western side of the said lane, stretching from east to west, between the land of William Grym on the north side, and the land of Roger-Atte-Meres on the south side.” (MacDonald 1890, 73-74). This description matches the portion of the modern parish boundary which runs parallel to the northwest corner of the site, along Hungerdike Gate.

A substantial amount of early documentary material relates to the reclamation of the land from sea and fen. In 1189 mention is made of people who had drained the marshes that were traditionally used for cattle pasture and turned them into arable fields (MacDonald 1890, 20), which gives strong evidence that the process of reclaiming the marshes around the town had started by at least this date. The nearest sea-bank that can be traced with confidence, *Saltnaygate* follows the line of the modern Washway Road and is believed to pre-date the Domesday Survey (Hallam 1954, 17). It has been suggested that Northons Lane represents the probable Saxon coastline, the area south of the lane being inland (BGS 1992). Leases of land by Crowland Abbey involved the service and repair of sea-banks as part of the tenancy in the early 13th century (Hallam 1954, 16).

Maps of the area (starting with 1887 Ordnance Survey 1st edition; Fig 5, see below) show the crossroads at the southwest corner of the site labelled as “Watson’s Grave.” This is probably a reference to Jonathon Watson, a doctor who committed suicide around the year 1803 and is recorded

as being “buried off the Spalding road at a spot still pointed out, a mile from the church” (MacDonald 1890, 138). In this time period, suicides were rarely buried at crossroads; most were deemed to have been not of sane mind at the time of death (*non compos mentis*) and therefore received Christian burials in a church yard. The medieval rite of desecrating a suicide’s body was only practiced in cases where the victim was publically reviled, such as in the case of criminals who committed suicide to escape justice. Jonathan Watson may have been such a person as in 1783 he, and two friends, are recorded as having damaged tomb stones, then gained access to the church where they played dummy whist on the altar using a corpse for the dummy. Even 100 years later in 1890, the Reverend MacDonald called this incident a “horrible act of sacrilege and profanity of God’s Sanctuary, which Holbeach people blush to speak of.” (*ibid.*, 137). In any case, it seems likely that the body was buried on the ‘ownerless’ side of the road, rather than in an adjacent field, as per the tradition of criminal burials. Therefore the body is unlikely to be encountered during development of the Site. It is also likely to be an isolated burial. Other nearby crossroads have peoples’ names, such as Bailey’s Grave to the east, which suggests there was no one burial spot for the parish’s suicides.

5.2 Cartographic Data

The Site lies to the northwest of the centre of Holbeach. Appropriate maps of the vicinity were examined.

The earliest map examined was the Ordnance Survey 2nd drawing of 1812 (Fig. 3). The road alignments on this map have been accurately located around Holbeach; however, the position of Northons Lane (yet to be named as such in 1812), which leads northwest from Holbeach and terminates at the Site boundary, appears to be significantly further south (by as much as 300m at the

northwestern end), than any later map suggests. Therefore this cartographic error has caused a significant distortion in the field boundaries and no conclusions about the Site can be drawn, except to say it is very likely to have been in open fields.

A Tithe Apportionment map dated to 1839 (LOA D88) (Fig. 4) is the first to accurately depict the Site and indicates it was formerly composed of the whole or part of ten fields, with four owners. These were leased to five different tenants and were used for a mixture of arable, grass and meadow. Although the Tithe Apportionment map does not show buildings itself, the associated documentation records which fields contain farmhouses (for instance, the field labelled 1268, to the east of site), and none are recorded within the site boundary. The field immediately to the north of the site, 1246, is recorded as containing “pits,” suggesting quarrying of some description. The surrounding roads are roughly the same as today (with the notable absence of the A17 along the northern boundary of the site and the A151 along the eastern boundary). There is a field boundary that spans east to west between junctions on Welbourne Lane and Hungerdike Gate, which may fossilize a trackway.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 (Fig 5) shows two of the field boundaries have been removed: one to form an ‘L’ shaped field in the middle of the site and one irregular shaped ditch to the south, which may have followed an old palaeochannel. Three clusters of buildings are now visible: two towards the eastern edge of the site, in the location of the current farm buildings, and another building may sit within the Site’s boundary at the southernmost corner. A footpath can be seen cutting across the southern boundary and a pump is noted as existing at a ditch intersection close to the western boundary.

The 1903 OS map (fig. 5) does not suggest much has changed, except for a minor change in land boundaries between the two clusters of farm buildings.

The 1931 OS map (fig. 5) shows that largely the same situation persists. The farm area had developed, with the addition of a large structure between the two clusters of buildings and the establishment of an orchard in the central part of the Site. At the southernmost corner of the site, the boundary around the building has been removed and consequentially the footpath has re-orientated to run parallel to the southern edge of the site.

The 1955 map (Fig. 5) shows a reduction in the size of the orchard (accompanied by a new field boundary) and the addition of one more building at the farm complex. The building in the southernmost corner of the Site is no longer shown.

The A17 Holbeach bypass was constructed in 1988 and defines the northeastern boundary of the site. In the late 20th century many of the field boundaries were removed, leaving only an ‘L’ shaped ditch around the farm yard and former orchard, obtaining its current configuration by 1990 (Fig 2).

5.3 Aerial photographic Data

Aerial photographs of the Holbeach area held by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire and available online were examined. Two undated, but probably 1950s photographs show the eastern part of the site (photo codes: 58 027 and 58 028). The buildings of Distillery Farm are shown and, to the south of these, by the southern corner of Welbourne Lane, is a curvilinear feature. This feature is orientated north to south and is probably a palaeochannel; most likely this feature is responsible for the sinuous field boundary seen on the 1839 map between the fields labelled ‘1264’ and ‘1266’ (Fig. 4). No other features were evident. Examination of online images from 2004-2007 did not reveal any archaeological remains.

In addition, lidar (light detection and

ranging) data for the area was examined (fig. 6). This highlighted several features, including six field boundaries shown on maps between 1839 and 1955 (including the palaeochannel visible in aerial photographs), and four possible field boundaries that potentially predate this period. Prominent planting ridges, or possibly ridge and furrow, aligned north-south are evident immediately west of the buildings of Distillery Farm. More subtle evidence of ridge and furrow with narrow, straight alignments typical of post-medieval steam ploughing is evident in some of the other fields of the site.

5.4 Archaeological Data

Records of archaeological sites and finds within the assessment area are held at the Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition, the area east of the Site has been the subject of a walkover survey (Parker 2015), geophysical survey (Smith 2015) and field evaluation (Snee 2015) which have yet to be included in the Historic Environment Record. These investigations covered all the fields east of the A151 and west of Holbeach.

All the sites and finds mentioned are listed in Table 1, at the end of the report and shown on Figure 7.

Prehistoric

No prehistoric entries are recorded within the assessment area at the HER. Sites of this period are likely to be buried beneath later alluvium which could be several metres thick. A single prehistoric flint scraper was recovered from field walking towards the east of Northons Lane (Fig 7, no. 1) (Parker 2015).

Romano-British

No Roman entries are recorded within the assessment area at the HER.

Saxon

No Saxon entries are recorded within the assessment area at the HER. However, field walking identified a few sherds of late Saxon or early medieval pot towards the edge of

Holbeach (Parker 2015). An evaluation to the southeast of the site revealed a single ditch which was thought to date to the late Saxon or early Norman period (Fig 7, no.2) (Snee 2015).

Medieval

There are two find spots of medieval artefacts within the assessment area noted in the HER (Fig 7, nos. 4 and 5), respectively an iron spur and medieval pottery sherds. Both are to the southeast of the Site, towards the medieval core of Holbeach.

In addition, recent archaeological investigations 250m to the south have revealed several geophysical anomalies (Smith 2015) and recovered finds suggesting the presence of 12th-13th century occupation (Snee 2016) (Fig. 7, no. 3)

The Site is likely to have been part of the open fields surrounding Holbeach.

Post-medieval

To the southeast of the site is the Old Cottage (Fig. 7, No. 6), a Grade II listed building, dating from 1768 and altered in the mid-19th and 20th centuries.

A mill (Fig. 7, No. 7) is noted as having existed at Mill House, on Mill Lane to the north of the site.

Modern

The current farm complex was formerly known as Distillery Farm and was noted as being a peppermint distillery dating from at least 1926 (although farm buildings have been on the site from at least 1887). Maps suggest two of the buildings still standing on the Site date from the early 20th century and were noted in 1978 as still containing equipment used between 1926-1958, although it was due for removal. Ten to twelve acres of peppermint were grown at the farm, supplemented with coriander and dill for production of gripe water (a preparation intended to cure infants'

stomach ailments) (Fig 7, no. 9).

A Grade II listed 19th century milestone is present at the crossroads of Spalding Road and the A151 (formerly Welbourne Lane) to the south of the site (Fig 7, No. 8).

5.5 Walkover Survey

The site was visited on the 15th August 2016 in order to assess the ground conditions, to identify any potential archaeological features and to note any constraints to further work. The conditions were warm, dry and clear. The results of the survey are shown on Figure 8.

Access to the site was from the A151 (Plate 1). The northeastern boundary of the site was defined by a ditch and bank flanking the A17. The eastern boundary was defined by a ditch flanking the A151. To the south a modern wooden fence and low tree line separates the site from a residential area. A public footpath runs along this boundary, within the Site's limits. To the west the Site's edge follows Hungerdike Gate, a trackway defined by ditches and an avenue of mature trees. The northern stretch of this track is also the parish boundary between Holbeach and Whaplode. The northeastern boundary of the site is defined by a ditch and hedge line.

At the time of the Site visit two-thirds of the area was under potato crop and the field surface was not visible except along trackways. The southern part of the site was ridged for a potato crop, but did not currently have any foliage (Plate 5). The eastern part of the site was a concrete yard with a small area of grass either side (Plate 6). The patch of grass to the west of the farm compound was undergoing renovation of its sewage system at the time of the site visit. The spoil being removed was examined for archaeological finds, but did not contain any artefacts; nor were the excavations of sufficient depth to reveal the local natural. A narrow band of the central partition was ploughed.

A triangular stand of trees including a mature oak was noted in the centre of the site (Plate 3); this is not shown on the historic maps but must have existed for a significant period of time to have obtained such a size.

The trackways, ploughed areas and surfaces without much foliage was all examined for traces of archaeological material, but only a small, dense scatter of modern ceramic building material (CBM) was observed north of the farmyard.

Electricity pylons with overhead cables crossed the site at two points: From the east of the A17 and along the northern edge of the farmyard; and from east of the A151 to cut across the southern corner of the site, where the overhead cables then transitioned to underground cables (presumably to enter the residential area to the south of the Site, although this cannot be said with certainty) (Plate 4).

There is no inter-visibility between the site and the listed mile stone to the south. The Old Cottage to the southeast is visible from the junction of the A17 and A151 (where the current farm buildings stand), but is screened by existing trees and buildings further south. However, the spire of All Saints Church 1.2km away is visible above intervening trees and buildings.

The Site was not suitable for field walking or geophysical survey at the time of the site visit, due to the potato ridges, but these conditions should present no obstacle to these techniques once the site has been ploughed.

6. CONSTRAINTS

6.1 Heritage Constraints

There are no Scheduled Monuments protected by the Ancient Monuments and

Archaeological Area Act of 1979 (HMSO) present within the assessment area.

There are no listed buildings within the Site. Two listed buildings are within the wider assessment area, both of which are Grade II. Current housing screens the milestone to the south of the Site. There is also limited visibility toward Old Cottage, confined to the existing farm buildings at the corner of the site, at the junction of the A17 and A151.

All other archaeological remains are protected only through the implementation of the National Planning Policy Framework which identifies the historic environment as a non-renewable resource (DCLG 2012). Its fragile and finite nature is a particularly important consideration in planning. The effect of an application on the significance of a heritage asset or its setting is a material consideration in determining the application.

6.2 Other Constraints

No specific checks were carried out to determine the presence of services (gas, water, electricity *etc.*) at the site. Two overhead cables were noticed and the presence of an underground cable can be inferred. In addition, a full set of services should be expected at the farmyard and the sewage system is known to extend approximately 30m west of the concreted area.

If further archaeological intervention is required, the excavation of trenches would entail a certain degree of risk which would be enhanced by the use of a mechanical excavator.

7. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

Past impact appears to have been largely agricultural since the post-medieval period and perhaps into the medieval period. Tithe documents of the mid 19th century indicate that the Site was used for both pasture and arable farming.

The principal impact would have been the construction of the bypass in 1988 which, other than separating the fields from their northern extents, involved drainage works and some tree planting. This is likely to be restricted to the northern and eastern boundaries of the Site. Several buildings and their services have been constructed on the site in the 20th century and will have impacted any archaeological remains .

Proposed details regarding the development have not been finalised but would include a degree of infrastructure to provide services and access to buildings. Aspects of the development most likely to impact buried archaeological remains, if present, are foundation trenches and service trenches.

There is currently limited intervisibility with designated heritage assets. Old Cottage is only visible from the portion of the Site currently dominated by farm buildings.

8. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL AND SIGNIFICANCE

Information collated in the production of this document has allowed an assessment of the known and potential archaeological resource.

Prehistoric and Roman sites are absent from the assessment area and are likely only to be encountered at considerable depth due to the deposition of alluvium. Potential is therefore considered to be low to negligible.

Potential is considered to be low to negligible for remains of the Saxon period, though it is possible that some of the medieval find spots in the wider area have an earlier origin, as there is no sharp historic division.

During the medieval period, the Site

probably lay within the open fields of Holbeach. The presence of a possible medieval settlement immediately to the south raises the likelihood of outlying features being present on the Site; however, despite extensive archaeological investigations in the fields to the east no archaeological remains were discovered immediately adjacent to the site. Therefore the potential is considered to be moderate.

Cartographic evidence suggests that the proposed development area has been agricultural land since at least the early 19th century. The field system that exists today is very close to that recorded on the 1839 map, with the majority of changes involving the removal of field boundaries. However, lidar images indicate the lines of several field boundaries not recorded on the historic maps, which have the potential to predate the earliest map.

The results of the walkover survey show no surface indicators of buried archaeological remains. Geophysical and fieldwalking surveys would be appropriate for the next stage of evaluation, though would be dependent on crop cover and field conditions.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The HER data used in the production of this report is copyright of Lincolnshire County Council.

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

All of the following references were consulted in the research. However, as some of them duplicated evidence given in others, or proved not to be relevant to the assessment, not all of them have been specifically referred to in the text.

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

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APS Archaeological Project Services

BGS British Geological Survey

DCLG, 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*

CifA Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

DCLG Department for Communities and Local Government

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HER Historic Environment Record

HMSO Her Majesty's Stationery Office

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LAO Lincolnshire Archive Office

OS Ordnance Survey

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Table 1: Archaeological sites and findspots within the assessment area

Map No.	HER No.	Description	Period	National Grid Reference
1	-	Flint scraper, find spot	Prehistoric	TF 3519 2543
2	-	Late Saxon or early medieval ditch	Saxon-Medieval	TF 3483 2529
3	-	Geophysical anomalies and medieval ditches.	Medieval	-
4	22219	Iron spur, find spot	Medieval	TF 3555 2491
5	25647	Pottery sherds, find spot	Medieval	TF 3542 2515
6	25206	The Old Cottage*	Post-medieval	TF 3516 2534
7	22210	Mill	Post-medieval	TF 3509 2629
8	25308	Milestone*	Post-medieval - Modern	TF 3455 2479
9	25057	Distillery Farm	Modern	TF 3488 2578

* Listed Building



Figure 1 - General location plan

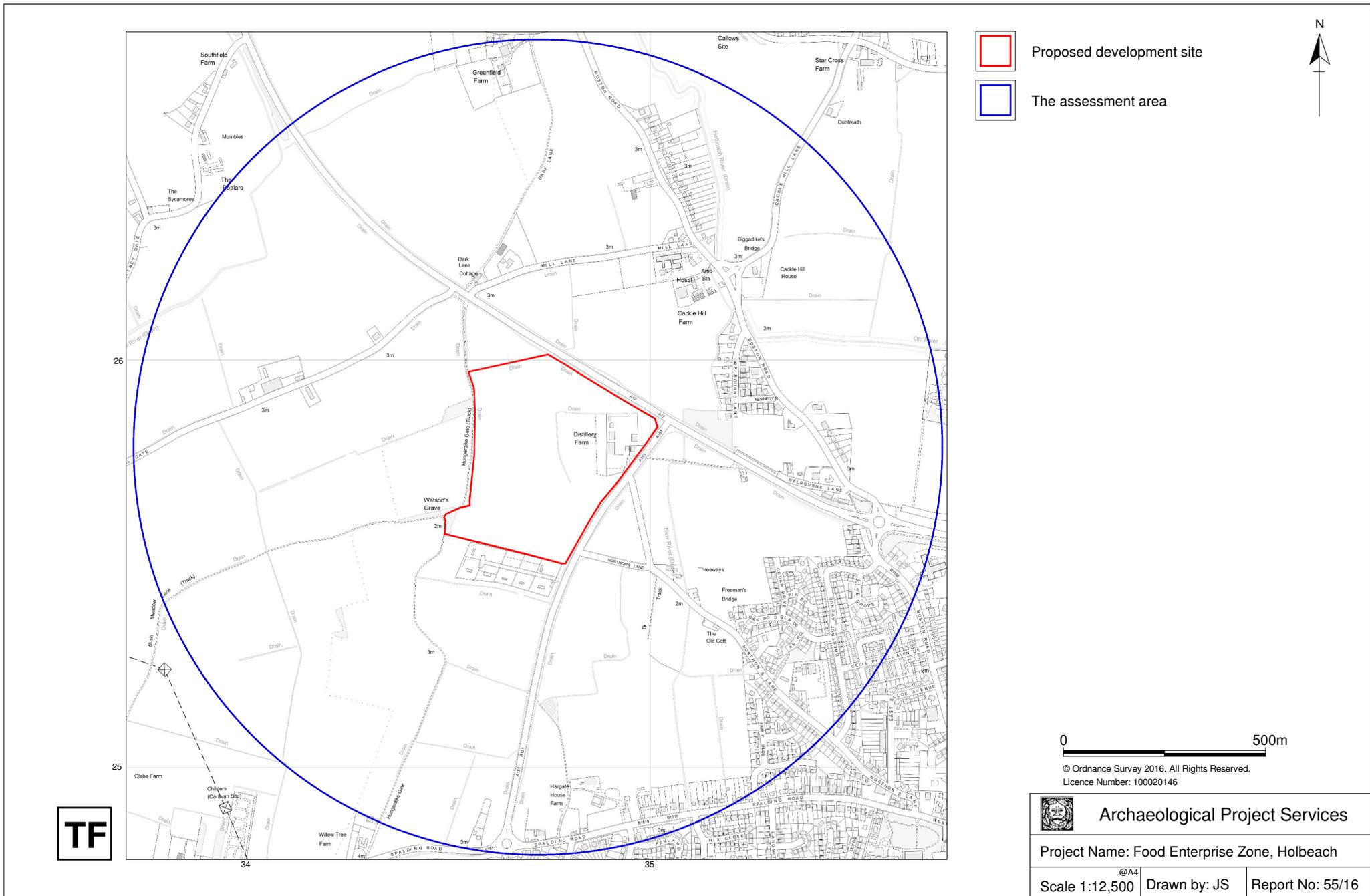


Figure 2 - The assessment area showing the proposed development site



Site Location



Archaeological Project Services

Project Name: Food Enterprise Zone, Holbeach

Scale 1:10,000 @A4 Drawn by: JS Report No: 55/16

Figure 3 - Extract from map of 1812



Site Location



0 500m

Field	Owner	Occupier	Crop
1246	Sir Joseph Hawley	David Jackson	"Pits"
1251	Joseph Walker	Tobias Parsons	Arable
1252	Louisa Dove	John Carter	Arable
1253	Joseph Walker	Tobias Parsons	Grass
1254	Jonathon Tyler	Jonathon Tyler	Arable
1257	William Tinsley	John Keel & Matthew Kirby	Meadow
1258	Joseph Walker	Tobias Parsons	Grass
1259	Joseph Walker	Tobias Parsons	Meadow
1260	Joseph Walker	Tobias Parsons	Arable
1263	Louisa Dove	John Carter	Grass
1264	Louisa Dove	John Carter	Arable
1265	Joseph Walker	Tobias Parsons	Arable
1266	Louisa Dove	John Carter	Arable
1267	William Goodger	William Goodger	Arable
1268	William Goodger	William Goodger	Homestead, yard, garden and arable

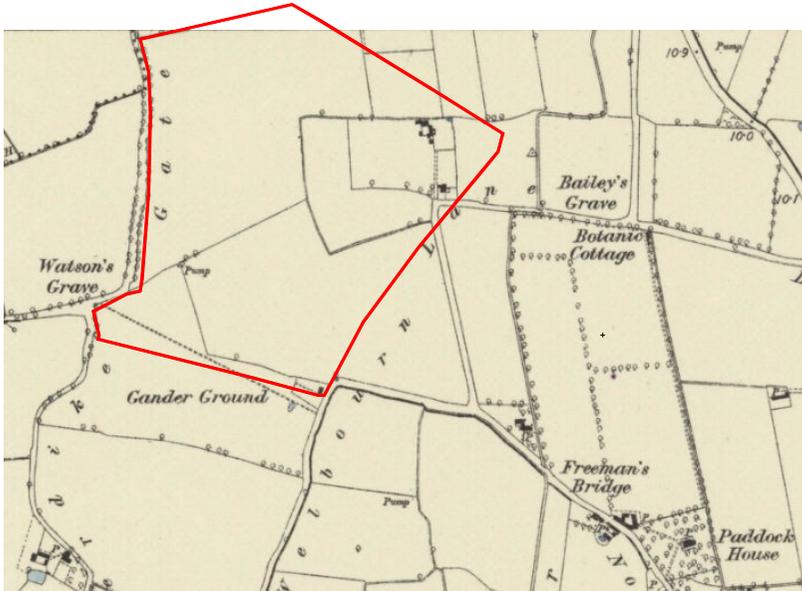


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Figure 4 - Extract from 1839 Tithe Apportionment Map



Extract from OS 1887 CXXXV.SW map



Extract from OS map 1903 CXXXV.SW



Extract from OS map 1931 CXXXV.SW



Extract from OS map 1955 TF32



 Site Boundary



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Scale 1:10,000 @A4 Drawn by: JS Report No: 55/16

Figure 5 - Extracts from 1887, 1903, 1931 and 1955 OS maps



-  Development boundary
-  Potential feature not shown in historic maps
-  Potential feature corresponding to land boundary shown in historic maps

Based on data supplied by the Environment Agency



	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Food Enterprise Zone, Holbeach		
Scale 1:7500 @A4	Drawn by: JS	Report No: 55/16

Figure 6 - Lidar data

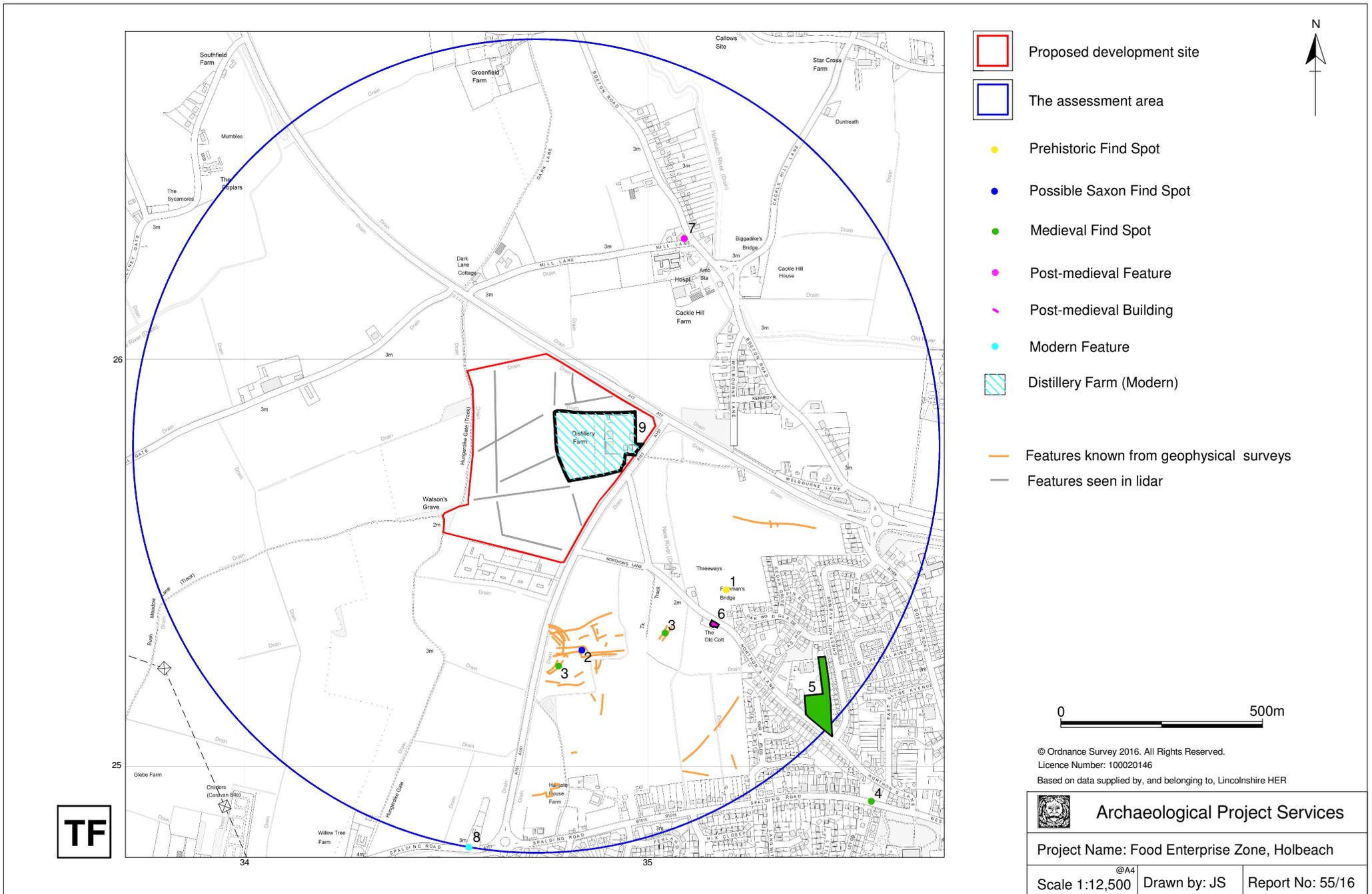


Figure 7 - Archaeological sites and findspots from within the assessment area



Figure 8 - Results of the walkover survey



Plate 1. Site access from the A151. Looking northwest.



Plate 2. House likely to be the building shown on the 1903 map and associated with early 20th century mint production at Distillery Farm. Looking north.



Plate 3. View to the northwest, including copse of trees.



Plate 4. Pylon at the south of site. Looking east.



Plate 5. View east across the site.



Plate 6. Concreted farm yard. Looking East

Appendix 1

GLOSSARY

Alluvium	A deposit (usually clay, silts or sands) laid down in water. Marine alluvium is deposited by the sea and freshwater alluvium by streams, rivers or within lakes.
Berewick	An outlying estate (to a larger manor).
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Field Walking	A survey in which an area of bare earth is systematically walked with the intention of recovering archaeological artefacts in the topsoil. Concentrations of finds may indicate the presence of archaeological features.
Geophysical Survey	Essentially non-invasive methods of examining below the ground surface by measuring deviations in the physical properties and characteristics of the earth. Techniques include magnetometry and resistivity survey.
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 1 st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany.
Soke	Land considered to the property of the occupying peasants, rather than the lord of the manor. Also, land that, although within one manor, came under the jurisdiction of a separate manor.