

Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey

Yorkshire and Lincolnshire:

Donna Nook to
Gibraltar Point
Phase 2



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Humber Field Archaeology
Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



RAPID COASTAL ZONE ASSESSMENT

YORKSHIRE AND LINCOLNSHIRE

Donna Nook to Gibraltar Point

English Heritage Project 3729

PHASE 2

D. Jobling & T. Brigham

HUMBER FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY, The Old School, Northumberland Avenue,
KINGSTON UPON HULL, HU2 0LN.

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1 SUMMARY

This volume represents Phase 2 (field survey) of a Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment (RCZA) undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology on behalf of English Heritage, in order to provide an assessment of the archaeological potential of the coast between Whitby, North Yorkshire and the Norfolk border. This volume covers the coastal sector between Donna Nook and Gibraltar Point, Lincolnshire. This work was undertaken in October 2010.

The RCZA is based on the principles and methodology presented in Version 10 of *A Brief for Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys* (English Heritage 2007), and originally outlined in *England's coastal heritage: A statement on the management of coastal archaeology* (English Heritage & RCHME March 1996). The area of coverage principally includes the shoreline (to Lowest Astronomical Tide level) and a 1km band of cliff and coastal hinterland. The Phase 1 (desk-based) stage included an area up to 1km inland, but as much of this area is not at immediate risk from coastal erosion, only selected inland areas were investigated during the Phase 2 field survey.

The initial phase of the RCZA aimed to establish a more comprehensive and reliable database assessment of the range and scope of the archaeological resource than was currently available. The purpose of this was to make a significant improvement in the archaeological coverage within the various Local Authority HERs, and to inform long-term strategies for the management of the cultural heritage resource, especially in the light of the current Shoreline Management Plans. The results were published in the form of a series of reports, arranged by coastal section, and supported by maps showing distributions of sites. A digital archive was also made available, including a GIS-based record of the NMP data.

This report contains the results of the first stage (Level 1) of Phase 2 work which comprises the methodical field examination of sites identified from the Phase 1 survey as being of significance in the intertidal zone, along the cliff edge, and within the hinterland, where this approach proved safe and practicable; a number of monuments were not visited, generally because there was no access for various reasons, although many buildings in urban areas or inland villages/farmsteads were also not examined. Mapping-grade GPS was used to locate all sites with sub-metre accuracy. A total of 502 records are summarised in the updated gazetteers included in this report, of which 35 sites are new to Phase 2, while many existing records have been revised. A number of duplicate or erroneous records were identified among the Phase 1 data and have been deleted or amended accordingly, with several transferred to a different parish.

In addition, a comprehensive photographic survey was undertaken to provide a record of the coastline as it appeared in 2009, together with more detailed images of individual sites. A selection of these images is included at the end of the report, and the remainder will be available as part of the project archive. Current satellite images were also studied to identify sites which were not visible or accessible on the ground; this also allowed the further correction of grid references.

The sampling of organic structures and deposits for plant species identification, pollen and diatoms analysis and radiocarbon dating was excluded at this stage. A considered sampling strategy is intended to form part of a subsequent phase of work, and a project design for this will therefore be a product of the current proposals. Some outline recommendations for more detailed work, including sampling and Lidar assessments (Level 2) has been included in this report and will form the basis of the updated project design.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

The project is the second phase of a joint venture between English Heritage as the commissioning organisation and Humber Field Archaeology as principal contractor, to enhance the coastal archaeology record of north-eastern England, and identify sites at short- and medium-term risk in the coastal hinterland along the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire coast from Whitby to the Norfolk county boundary, including the mouth of the Humber estuary and The Wash. In Phase 1, relevant information gathered by the project was formulated as a series of desk-top reports provided to English Heritage and the National Monuments Record (Buglass & Brigham 2007a, b; Brigham, Buglass & George 2008; Buglass & Brigham 2008), with summaries and pdf versions of the reports available via OASIS/ADS, and digital archives. Both phases of the project have included resources for adding the information to the Historic Environment Record (or Sites & Monuments Record) databases maintained by Lincolnshire Sites & Monuments Record Office. This record office uses a version of exeGesIS software.

2.2 SHAPE compliance

The Strategic Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage (SHAPE: English Heritage 2008) requires projects seeking EH funding to identify a Primary Driver from those listed in 'Making the Past Part of Our Future (English Heritage Strategy 2005–10), and select the most appropriate Sub-Programme, Activity Type and Research Programme and from those listed in SHAPE.

Rapid Coastal Zone Assessments have already been identified as a specific Sub-Programme (No. 41112.110) within SHAPE.

In this instance, the Primary Driver is Aim 4a: 'Help local authority members and officers develop the skills, knowledge, advice and capacity to make the most of their historic environment.'

The identified Activity Type is Research, Programme A2: 'Spotting the gaps: analysing poorly understood landscapes, areas and monuments.'

2.3 Definition of the Study Area

The area of interest covered by this volume comprises a strip of coast which extends along the North Sea coast, from North Somercotes parish in the north to Croft in the south (Fig 1); the northern portion of North Somercotes is also included in the volume covering the stretch of coastline from Bempton to Donna Nook (Brigham & Jobling 2010). Phase 1 of the survey included the available data covering the extensive intertidal zone (above Lowest Astronomical Tide level) and the coastal hinterland from high tide level for a distance of up to 1km inland.

This area as a whole encompasses a wide range of archaeological sites of local, regional and national importance, from prehistoric settlements to World War 2 defences, as well as a diverse geology and geography. These are unevenly affected by a variety of risks, both natural and developmental.

Within this project area, the lead unitary authority is Lincolnshire Council. The majority of settlements are set well back from the present coastline, although centres such as

Skegness, Ingoldmells, Mablethorpe, Sutton on Sea and Chapel St Leonards are on the coast. The catastrophic flood of 1953 led to the construction of a series of sea defences, continuing into the 1990s, followed by a programme of beach replenishment using dredged sediments between Mablethorpe and Skegness. There has been considerable residential and industrial/commercial development, with several large leisure developments, which primarily consist of holiday camps and related sites, leading in effect to the creation of two almost continuously-linked areas, the first consisting of Mablethorpe, Trusthorpe and Sutton on Sea, and the second of Chapel St Leonards, Ingoldmells and Skegness. Further development pressures may still affect the hinterland.

2.4 Purpose of the Phase 2 study

By attempting to update the risk to individual monuments and identify new sites, it should be possible to highlight those which require imminent remedial action, testing and updating the risk levels identified in the Phase 1 desk-based assessment. The presence of an 'at risk' historic asset is unlikely to influence the implementation of a management scheme in most cases, as the majority would not repay substantial outlay, but it may help to give a timescale during which action must be taken. An example would be a Romano-British field system in an area where *managed realignment* or *no active intervention* is identified as the correct course of action. However, the English Heritage position is that significant monuments should be protected 'wherever this is economically, technically and environmentally sustainable' (English Heritage 2006). This might be time-limited (e.g. to 20 or 50 years), but some monuments would be considered of such significance that indefinite protection would be proposed.

2.5 Summary of previous work

Although the archaeological potential of the coastline in many parts of the country has been recognised, Lincolnshire had until recently seen little in the way of systematic study and investigation; this resulted in a general paucity of data (Fulford *et al* 1997, 155). Recent work has, however, served to draw together aspects of the known data for the area, including desk-based assessments by Lindsey Archaeological Services (Tann 2004), the Museum of London Archaeology Service (Lyon 2006), and Archaeological Project Services (Drury & Lane 2004): this included new aerial photographic analysis across a limited area (Palmer in Drury & Lane 2004), which revealed new features not identified during previous work for a National Mapping Programme project.

Added to this work, the Phase 1 desk-based RCZAS (Buglass & Brigham 2008) revealed the potential for the survival of archaeological remains along this coastline from the prehistoric period onwards.

Overall the whole of the study area has the potential for the survival of buried prehistoric landscapes. There is only very limited evidence for a later Palaeolithic presence in the form of a flint blade recovered from the foreshore in Anderby, but the case for surviving palaeo-landscapes has been clearly made in a number of key studies looking at the offshore area known as 'Doggerland' in the southern North Sea basin. In addition, the recorded presence of submerged prehistoric forests at Grimsby, Mablethorpe, Sutton on Sea and Skegness (Tann 2004, 17) indicates much wider survival of early landscapes with potential evidence for contemporary human activity along the coastal fringe. Tree stumps and organic deposits exposed periodically on the foreshore in the Mablethorpe and Sutton on Sea areas, for example, form part of forests which (comparison with a similar forest bed at

Immingham suggests) would have flourished across the whole area in the Mesolithic period (Van de Noort & Davies 1993, 21; Drury & Lane 2004, 4). Any material relating to this is still potentially well preserved beneath the replenished beaches between Skegness and Mablethorpe as occasional exposures in recent decades have revealed, although the area is vulnerable to continued erosion.

Inland, continuation of the wetland landscape survives in places beneath the later alluvial deposits of the Lincolnshire marshes, where they are protected by the modern seabanks. From the Neolithic period onwards, farmers began to clear areas of woodland, and the decline of tree pollen and the arrival of cereals is attested in the palaeo-environmental record. The submerged forests in the intertidal zone therefore give a valuable indication of what the area would have looked like prior to deforestation. The few records of this initial phase of clearance from the study area relate to the casual finds of flint artefacts, principally on the foreshore, including axes from Mablethorpe, Trusthorpe, Huttoft, Chapel St Leonards, and Skegness, and Neolithic/Bronze Age flint blades or flakes from Trusthorpe and Chapel St Leonards. Barbed and tanged arrowheads recovered from Skegness may belong to this period. Similarly, the Bronze Age is poorly represented by a few artefacts from the period, including a scraper, dagger and antler pick from Chapel St Leonards, and an axe hammer from Skegness. Three burials, possibly of Bronze Age date, have also been found on the foreshore in Ingoldmells.

Beach replenishment has made future discoveries of artefacts far less likely, while inland, the contemporary land surfaces in the Lincolnshire Marsh are buried below later alluvial deposits, and early artefacts and sites in the coastal zone are only likely to be encountered through archaeological intervention or accidentally through engineering and building works.

The Iron Age is principally represented by the regionally (or nationally) important remains of a once-extensive salt production industry. These were chiefly centred in Ingoldmells, although there is a general low level of occurrences of other saltern sites of various periods throughout much of the study area, which suggests that the number of saltern sites is actually much greater and could approach the density seen in the areas to the north and south (Fulford *et al* 1997, 117 *et seq*; Grady 1998, 81–95; Buglass & Brigham 2007). As saltern sites were always located at the high water mark due to the manner in which the salt was collected and processed (Grady 1998, 82), by locating and dating further sites it should be possible to define the nature and periodicity of the more recent sea level changes along the coast. In Ingoldmells, several sites have been identified as commencing production in the early Iron Age, although they may have continued in use until later in the period, possibly even into the subsequent Roman occupation. Prehistoric briquetage from Skegness could also represent a saltern of this period.

There are few positively identified contemporary occupation sites, although a number of earthworks present in the area could indicate Iron Age activity. A 'prehistoric' site consisting of possible hut circles was noted on the foreshore in 1907 at Ingoldmells Point, and this may represent the site of a settlement occupied by salt production workers: the industry was probably seasonal, however, and the inhabitants were probably also engaged in farming and fishing, in common with other locals not engaged in salt manufacture. The remaining datable records from the period are related to casual finds of artefacts, including a long-necked beaker from the foreshore at Sutton on Sea.

With the chief exception of Ingoldmells, records of the later Iron Age and Romano-British periods are sparse over most of the area, despite the density of contemporary

activity on the inland fringes of the Lincolnshire Marsh and Wolds. In Skidbrooke, the sole evidence for Roman activity is a single samian sherd. A possible Roman road alignment in neighbouring Saltfleetby suggests the former existence of a settlement at the seaward end, but this is highly likely to have been lost to past erosion. The fact that some sites may have been lost in this way, and the possibility that the area was affected by a post-Roman marine transgression, may be a reason why some areas have no evidence for occupation or exploitation, although widespread medieval ridge-and-furrow may also mask many early sites.

Further south, there is evidence for several possible settlement sites around Trusthorpe, supported by the recovery of pottery and a pennanular brooch from the general area; further pottery has been recorded from Huttoft, Anderby, and Chapel St Leonards.

Salt production remained an important industry, although again relatively few saltern sites were recorded outside Ingoldmells; the area has, however, been identified as that referred to as *Salinae* by the Roman geographer Claudius Ptolemy c AD 122 (Strang 1997, 23). A substantial example of a saltern has been examined in Chapel St Leonards, but within the main concentration in Ingoldmells, several sites of Iron Age through to Roman date have been noted. Most of these were located in the intertidal zone, but several were located inland on the site of presumed former tidal creeks; some were only recognised through the discovery of briquetage, often through the cutting or cleaning of drainage ditches. There are also a large number of other sites of the period from Ingoldmells, including ditches, occupation sites, as well as undated cropmarks and earthworks, which on balance are likely to be of the same general date range, although some examples may be earlier Iron Age or medieval. Romano-British pottery, coins and other artefacts have also been recovered.

Altogether, the area was clearly important for an extended period, although it is unclear whether the inhabitants were principally involved in agriculture but engaged in seasonal salt production as an additional activity, or the salt industry was important in its own right and supported a larger than normal population. There are indications that salting continued southward towards Skegness, although the evidence consisted mainly of briquetage and clay cylinders related to evaporation on three sites, two of which also included medieval material. Some Roman pottery and a brothel token were also recorded indicating local occupation, although no sites have been found or identified from aerial photography.

There has been virtually no evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation; certainly most of the principal later Saxon settlement centres probably coincide with existing settlements, which principally lie just outside the 1km boundary marking the edge of the study area, but a pattern of earlier occupation sites and cemeteries might have been expected in areas which were not reclaimed in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Possible Anglo-Saxon pottery has been recovered in Mablethorpe within silt layers which could represent the post-Roman marine transgression recorded elsewhere in the country. If so, many sites of the period may lie relatively deeply buried beneath the surface of the Lincolnshire Marsh. A wattle hurdle found on the beach seems to have been related to a land site rather than functioning as part of a fish weir or other maritime structure, but has only been tentatively identified as being of early date because of the widespread use of wattle in the early medieval period. In the absence of any other features or artefacts of the period, this interpretation seems tenuous.

Possibly the commonest agricultural use of the land was for different types of grazing on the various marshes and pastures, which would almost certainly have been a

feature of the area by the late Saxon period, well established by the medieval period. The evolution and extent of this activity can potentially be seen across the whole of the Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire study areas (see Tann 2004 for details).

The medieval period is fairly well represented across the study area, perhaps reflecting the late reclamation of much of the area following an earlier medieval marine transgression, with the construction of new sea defences including the 'Roman Bank', effectively a generic name for the amalgam of pre-modern seabanks which run inland of later defences for much of the Lincolnshire coastline, although other names are used locally (such as 'Crook Bank'). The majority of recorded medieval and early post-medieval activity lies to the west (landward) side of this bank and it is therefore almost certainly largely of medieval origin. It is possible that parts may be more recent if the extensive clay extraction pits seen from Mablethorpe southwards are correctly dated to the post-medieval or early modern period (see below), although these could represent phases of rebuilding or repair. The area in front of the bank would have been extensive saltmarsh used for grazing and wildfowling and beyond that mudflats or beaches used for fishing or shellfishing. The presence of numerous small access routes across the bank and towards the foreshore ('pullover') support this idea.

With the almost continuous seabanks mentioned above and the lack of suitably sized rivers, large inlets or creeks for shipping, there is an apparent lack of obvious ports and harbours. However, with an extensive coastal salt industry there would be a need not only to export salt but to import certain commodities that were unavailable locally, for example coal to heat the salt evaporation pans. The fishing industry, although almost certainly very local, would also have required landing places. The mouths of several streams to the east of the bank would therefore have been exploited as moorings on an otherwise exposed section of coast, and this is suggested by placename evidence, including Mar Haven, Saltfleet Haven, and Mare Haven. Further south at Huttoft and Anderby Creek there is the possibility that small natural inlets were enhanced and modified by the addition of protective banks. These sites, like the more northerly havens, appear to be associated with medieval settlement sites, a number of which remain as earthworks or cropmarks.

This in turn would seem to suggest either that the inlets which were present would need to be modified to provide suitable wharfage, or that a beach-launched trade would evolve. It is possible that both of these solutions had been adopted, depending upon the suitability of the natural topography.

Whilst the exploitation of the coastal fringe either side of the seabank continued many of the activities carried out since the prehistoric period, the settlements themselves were located a short distance inland, either to avoid flooding or because the shoreline was further inland than it is today. A considerable number of possible small medieval settlements or farmsteads have been identified, including examples at Skidbrooke, Saltfleetby, Theddlethorpe All Saints, Theddlethorpe St Helens, and Mablethorpe. Theddlethorpe St Helens shows signs of being a shrunken settlement, with earthworks present at several sites in the village. Traces of the open fields surrounding these sites and other features are represented by very extensive ridge-and-furrow and examples of enclosures, ditches and platforms, some of which may indicate isolated farmsteads. Several moated sites are also present, including examples at Mablethorpe and Skegness. Several of these monument classes remain as earthworks, or at least, clear soil- and cropmarks, although the majority have been ploughed out since World War 2.

The medieval period also saw a continuation or resumption of salt production, its importance reflected in the placenames Saltfleet, Saltfleetby, with sites identified in Skidbrooke, possibly Huttoft, Chapel St Leonards, and Ingoldmells. The current state of archaeological knowledge suggests, however, that the industry did not reach the extent it enjoyed during the Iron Age; this contrasts with the Lincolnshire coast of the Wash, where a large number of medieval/post-medieval salterns are present (Buglass & Brigham 2007).

Post-medieval ridge-and-furrow representing continued use of the open fields survives in some areas, such as Chapel St Leonards, although it is not always easy to distinguish from more common medieval examples. Other types of land management are less well-represented, including water meadows and rabbit warrens. The latter were often created by improving landlords on former waste or common, providing food as a dietary supplement and fur as a valuable commodity. An extensive warren was built in North Somercotes on reclaimed land.

A process of drainage, particularly of the lower-lying areas behind the sea defences, created new features from the 17th century onwards in the form of dykes and sluices supported by windpumps. In most areas, the sea defences themselves were extended in the medieval or post-medieval period, with clay extraction pits identified along the shoreline from aerial photographs at a number of locations in Mablethorpe and Ingoldmells, either for building or for the construction of seabanks.

Coastal trade remained important, with havens and inlets still being exploited, including examples at North Somercotes, Grainthorpe, probably at Theddlethorpe Saint Helen, and Huttoft. The prosperity of some of the trading settlements is reflected in buildings such as the Manor House and New Inn at Saltfleet, while cloth seals recovered at Theddlethorpe probably indicate a 17th-century wool trade. Possible live oyster storage pits have also been identified in Huttoft, Chapel St Leonards and Ingoldmells, and possible oyster beds at Skegness. 'Fishstakes' mentioned in a reference to Ingoldmells in 1803 may be part of a fish trap. Interestingly, there is no archaeological evidence recorded for late salt production, in contrast with the medieval/early post-medieval production area on the north side of the Wash referred to earlier (Buglass & Brigham 2007).

The tourist industry only began to develop towards the very end of the post-medieval period, limited to a few locations, such as Skegness, where the 'Old Hotel' and 'New Hotel' had been built by the end of the 18th century.

At the beginning of the modern period, the range of monuments represented is similar in many ways to that of the preceding period, but there was a change in emphasis through the 19th century as the joint agricultural and industrial revolutions combined to create the modern landscape from a blend of existing and new elements. The period was characterised by the substantial reclamation of former saltmarsh and areas of dunes in front of the pre-existing system of sea banks. The latter were replaced in many areas by further seabanks built along the junction between the saltmarsh and the beach proper. These were replaced in turn in some areas by sea walls and revetments in the 20th century, notably along the Mablethorpe–Skegness section, although banks continued to be built and maintained elsewhere. Small inlets survived in the early part of the modern period as potential landing places, such as The Old Gout in Theddlethorpe St Helen, but these were increasingly infilled and drained as they were incorporated into new sea defences and the farmed area was extended. The majority of the channels which drained the area behind the seabanks were also rerouted and canalised, with their exit points through the sea defences controlled by substantial sluices.

Inland, many medieval churches were rebuilt and new structures constructed, quite often in what was considered a more pure 'Early English Gothic' style than the originals. A large number of non-conformist chapels of several denominations were also constructed. The majority of village houses which survive today were built or rebuilt during the period, often in a continuation of the vernacular style until the later 19th century, but increasingly popular for the middle classes were copies of suburban 'Gothick' or 'Queen Anne' style villas and semi-detached houses. The working classes were often rehoused in urban-type terraced housing to replace traditional cramped one- and two-storey cottages, although surviving cottages were sometimes extended upwards and outwards to improve living conditions as the average family accumulated more possessions, furniture and household gadgets.

The coming of the railways in the mid-19th century caused major alterations to the landscape, not just in terms of new infrastructure, but also in the development of new residential estates and industrial or commercial enterprises. Mass tourism, particularly to the seaside, was another side-effect, leading to the development of towns such as Mablethorpe, Chapel St Leonards, Ingoldmells and Skegness, and the later 20th-century growth of holiday camps and caravan parks which infilled the area between the settlements to create an almost completely developed coastline between Theddlethorpe and Sandilands in the north, and Chapel St Leonards and Seacroft in the south. Even a basic comparison between Ordnance Survey maps of the 19th and early 20th centuries demonstrates the large-scale expansion of the coastal settlements. These towns developed a unique urban landscape in response to tourism which led to the construction of buildings and related structures purely connected with the leisure industry, at first catering for 'polite society'.

In the final years of the 19th century and into the Edwardian and interwar periods, the seaside became an increasingly popular destination for working class day trippers taking advantage of bank holidays, days off, and cheap third-class tickets on the extensive rail network, which was represented by a short-lived tramway between Alford and Sutton, and railways to Mablethorpe from Louth and Willoughby; the two rail lines survived until their final closure in 1970. Another line, the Skegness branch railway remains. The most important leisure site, certainly in the inter-war and post-war periods was Butlin's Camp, constructed in 1935–6 at Ingoldmells, and still in operation. This helped to underpin and encourage many other enterprises. Other sites at Skegness include the Pier, swimming pool, miniature railway, outdoor amusements and hotels. A period of post-war decline was reflected in the closure of rail links and the subsequent economic decline of the area. The nature of tourism relies on novelty and continual change; many early features have disappeared or have fallen into a state of disrepair, and are still being demolished with little record. A major fire in Skegness on The Parade in 2007 destroyed a number of surviving buildings along a 200m frontage.

The appearance of coastguard stations began with the construction of bases for the Preventive Water Guard, which was raised in 1809 from Royal Navy personnel. The successors of earlier Riding Officers, tasked with preventing smuggling, the Guard were being trained in lifesaving techniques and to protect wrecks from looters in the 1820s. Renamed the Coast Guard in 1822, new stations were built at intervals along the coast, including Donna Nook, where there was also a signal beacon and rocket house. A signal house was built near Saltfleet where there was a buoyed navigation channel leading to deep water, and a signal staff was erected at Mablethorpe. The National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck was created in 1824, and stations were built at intervals, including Donna Nook and Mablethorpe. The organisation became the RNLI in 1854.

At times, this part of the Lincolnshire coast has seen significant levels of coastal and deep water traffic and trade. Evidence for this can be clearly seen in the large numbers of documentary records of ship losses. As with the majority of documentary sources these are heavily biased towards the post-medieval period and in particular the period following the advent of newspapers.

It is therefore unusual that there is a distinct lack of knowledge of vernacular vessels from the Lincolnshire area. Many of the standard authorities on the subject omit or pay scant regard to the Lincolnshire coast as a whole (Anson 1944, 29; Finch 1976; McKee 1983; Gillmer 1994; Mannering 1997; March 2005, Starkey *et al* 2000). This is surprising, as there is little doubt that there would have been a local tradition of boatbuilding, particularly with the area being so remote, therefore the potential for new types of craft should be considered, particularly when considering the former importance of harbours such as Skegness.

The use of beach-launched vessels for trade and fishing leaves much less obvious traces than those of deep water shipping: Individual wreck sites which have been reported, or where unrecorded wrecks have been found, include several in North Somercotes, Skidbrooke, Theddlethorpe All Saints, Theddlethorpe Saint Helen, and Mablethorpe. The excavated remains of post-medieval fishing vessels at Sutton on Sea and Mablethorpe represented double-ended boats ideal for beach launch and recovery and were apparently unique to this section of coast (Buglass 1997a, b). Generic named locations, often for large numbers of wreck sites without detailed coordinates, include Donna Nook, Theddlethorpe Saint Helen, Mablethorpe, Chapel St Leonards, and Ingoldmells. Ship's timbers and fittings from broken-up wrecks are relatively common finds on the coast, including two examples of timbers found during the walkover survey for the Phase 1 project.

In addition to these remains, the numerous trackways, including a Roman Road which crossed the coastal fringe and passed through gaps in the protecting dunes to the head of the beach (locally termed a 'pullover'), would seem to imply that there was a need for regular access. Other features in the intertidal zone which would have facilitated access to the area include a causeway located at Saltfleet Haven and areas of stakes in the area which may represent bank consolidation along the main channel and its subsidiary creeks. There are two main reasons for requiring access: one is to support beach-launched trade and/or fishing; the other is for shore-based fishing and shellfish collection using weirs, static nets and similar methods. The recording of shellfish or fish tanks on the upper foreshore in several locations from cartographic and aerial photographic sources suggests that there was a local industry.

Finally, monuments associated with military establishments, particularly of World War 2 date, are numerous, although a considerable number have been destroyed to make way for post-war development, while others were purely temporary and would have been removed at or before the end of the war. The distribution of these defence assets serves to show how carefully considered the defence of the coastline was, with access points blocked or controlled by barbed wire fences, minefields, and areas of anti-tank defences (rows of concrete cubes and ditches). These were intended to delay and break up assaults from the sea, while under fire from pillboxes, machine gun posts, and 6-pounder and other gun emplacements for short-range local defence. For longer-range defence, there were a smaller number of 3-inch or 6-inch long-range coastal batteries and anti-aircraft batteries, supported by radar stations, aircraft detection posts, searchlight installations and visual observation posts for the Observer Corps. Pillboxes in this part of Lincolnshire generally fall into two

categories: hexagonal types and the more common Lincolnshire-type rectangular 3-bay pillbox with a central AA gunpit. At the most basic level were simple infantry trenches and weapons pits for local defence. Some of the posts were permanently manned, but others were only intended for use during 'stand-to'.

Behind these first line defences were further lines of pillboxes, trenches, gun emplacements etc, separated by areas of anti-glider defences and barbed wire to disrupt airborne troop landings. Concrete road and rail blocks would have caused further delays; key bridges were also mined to cut crossing points over rivers, drains and railways. Alongside these installations were command posts, camps, air raid shelters, shooting, gunnery and bombing ranges, and decoys, representing either poorly blacked-out towns or airfields.

As part of the area's contribution to the nation's strategic defences, an airfield was sited just inside the study area near Donna Nook between the wars, associated with bombing and gunnery ranges, although it functioned for a time between periods of active service as a decoy for nearby RAF North Coates. Rimac Camp was located in Saltfleetby: built as an army base in World War 1, it became an interwar holiday camp, but returned to military service in 1935–6, operating latterly as a bombing range. The site had its own rail link to London to improve the movement of troops. Important installations such as these were of strategic importance and were well protected. Additionally, there was a bombing and air gunnery range near Mablethorpe, RAF Theddlethorpe, opened by 1927, closed 1973.

Post-war sites include several ROC posts for monitoring aircraft movement and potential nuclear fall-out, some of them reusing World War 2 aircraft observation posts, and comprising above- and below-ground structures.

In conclusion all of these strands of human activity have combined to characterise the present-day low-lying, coastline with the potential continued erosion of earlier intertidal features. These may include prehistoric drowned landscapes, fish weirs (any date), remains of shipwrecks (any date), a beach launched fishing industry (probably medieval onwards) and salt extraction (any date) all of which will probably have a high potential level of organic preservation.

2.6 Objectives

Phase 2 of this project is intended to:

- Check the validity of interpretation and state of preservation of monuments identified as part of the Phase 1 (desk-based) assessment;
- Identify new coastal heritage assets and assess the risk to these;
- Provide a factual basis for the initial curatorial response to individual applications for commercial developments or schemes, in advance of more detailed evaluation and mitigation related to environmental impact assessments and/or planning applications.
- Provide data which is compatible with the needs of other coastal managers, parallel coastal surveys, industry and researchers.
- Provide an updated overview of coastal change from the Late Upper Palaeolithic onwards.

- Provide a reliable corrected map base for survey and consultation purposes.
- Assess and forecast the degree of threat to the coastal archaeological resource from natural processes and development, with regard to models of future coastal change presented in defra's *Futurecoast* study (Halcrow 2003) and Shoreline Management Plans.
- Identify and assess sites under actual or predicted threat, either from natural processes or from development.
- Provide a basis for developing management and research priorities in respect of sites and areas of potential with different levels of importance and under different levels of threat, based on:
 - a. The identification of areas or sites meriting further survey or evaluation
 - b. The identification of areas or sites requiring positive management action
 - c. The identification of significant historic assets meriting consideration for protection by means of statutory designation (listing or scheduling)
 - d. The identification of areas where heritage assets may be at high risk of damage or destruction
 - e. The establishment of future research priorities for the coastal heritage
- Raise awareness of maritime archaeology in eastern England amongst archaeologists and specialists as well as the general public.

2.7 Copyright and access

Copyright of new records created rests with EH, Humber Field Archaeology, and Lincolnshire HER to which they devolve, except where copyright is known to rest with a third party.

As with any Historic Environment Record, future public access to certain individual records may need to be restricted, subject to the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, in order to respect the commercial interests of the body which has supplied the information. Lincolnshire HER will already have procedures for dealing with such cases.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The methodology for the project was detailed in a MoRPHE-compliant project design (English Heritage 2006b; Brigham 2009). The principal element of this project was field inspection (Level 1), including a detailed survey of the entire accessible coastline, concentrating on the most vulnerable sites on publicly accessible foreshores and cliff margins. A team of two to three field archaeologists was assigned to each area.

Preparation

Any work on the cliff and foreshore was subject to rigorous safety procedures, including adherence to the HFA Coast & Rivers Risk Assessment, based on existing

best practice developed by Norfolk Archaeological Unit for the Norfolk Coastal Survey. Staff were made aware of site Health and Safety procedures and emergency planning.

Existing information for each coastal section from Phase 1 of the RCZA was collated for use in the field and the status of land was checked to identify any potential access issues prior to the survey taking place.

Staff were made aware of recording and sampling procedures and trained in use of the selected GPS system (see below).

General conditions

In most areas, paths follow the various successive seabanks, allowing access to the immediate hinterland.

Parts of the intertidal area, particularly in the north, proved inaccessible or too hazardous to enter safely, particularly around tidal creeks and in many areas where natural siltation has led to the development of saltmarsh and mudflats crossed by channels in front of the existing sea defences. In such areas, although there were generally few recorded monuments other than those identified from previous aerial photographic analysis, it was not possible to examine the intertidal zone except with the use of binoculars.

Field recording

The field methodology for Phase 2 follows the latest version (version 10) of the English Heritage Brief for Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Surveys (English Heritage 2007), focusing principally on the intertidal zone 'where historic assets are most likely to be under threat and where HER and NMR records are most in need of enhancement and regular review.' (para 6.2).

Urban areas (with the exception of waterfront or harbour zones) and villages were generally excluded from the field survey. There were several areas where access was not possible, chiefly land owned by private landowners and companies with security issues; these areas were generally localised and have been identified at relevant points in the Gazetteer. As mentioned above, other areas such as some sections of foreshore and tidal creeks were considered unsafe either because of a lack of physical means of access or adverse ground conditions.

For survey purposes, the coastline was divided into stints of no more than 8–9km. The actual extent of each stint depended on safety, tides, ease of access, complexity of the potential archaeological resource, and the number of tasks identified in Phase 1 to be completed. As well as these targeted tasks, inspections were made of the foreshore, including areas of sand and shingle beach and rock-cut platforms. Visibility across areas of intertidal mudflats was generally good, and a single transect was generally sufficient to identify anomalies. Return visits were made where necessary to validate data or examine areas previously inaccessible.

A Trimble GeoExplorer XT handheld GPS with a differential correction (DGPS), assisted by a GeoBeacon receiver, was used to determine locations with sub-metre accuracy, assisted by FastMap Mobile Software. Basemaps of each area containing existing known monument locations from the RCZA Phase 1 assessment were pre-loaded onto the handset to enable monuments and findspots to be relocated easily.

New and revised data was logged on preloaded record forms specifically designed for the purpose based on the HFA context recording system and a similar form developed by Norfolk Archaeological Services (NAU 2005). The record sheets include fields for location (grid reference), site number, HER/NMR/RCZA numbers, description, condition/vulnerability, cross-referenced features, artefacts, drawings and attached photographs. Data was downloaded daily where possible, weekly where not, into the project database held on the HFA server using FastMap Dataflow PC Software for checking to allow errors or omissions to be rectified quickly and return visits to be made if necessary. Paper versions of the record sheets and index forms were also carried in case of hardware or software failure, but also to record more lengthy descriptions of new features, which proved less cumbersome, and enabled descriptions to exceed the 99-character limit of the GPS handset.

It was originally intended to take details of monuments or notable features using a wi-fi enabled Nikon P3 camera (8.1 megapixels with 3.5x optical zoom), which would allow photographs to be attached directly to GPS locations. In practice, because of signalling reception problems and the differing storage locations of data and photographs on the HFA network, it proved simpler to take standard photographs, cross-referenced to the data sheets, for later attachment to the MapInfo GIS. Details of monuments and general views of the accessible coastline were therefore photographed using higher resolution digital camera equipment (Canon A650 IS with 12.1 megapixels and 6x optical zoom).

Excavation and detailed planning or section/elevation drawing was not undertaken at this stage although tapes, planning sheets and other equipment were carried to record features which appeared likely to be lost or severely damaged in the short term. Such work is expected to form part of a costed future programme where the need is identified.

Field teams were provided with sealable containers, bags and labels for temporary field storage of any artefacts collected

It is proposed that the sampling of any organic deposits or structures encountered will form a discrete part of a Level 2 programme and will therefore be the subject of a separate updated project design which will establish the number and type of samples required (potentially including plant macrofossil species identification, pollen, diatom analysis and radiocarbon/dendrochronological dating); a number of drowned forest/peat exposures have already been assessed and dated as part of previous research programmes, and care will be required to avoid duplicating results.

The status and grid co-ordinates of the majority of sites were checked using internet satellite imagery (Google Earth/Wikimapia); this proved to be an invaluable tool, particularly in determining the condition of inaccessible sites and verifying locations.

The data obtained during the course of this study is presented in the updated gazetteers of archaeological remains in tabulated format in Volume 2 of this study. As in the Phase 1 reports, gazetteer numbers are given at appropriate points in the text, which is arranged, as before, by parish (1–13). The combined results are shown on Maps 1–17. As this project is intended to present updated information, the text largely deals only with sites visited as part of the Phase 2 assessment, and does not attempt to repeat previous information about unvisited monuments and findspots included in this volume (section 4). The gazetteer on the other hand, shows all the Phase 1 entries, with new or amended sites shown in black. Entries which have not been altered are greyed out. The maps show new sites in blue, sites which were visited in black, and unvisited sites in grey.

3.2 Assessment of the risk to cultural heritage sites in the Study Area

For the purposes of this report, the assessment of importance is based on statutory designations (Scheduled Monuments, Listed Building grades) as well as on the following generally accepted criteria:

- Period
- Rarity
- Group Value
- Condition

The following categories set out in Annexe 4 of PPG 16 are used in this report with the relevant code used in the gazetteers shown in brackets:

- **National (A):** the highest status of cultural heritage site: e.g. scheduled monuments, listed buildings Grade I & II*, well-preserved historic landscapes;
- **(County)/Regional (B):** includes the bulk of cultural heritage sites with reasonable evidence of occupation, ritual, industry etc, listed buildings Grade II; reasonably preserved historic landscapes;
- **Local (C):** cultural heritage sites with some evidence of human activity, but in a fragmentary or poor state, buildings of local importance, dispersed elements of historic landscapes, such as cropmarks.
- **Unknown/Unimportant (N):** insufficient evidence or data to make an informed judgement of importance, where a building or site is considered to have no significance, or represents a monument known only from documentary sources with no specific identifiable location.

For the purposes of this Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment, a simplified scheme of risk assessment has been adopted, based on a judgement of the perceived threat from coastal erosion (as opposed to possible damage from redevelopment or the continued degradation caused by agricultural practices):

- **High (1):** a site at imminent risk in less than 20 years, or which is being actively eroded.
- **Medium (2):** a site which may be at risk in the next 20–50 years.
- **Low (3):** a negligible risk to a site which is either not at risk for at least 50 years (eg an inland site). Included are modern features of a temporary nature which are no longer extant, but may still survive below ground: examples include ridge-and-furrow, banked or ditched enclosures, WW2 weapons pits or trenches.
- **Nil (N):** those sites already known to have been lost. These will include those eroded or destroyed, and features which have been entirely removed through demolition, such as houses or WW2 pillboxes. The category also includes casual finds, which are considered to have been removed and relocated to a place of safety.

Note that the latter category shares the single code letter 'N' with sites of unknown importance or no significance.

The following simplified dating scheme for the main periods has also been adopted:

(Upper) Palaeolithic	30,000–10,000 BC
Mesolithic	10,000–4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000–2,200 BC
Bronze Age	2,200–750 BC
Iron Age	750 BC–AD 50
Romano-British	AD 50–AD 410
Early Medieval	AD 410–1099
Medieval	1100–1499
Post-medieval	1500–1799
Modern	1800–Present

Due to the much smaller number of records under discussion compared to Phase 1, and the resulting complete absence of new or revised entries for certain periods, the period headings used in section 4 have been greatly simplified to three: Prehistoric/Romano-British, Medieval/Post-medieval and Modern. In the gazetteers, the original period divisions are retained including sub-division of the modern period into Early Modern (1800–99) and Modern (post-1900).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE STUDY AREA

Note: Maps 1–17 show the location of cultural heritage sites (gazetteer entries)

This section is arranged by civil parish, commencing in the north of the county and working southwards.

4.1 North and South Somercotes (Maps 1–4)

Due to the very small area of South Somercotes within the study area the single site has been incorporated with North Somercotes. The northern part of the parish to Donna Nook is also included in the RCZA for East Yorkshire and North-East Lincolnshire (Brigham & Jobling 2010).

Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is composed of chalk from the Upper Cretaceous (Neal 1988, 1 *et seq*; British Geological Survey 2001), overlain by a drift geology of Skipsea Till (Catt 1990, 21-3) from the Tertiary period with an area of wind blown sand in the vicinity of Donna Nook (British Geological Survey 1977) of Quaternary origin, which in turn in the North Somercotes area has been covered by estuarine and riverine derived alluvium (*ibid*). The soils in the parish are described as surface water gley soils. These soils are seasonally saturated due either to rainfall or the lateral movement of ground water (Ellis 1990, 33).

The topography of the parish is one of low-lying land, much of it former marshland (mostly below 5m OD) which extends beyond the study area inland gradually rising to the Lincolnshire Wolds. A significant part of the study area for this parish is land which has been reclaimed probably since the medieval period and as recently as the late 19th early 20th centuries. The land use is entirely agricultural.

Historical and archaeological summary

Medieval/Post-medieval

The site of the small documented medieval harbour at Mar Haven (NS60) was visited, but nothing was visible and the area had been returned to arable land. Most of the recorded ridge-and-furrow in the parish (NS43) has been ploughed away.

Traces of old sea defences south of RAF Donna Nook (NS57) near the track from Jarvis's and Warren Farms to the beach no longer survive above ground; the rabbit warren (NS58) to the west of Warren Farm is also no longer extant, the area now being a caravan park.

Modern

There was no safe access to wreck sites (NS1–3, 19) or timber foreshore structure NS7, which may vary in date from the late post-medieval to early modern periods. Many landward sites were also inaccessible, including the site of a lifboat station (NS28), coastguard station (NS32), rocket house (NS33) and areas of former late post-medieval or early modern sea bank (NS34, 35, 36). Porter's Sluice (NS29) on Seven Towns South Eau waterway remains in good condition.

The area's importance during WW2 is reflected in the number of monuments relating chiefly to RAF Donna Nook (NS46) and its bombing range, although many have

subsequently been demolished. It was not possible to verify the condition of a number of WW2 monuments in and around the base due to restricted access.

The few surviving WW2 structures north of Donna Nook include pillboxes NS12, NS17 (Plate 4), and NS24 (Plate 11). Of these, NS12 (Plate 3) and NS24, 3-bay AA pillboxes, appear to be in good condition, but brick blockhouse NS17 has been damaged. Observation post NS15 has been demolished to ground level (Plate 8), but the underground entrance and side chamber are in good condition (Plates 5–7).

Demolished monuments include pillboxes (NS9, NS18: Plate 10, NS25, possibly NS62: Plate 9), beach defences (NS21, 23, 38) and gun emplacements (NS11, 16, 37), the latter including a radio locator site. NS62 may be a section post. Most of the features relating to the original bombing range have been removed, including range markers (NS6, 22) and a target (NS4). A series of buildings at TA 4109 0053 (NS13) have also been cleared, although a concrete base (NS61: Plate 2) survives to the west of the buildings listed under NS13. Several bombing target trolleys (Plate 12) were still in evidence near the beach north of Donna Nook at the time of the survey.

The former RAF Donna Nook itself (NS46/51) retains a number of buildings and structures of various dates (Plates 16, 17) which would require a detailed audit to be certain of their provenance, if this has not been done already. Although a few sections remain (Plate 15), most of the runways and perimeter tracks have been removed, as have traces of the site's time as a bombing decoy (NS47) for RAF North Coates before Donna Nook was returned to operational status. East of the base, the extensive beach defences erected along the seabank (NS38) have been removed, military buildings NS44 near the seawall have been destroyed and there was no trace of a series of weapons pits and trenches (NS45) extending south. Some structures belonging to the group of buildings to the south-east (NS48) have been demolished (Plate 19); others do, however, survive in apparent good condition behind the seawall, including concrete block structures NS63 (Plate 18), NS64. Immediately to the south-east, satellite imagery suggests that possible pillbox (NS49) is still in position, although it was inaccessible at ground level. The given location for a line of WW2 bombing targets (NS50) places the southernmost within a few metres of these structures, and it is unclear whether they were in contemporaneous use. A track giving access to this area of the seafront had been blocked and two cubes remained in place (NS65: Plate 20). Beach defences (NS52) and buildings (NS53) to the south of here have been removed. Further buildings on the southern perimeter of the airfield (NS54) have also been demolished.

Five hundred metres south of NS53 was a previously unrecorded group of structures including 3-bay pillbox NS66, in apparent good condition in an area of gorse (Plate 29), with a second example further south (NS72: Plates 24–26). Nearby were the abutments of a probable wartime bridge (NS67: Plate 30), presumably allowing access over the sea defences to the pillboxes and a cluster of other WW2 or later structures, including a brick observation post (NS73: Plates 26, 28), concrete ramp (NS68: Plate 21), brick building (NS69: Plates 21–23, 26), concrete platform (NS70: Plate 22), and a demolished building (NS71). The observation post had later additions and was marked 'OP4' (Plate 27), suggesting that it had been recommissioned as part of the bombing range. To the south, a set of anti-tank cubes (NS56: Plate 31) protecting the lane giving access to the foreshore from Jarvis's Farm were still partly in situ, although some had been moved after the war to allow the road to be brought back into use; nearby were fragments of what appeared to be a pillbox or observation post (NS74) with a rusticated finish. At the south end of the parish, a 3-bay pillbox (NS59) remains in good condition, but is apparently sinking into the underlying former silts (Plate 32).

Discussion

Restricted access to much of the area occupied by RAF Donna Nook and the intertidal zone limited the scope of the Phase 2 survey. Clearly, however, the majority of monuments identified in the Phase 1 survey had been removed, although some additional detail was added to records. Fourteen new monuments were added, including WW2 several pillboxes or observation posts (NS62, 66, 72, 73), bridge abutments (NS67), buildings or other structures (NS61, 63, 64, 69, 70, 71, 74), a roadblock (NS65), and a ramp (NS68). These may have been missed by previous researchers because of variations in access conditions and general visibility at different times of year. The additional WW2 monuments serve to emphasise the strategic importance of the area, particularly giving further details of the defences on the southern flanks of RAF Donna Nook to balance the better-recorded area to the north.

4.2 Skidbrooke with Saltfleet (*Maps 4, 5*)

Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is composed of chalk from the Upper Cretaceous (Neal 1988, 1 *et seq*; British Geological Survey 2001), overlain by a drift geology of Skipsea Till (Catt 1990, 21–3) from the Tertiary period, the area of Quaternary wind blown sand seen in the vicinity of Donna Nook also occurs between North Somercotes and Saltfleet (British Geological Survey 1977). In turn this area has been covered by estuarine and riverine derived alluvium (*ibid*). The soils in the parish are described as surface water gley soils, seasonally saturated due either to rainfall or the lateral movement of ground water (Ellis 1990, 33). The remaining soils are unclassified due to the built up nature of the study area.

The topography of the parish is one of low-lying, former marshland (mostly below 5m OD) which extends beyond the study area inland gradually rising to the Lincolnshire Wolds. The land-use in the parish is predominantly for agriculture with the coastal settlement of Saltfleet occupying a proportion of the study area.

Historical and archaeological summary

Medieval/Post-medieval

Although not visible from the ground at the time of the survey, satellite images reveal that there are some earthwork elements surviving in the western half of the possible inland medieval DMV site at Skidbrooke North End (SH3) and clear ridge-and-furrow remains extending to the south. The eastern half of the settlement and cultivation have however been ploughed out in the adjoining field. A possible medieval boundary bank in Saltfleet (SH12) has been removed.

On the northern outskirts of Saltfleet, Seabank House, a late 17th-century building with later additions (SH10: Plate 43) remained in good condition, as does the contemporary Manor House (SH18: Plate 48) further south.

There were no visible traces of a structure identified as a possible saltern (SH26) at the southern end of the parish.

Modern

The 19th-century Signal House in Saltfleet (SH9) was no longer extant; although no reference to the purpose of this structure could be found it was presumably for use by the coastguard. The Saltfleet area is said to have been much frequented by smugglers who landed goods at landing points opposite gaps in the sand dunes (locally known as 'pulovers') and loaded them onto carts; the tower may have formed part of the local anti-smuggling control system.

Several monuments recorded in the village during the Phase 1 survey were still extant and in good condition, including the later 19th-century communal pump (SH14: Plates 44, 45), Methodist Chapel (SH16: Plate 46) and New Inn (SH17: Plate 47). The village windmill (SH20: Plate 49), originally built in the late 18th century, but largely rebuilt in the 19th century, has been restored as a dwelling after a period of dereliction.

At the south end of the parish is the formerly important channel of Saltfleet Haven (SH21: Plates 50, 51), which at the seaward end contains a stone causeway (SH22: Plates 51, 52), in good condition, flanked on the north side by several groups of timber piles (SH23: Plate 53, SH28: Plate 54, SH29: Plates 55, 56) in fair condition; these may be the remains of previous attempts to reinforce the edge of the channel. There were still some extant remains of the wreck of a steam vessel previously recorded next to the Haven channel at the seaward end of the piles (SH24: Plate 57), although it was in very poor condition.

WW2 structures dominated the catalogue of 20th-century monuments in this parish. Two pillboxes recorded as SH1 at the northern boundary with North Somercotes survive in apparent good condition (Plates 33, 34); interestingly, one of these is a standard Lincolnshire-type AA pillbox (Plate 36), twinned with a rusticated blockhouse (Plate 35), and ten anti-tank blocks (SH2: Plate 37) remain close to their original positions blocking a beach exit immediately to the west. Further south, gun emplacement SH4 is in poor condition, the last remnant of a 3- or 4-inch coastal battery (Plates 38, 39), although a single anti-tank cube (SH6: Plate 40) remains more-or-less in situ further west on Howden's Pullover Lane, presumably protecting the western approaches to the battery.

A little further south, ROC post SH7 could not be located at the given grid reference which places it in the centre of a field which appears to have reverted to scrub used for trail biking or similar activities.

On the northern outskirts of Saltfleet, pillbox SH8 (Plate 41), with a commanding view over the saltmarsh (Plate 42) is in good condition, although the rusticated finish, which seems to be favoured on this short stretch of coast, had been damaged. A firing range to the south (SH11) had been dismantled, and a possibly related oval earthwork at the west end (SH13) had also disappeared; a similar but smaller earthwork structure at the south end of the parish (SH27: Plate 58) was also not visible.

Discussion

There are relatively few monuments in this parish, and many of those noted in the Phase 1 gazetteer have now disappeared. The survival of parts of medieval DMV site of Skidbrooke North End (SH3) as earthworks was confirmed, together with nearby ridge-and-furrow.

Only two new features were identified, both areas of piles around Saltfleet Haven (SH28, 29). These were effectively continuations of similar features identified during the 2006 Phase 1 walkover (SH23), suggesting that a considerable degree of effort had been put into maintaining the main channel.

4.3 Saltfleetby (Map 5)

Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is composed of chalk from the Upper Cretaceous (British Geological Survey 2001) which in turn is overlain by Quaternary clays (Boutwood 1998, 26). These clays have been covered in the Saltfleetby area by a complex sequence of estuarine and riverine derived alluvium (ibid; British Geological Survey 1977). The soils in the parish are described as surface water gley soils.

The topography of the parish is one of low-lying land; much of it is former marshland (mostly below 5m OD) which extends beyond the study area inland gradually rising to the Lincolnshire Wolds. The land use is almost entirely agricultural.

Historical and archaeological summary

Prehistoric/Romano-British

Although there were no known early features in the study area, part of the line of the B1200 may follow a Roman road (SA13: Plate 64) from Stixwold near Horncastle to a possible settlement near Sea View (presumably lost to erosion).

Medieval/Post-medieval

An inlet shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey just south-east of the junction of the present Great Eau and South Drain (the west end of Saltfleet Haven) was not visible (SA3), but was already absent on the 1890's edition. This may have been the location of a medieval/post-medieval landing place serving Saltfleet which silted up following the canalisation of the drain mouths. On the intertidal flats to the east were two areas of timber stakes (SA4, 5) which could mark the former position of channels; these were similar to examples recorded in the same area in Skidbrooke.

Further south, there was no sign of Marehaven DMV (SA14); although the given grid reference was general it may well have been located in the area of modern Sea View as the approach road (B1200) is named Mar Dyke East and seemed to be respected by areas of ridge-and-furrow. There were also faint traces of old enclosures or infilled ditches around Sea View itself.

At the south end of the parish, there were still extensive traces of areas of enclosures, trackways and ridge-and-furrow (SA34) which extend across the parish boundary into Theddlethorpe All Saints (TS8, 12, 16). These may represent the location of one or more lost medieval/early post-medieval settlements.

Modern

On the south side of Saltfleet Haven, two concrete blocks (SA1: Plate 59) may be the remains of WW2 anti-landing obstructions, perhaps blocking the channel. An enclosure located inland to the south-west (SA9) had been ploughed out. East of the Great Eau, pillbox SA6 was in good condition (Plate 60). Further south, searchlight

battery SA8 was no longer visible although at least three gunpits of the heavy AA battery it served (SA10) are still clearly visible on satellite images; this was not visited on the ground as the original grid reference (now corrected) were wrong. The three positions are set in a triangular formation, but another 1, possibly 2 fainter positions may be in line with those forming the back of the triangle, which could suggest that the site was converted into an anti-VI 'Diver' battery in 1944. Immediately to the south was a cluster of monuments around the beach access at Sea View (the Sea View Defended Locality), including a pillbox (SA11: Plate 63), in good condition and several features which could not be located. Of these, gun emplacement (SA12) may have been lost, while pillbox (SA16) and Ruck machine gun post (SA17) were sited in dense vegetation, although satellite photographs show that the latter remains in situ partly concealed by a tree. Stanton shelter SA15 is probably the same as SA17, as Ruck posts used the same prefabricated components and the two have almost identical grid references.

The bridge still carrying the B1200 across the Great Eau is almost certainly to be identified with mined bridge SA18 (Plate 65). Traces of two parallel brick walls (SA35: Plate 62) identified near SA11 may be a previously unrecorded WW2 structure; they resemble a corridor or passage, suggesting they were part of a larger structure which has been lost.

To the south-west, High Frequency Detector Field Station SA20 located in the centre of a field was not visible; the earthworks around the two signal masts had been ploughed out.

The Phase 1 report noted a second cluster of WW2 features south-east of Sea View (the Rimac Defended Locality), but most of these have been destroyed, including pillboxes SA21, 25, 31, army camp SA22 (Plate 66), gun emplacement SA23, trench SA24 and enclosure SA29. To the east, pillbox SA30 has survived facing east from the seabank (Plate 67), the last of three which included SA21 and SA25.

Discussion

It may be possible to locate part of the lost Marehaven DMV (SA14) near modern Sea View and the B1200 (near SA12) as well as a second settlement further south (SA34), although the earthworks of the latter have largely been ploughed out.

WW2 monuments around the former Sea View Defended Locality seem to have survived marginally better than those at Rimac, most of which had been destroyed. The gunpits of AA battery SA10 are still visible and may repay ground investigation to determine what other features may have survived and perhaps reconstruct the history of its use.

Only one new monument was added, a possible WW2 brick structure near Sea View (SA35).

4.4 Theddlethorpe All Saints (Maps 5, 6)

Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is composed of chalk from the Upper Cretaceous (British Geological Survey 2001), overlain by Quaternary clays (Boutwood 1998, 26). In this area these clays have been covered by a complex sequence of estuarine and riverine derived alluvium (ibid; British Geological Survey 1977). The soils in the parish are described as surface water gley soils.

The topography of the parish is one of low-lying land; much of it is former marshland (mostly below 5m OD) which extends beyond the study area inland gradually rising to the Lincolnshire Wolds. The predominant land use is for agriculture.

Historical and archaeological summary

Medieval/Post-medieval

Extensive traces of medieval ridge-and-furrow and enclosures (TS8: Plate 80, TS12: Plates 81, 82), mainly west of the A1031, were still extant, although ploughed out in some areas, including a possible DMV site at TS12. These were apparently part of the same complex noted in Saltfleetby (SA34), with a concentrated nucleus of enclosures or house platforms at TF 4711 8987 (TS16: Plate 84). These appear to mark the location of one or more small settlements or farmsteads. There was no sign of a further enclosure located to the east near the former coastline (TS14).

Modern

Most of the recent features of the area were WW2-related, including pillboxes TS2, 3, 5 at the northern end of the coastal stretch, presumably outlying parts of the Rimac complex in Saltfleetby. Of these, TS2 (Plate 68) and TS3 (Plate 69) survive in good condition, but there was no trace of TS5 at the time of the 2009 visit, suggesting it had been demolished. Further south, traces of iron posts representing anti-landing obstacles (TS6: Plate 72), protecting the Oliver's Post Defended Locality were still extant, although a machine gun post (TS7) immediately to the rear could not be traced at the given location.

Further south were the remains of structures associated with the beach bombing and gunnery range at RAF Theddlethorpe (TS27), used from at least as early as 1927 until 1973, and not originally included in the Phase 1 report. Here, an east–west road crossed the Great Eau from the A1031, and linked the main barrack block, offices and stores to a 200-yard turret firing range near the seabank (TS9: Plate 77–79). Most of these structures still survive. The turret firing range was identified simply as an enclosure in the Phase 1 report, but was identified by Roger Thomas (English Heritage).

On the north side of the track between the barracks area and the firing ranges was a large building located next to a concrete slab hardstanding. The latter was the firing platform which would have had practice turrets located at intervals along it, aiming at moving targets; the building may be original, perhaps housing turrets when not in use and maintenance workshops. The target range itself originally consisted of an elongated hexagonal or ovoid target track, possibly with the rails mounted on a concrete base. Target trolleys would have been pulled around the track on wires, emerging from behind a high three-sided bank which served as a butt to stop overfiring bullets before passing behind it to a target control area protected by the bank, where one or two small buildings housed the target control team and their equipment. Aerial photographs taken in 1940 suggest the bank consisted initially of a substantial earthwork (Plate 78), but concrete retaining walls were added at some point (Plate 77, 79). A separate north–south bank at the west end protected the moving target trolleys and track from machine gun fire.

What remains today are the banks at the east end, forming a three-sided structure open to the west, and the western bank which has an adjoining small concrete building in the north which may have acted as a shelter for the target control crew.

Small buildings for the target operators protected by the bank at the east end of the range appear to have been demolished, although there are scrub-covered mounds there. The building next to the turret firing apron also remains, although not in good condition.

The road continued past the south side of the turret firing range across the seabank and dunes to the beach bombing range where there was a control tower containing aircraft detection equipment, backed up after the war by a mobile lorry-mounted radar; there was no trace of the tower in 2009. On the foreshore were several timber stakes or piles (TS20, TS21: Plate 74, TS25) which may be the remains of WW2 and post-war target structures, since two contain iron reinforcement and they are unlikely to be of earlier date. The range used permanent optical targets set on substantial platforms raised on steel piles in the post-war period; concrete slabs TS26 (Plate 76) may have formed part of a target structure or platform. In the same general area were parts of a timber shipwreck (TS22–24: Plate 75), possibly remains of the sloop 'Try' (TS1), wrecked in 1900, but not visible at the given location further north; the fragments may have been moved by longshore drift. Part of an iron or steel wreck (TS19: Plate 73) was recorded further north near piles TS20, 21, and this may have been a hulk used as a target. Another feature of the foreshore was the stripped down hull of a Comet tank (TS18: Plates 70, 71), presumably used by the RAF for early post-war target practice.

A mined bridge to the south (TS10) is apparently still extant as a farm bridge linking two fields across a ditch near the old seafront, although no access was available in 2009. Further to the south-east behind the seafront was another pillbox (which the corrected grid reference place just inside the Theddlethorpe St Helen boundary; this record (formerly TS15), has therefore been transferred (now TH18). Inland, a second mined bridge (TS11) carrying the A1031 across the Great Eau has been replaced by a more modern structure (Plate 83), while a pillbox at Sea Bank Farm (TS17) has apparently been demolished.

Discussion

There were still extensive areas of medieval ridge-and-furrow in the parish, extending into Saltfleetby.

There are a number of WW2 monuments surviving, including several around the Oliver's Post Defended Locality in the north. The most notable addition to records in the parish is the RAF Theddlethorpe beach bombing and firing range (TS27). This includes land-based structures as well as a series of stakes, parts of shipwrecks and a Comet tank hulk on the foreshore which may all have formed part of the bombing range. These features and the range itself are added as ten new entries. The turret firing range is one of a small number which survive nationally and other features remain worth recording, including the barracks site.

4.5 Theddlethorpe Saint Helen (Maps 6, 7)

Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is composed of chalk from the Upper Cretaceous (British Geological Survey 2001) which in turn is overlain by Quaternary clays (Boutwood 1998, 26). In this area these clays have been covered by a complex sequence of estuarine and riverine derived alluvium (ibid; British Geological Survey, 1977). The soils in the parish are described as surface water gley soils.

The topography of the parish is one of low-lying land, much of it former marshland (mostly below 5m OD) which extends beyond the study area inland gradually rising to the Lincolnshire Wolds. A significant part of the study area for this parish is land which has been reclaimed probably since the medieval period and as recently as the late 19th early 20th centuries. The land use is mostly agricultural with a proportion of the land occupied by the modern settlement of Theddlethorpe St Helen.

Historical and archaeological summary

Prehistoric/Romano-British

An undated enclosure (TH16, formerly MS2) may be of late Iron Age or Romano-British date, but is not visible as an earthwork. The given grid reference places this feature in Theddlethorpe.

Medieval/Post-medieval

Farm buildings currently occupy the area of the possible site of Saltfleetby DMV (TH1); no visible remains are extant of the enclosures cited as possibly attached to the settlement (Plate 86). Inland, the 14th- to 15th-century parish church of St Helen (TH9: Plate 90) remains in good apparent condition, although much rebuilt in the 19th century. The 17th-century Hall, also rebuilt later (TH7) is also in good condition.

Further south, there were only faint traces surviving of ridge-and-furrow around the Theddlethorpe St Helen DMV site (TH15: Plate 96), although more was visible from satellite images, and no sign of enclosures thought to comprise part of the settlement itself. In the north, either side of the A1031, further fields are part of an extensive area of enclosures and former ridge-and-furrow extending across the boundary from Theddlethorpe All Saints (TS12).

Satellite images reveal no trace of the possible former landing site named on early maps as 'Old Gout' (TH13), previously thought to read 'Old Goit', although the site lies at a possibly significant junction of the old seabank and 'Crook Bank (MS1) to the south, both probably of medieval origin (Plate 96).

Modern

Outside the modern settlements and farmsteads there are relatively few features of interest; a 19th-century brickworks close to the old sea bank (TH4) is no longer extant and any brick pits have been filled in. The site was already disused by 1906. The mid 19th-century St Helen Methodist Chapel with a later extension (TH17: Plate 91) was added to the gazetteer; in good condition, but now converted to a house fronting the A1031. Two cannon embedded muzzle down marking the gate to the Hall (TH8) were newly noted in the Phase 1 report and were still in good condition in 2009 (Plates 88, 89).

There are few WW2 monuments; pillbox TH18 (formerly TS15) was identified at a new grid reference using satellite photographs and appears to be in good condition, although there was no trace of the accompanying 6-pounder gun emplacement recorded at the same location. Pillbox TH12 is in good condition (Plates 93, 94), with no sign of the nearby twin 6-inch gun positions of a coastal battery (Plate 92). Finally, pillbox TH5 survives well inland in fields behind houses lining the east side of the A1031 (Plate 87).

Discussion

The majority of the features listed in the Phase 1 gazetteer in this parish are no longer extant, including remains of the two DMV sites and the possible landing place at Old Gout (TH13). The only wholly new entry was St Helen's Methodist Chapel (TH17), now a dwelling.

4.6 Mablethorpe with Sutton (Maps 7–10)

Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is composed of chalk from the Upper Cretaceous (British Geological Survey 2001) which in turn is overlain by Quaternary clays (Boutwood 1998, 26). In the Mablethorpe to Sutton on Sea area these clays have been covered by a complex sequence of estuarine and riverine derived alluvium (ibid; British Geological Survey 1977; Drury & Lane 2004, 3–6). The soils in the parish are described as surface water gley soils.

The topography of the parish is one of low-lying land, much of it former marshland (mostly below 5m OD) which extends beyond the study area inland gradually rising to the Lincolnshire Wolds. The vast majority of the land use is residential or recreational.

Historical and archaeological summary

Prehistoric/Romano-British

The grid reference of an enclosure formerly included in this parish (MS2) placed it in Theddlethorpe St Helen, and it has therefore been reassigned (TH16). A possible late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement site on the foreshore near the Mablethorpe/Trusthorpe boundary (MS17) and a 2nd- to 4th-century site a little further south (MS23) were no longer visible. These sites were originally exposed by erosion and although the area has been subject to recent beach replenishment they are likely to have been severely damaged.

Medieval/Post-medieval

There are few medieval or early post-medieval structures within Mablethorpe, which is mainly of 19th- and 20th-century date; the 17th-century 'Tennyson's Cottage' (MS8: Plate 99) remains in good condition, although much altered in the 19th and 20th centuries, and is now the last of a row of cottages used by the poet's family as a holiday retreat. St Peter's Church, Trusthorpe (MS41) is still in good apparent condition, although with later additions. By contrast, the Grade II Bourne Farm Cottage (MS50) was not visible at the given grid reference, where a modern bungalow was located. No other buildings matching the listing description were present in the locality.

At the north end of Mablethorpe parish, a section of the medieval or early post-medieval seabank forms the parish boundary with Theddlethorpe St Helen (MS1), its sinuous course earning it the name 'Crook Bank'; it remains in good condition (Plate 95). Traces of the bank appear in numerous locations under different names, and it often remains in good condition, despite no longer forming the principal sea defence (MS92: Plate 114).

Several areas of ridge-and-furrow (MS6, 9) have now been covered by housing developments at the north end of Mablethorpe town. A possible medieval settlement

site (MS18) has also been covered by modern housing developments, but formerly survived as earthworks. In Trusthorpe, several possible late medieval platforms (MS31) have apparently been lost to housing, although some small areas of intervening wasteland may have allowed some features to survive. A medieval moated site located near the present seafront in 1952 (MS38) has apparently been lost, although the given grid ref places the site on the line of the sea defences.

There is no sign of ridge-and-furrow formerly located on the site of a caravan park (MS36), although traces of both ridge-and-furrow and house platforms have survived to the immediate south-east (MS40: Plate 100) in a cultivated area. There is a further small area in an open meadow immediately south of the 14th-century and later St Peter's Church (MS42: Plate 102), with a further area to the west (MS44/45), although the northern part has been ploughed out. A smaller area to the south-east (MS46) has been built over. The earthworks of a small medieval settlement located near MS46 (MS48) has been levelled and a caravan park constructed, but a small settlement site with enclosures and ridge-and-furrow to the south-west (MS53: Plate 104) is still extant as grassed earthworks. An area of post-medieval ridge-and-furrow to the east (MS52: Plate 103) and a larger area to the south-west (MS59: Plate 105) are also still in good condition.

A possible medieval settlement site in the south-east of Trusthorpe (MS55) has been replaced by modern housing, along with areas of ridge-and-furrow immediately to the south-west in Sutton (MS57, 69), although the western parts of MS69 has not been built on and is partly extant as soil- or cropmarks. An associated settlement site (MS70) at the south end of the MS69 complex is now longer extant, and the area is being encroached on by the housing which has already covered part of MS69. There is an early modern 'Manor Farm' a little to the south (MS71) suggesting a possible manor site, although there were no extant remains of associated earthworks. The farm lies at the west end of MS80, one of three areas of ridge-and-furrow extending south-east (MS80, 82, MS85: Plate 117), which lie on the fringes of the post-war built-up area like MS69 and MS70. These have been plough damaged or built over; MS80 is still visible as low earthworks (Plate 116), development has already covered the western part of MS82 and the eastern half is at imminent risk from further housing, MS85 has been ploughed out, but small additional areas have been identified immediately to the north and south (the latter behind Hall Farm (MS87: Plate 117), which might suggest the presence of a medieval hall. To the east, near the seafront, a smaller area (MS79) has been built over.

Further south, an area of earthworks, including an enclosure and ridge-and-furrow (MS90) was destroyed by modern development which straddles the former line of the Willoughby & Sutton railway (MS102), although there are well-preserved remains south of the housing (MS93: Plate 188), mainly east of the former railway track. In the south-east of Sutton, several areas of ridge-and-furrow have been ploughed out (MS95, 96), leaving only faint soilmarks. The outlines of the blocks have been retained as modern field boundaries, producing long narrow strips with slightly sinuous boundaries, clearly reflecting elements of the original medieval field system.

A number of clay pits located along the upper foreshore in front of the town (MS10, 22, 30, 32, 34, 43, 49, 63, 65, 76, 89, 94, 100) and an undated enclosure (MS11) have been covered over, mainly by recent beach replenishment, although many may not have been visible for some years. A trackway which may have led to the pits (MS26) has been removed and the site covered by modern beachfront developments.

A more significant buried location was the site of a probable late Saxon wattle structure (MS64) at Sutton on Sea. This rare feature suggests that there may be other remains of the period which have not been identified.

Modern

Three 19th-century shipwrecks located during a survey by John Buglass in 1997 (MS7, 16, 67) could not be relocated, probably due to the extensive beach replenishment which has taken place, although a more recent wreck, possibly the 'Stavanger' (MS15), and the timber wreck of the 'Georgio Avasoti' were probably removed for scrap, as was the deliberately beached 'Acorn' (MS60).

In the town, of the modern buildings listed in the Phase 1 gazetteer, the 1871 Convalescent Home (MS24) has been confirmed as demolished. A windmill located to the rear of a farmhouse between holiday camps next to Sutton Road has been demolished; although the outline of the base was thought to be visible from satellite images, nothing is shown on the 1886 and subsequent Ordnance Survey maps, and the mill must have vanished much earlier, if the grid reference is correct. The apparent mill base must be a more recent feature. In Sutton-on-Sea, the early 20th-century Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (MS68: Plate 106) and early 19th-century St Clement's Church (MS86: Plate 112) are in good condition. The area's continuing importance as a holiday destination is still clearly visible in the form of post-war caravan and chalet sites, but earlier evidence remains, including 'Wavelands' (MS75: Plate 107), 'Lindum' (MS77: Plate 108) and 'Marsoville' (MS78: Plate 109), all holiday cottages constructed from 19th-century railway carriages, and all in apparent good condition. Further south, the asbestos and timber beach huts identified in the Phase 1 survey (MS84: Plate 113) remain in good condition, as does the early 20th-century golf course (MS98: Plate 115).

The expansion of the area was aided by the construction of a coastal railway line from Willoughby to Sutton (MS102), and subsequently linked to the Louth and East Coast Railway (MS101) at Mablethorpe; although these closed in 1970; the station building and stationmaster's house at Sutton-Sea still survive in good condition (MS81: Plates 110, 111), but parts of the trackbed in the urbanised areas have since been built over. The line replaced a short-lived narrow-gauge railway between Alford and Sutton-on-Sea (MS66) which has left little trace, although a signal box (MS74) was removed and rebuilt at Legbourne Railway Museum.

There are few WW2 sites in the area. A landing strip at the north end of the parish (MS3) was assumed previously to be the remains of an emergency landing strip for the former RAF Manby, attached to the gunnery and bombing range at RAF Theddlethorpe (a wartime satellite of Manby), but as it is some distance south of latter, this is in doubt; it is not marked as such on pre- or post-war Ordnance Survey editions. There was no trace of anti-landing obstructions potentially identified in the south of the area (MS99) near ridge-and-furrow MS96).

At the north end of Mablethorpe town, ROC post MS4 is now in poor external condition, with the brick skin collapsing to reveal the inner concrete structure (Plate 98).

Further south in Trusthorpe, pillbox (MS27) was not visible in the area of the given grid reference. A previously unrecorded pillbox was, however, noted inland guarding the crossing of a substantial drain (MS103: Plate 101), 550m south-west of the apparent location of MS27. No Nissen huts remain on their reported site at the south end of Trusthorpe (MS54).

Discussion

Mablethorpe lies at the north end of the beach replenishment zone, which extends 20km south to Skegness; the main consequence of the scheme is that virtually all features located in the intertidal zone are now buried and rendered inaccessible by the deposition of dredged sand. While this has undoubtedly protected many eroding sites and reduced the threat of flooding, it also precludes further recording of new or existing monuments, including salterns, fishing-related structures, 'submerged forests', wrecks, clay extraction pits, and WW2 structures, all of which are a feature of the area. Any artefacts recovered are also likely to represent imported material from within the dredged replenishment material rather than the underlying foreshore or eroding land area, although field studies of the replenished area suggest even these will be very few in number.

Inland, there are still many traces of medieval enclosures, possible settlements and areas of ridge-and-furrow on the western fringes of Mablethorpe, Sutton and Trusthorpe, suggesting a band of settlements c 1km inland. In some cases these survive as earthworks, in others as soil- and cropmarks. The rapid spread of holiday camps and recent housing estates between the main modern settlement nuclei and along the coastal fringes has, however, led to their almost wholesale removal in those areas.

Few WW2 monuments were listed in the Phase 1 survey, but the town would have had strategic importance and it is assumed that most structures were cleared before any recording took place. The only new entry in the parish, however, was an apparently unrecorded 3-bay AA pillbox (MS103) located in a field next to a bridge over a drain. Its survival suggests that such structures were originally much more widespread.

4.7 Huttoft (*Maps 10, 11*)

Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is composed of chalk from the Upper Cretaceous (British Geological Survey 2001) which in turn is overlain by Quaternary clays (Boutwood 1998, 26). In this area these clays have been covered by a complex sequence of estuarine and riverine derived alluvium (ibid; British Geological Survey 1977; Drury & Lane 2004, 3–6). The soils in the parish are described as surface water gley soils.

The topography of the parish is one of low-lying land, much of it former marshland (mostly below 5m OD) which extends beyond the study area inland gradually rising to the Lincolnshire Wolds. The land use is entirely agricultural.

Historical and archaeological summary

Prehistoric/Romano-British

Although prehistoric and Romano-British artefacts have been found in the area, no monuments proven to be assignable to these periods were identified in the Phase 1 survey. A salting site recorded on the site of 'Sandilands' golf course in the north of the parish (HT1) may have been of either late Iron Age/Romano-British or medieval date, judging from the range of similar sites identified further south in the

Chapel St Leonards/Ingoldmells area. No trace of the site was visible in 2009, however.

Medieval/Post-medieval

Reference has already been made to the salt production site recorded previously at the north end of the parish (HT1). The saltern would have been located on the seaward side of the 'Roman Bank' recorded in other parish gazetteers, which extends through the parish, and is likely to have been of late medieval/early post-medieval date. A group of possible walled oyster pits on the foreshore to the south (HT3) was also not visible; the area had recently been subjected to beach replenishment which has covered previous sea defences. These features may have been of early modern date.

Inland of the seabank to the west there were no traces of medieval or early post-medieval ridge-and-furrow formerly located to the south (HT2).

Further south, possible mill mound HT4 had also been ploughed out (Plate 119).

A possible D-shaped medieval or early post-medieval enclosure identified from aerial photographs immediately behind the Roman Bank (HT9) had been destroyed and the site was occupied by a recently-constructed house. Further south, a group of conjoined medieval or early post-medieval enclosures (HT13) had also been ploughed out, although there are faint traces of these features as cropmarks on current satellite images.

On the foreshore to the east, the sites of possible clay pits HT10 and HT14 were sealed by modern beach replenishment.

An inlet on the seaward side of the seabank further south (HT8) was presumably extant in the post-medieval period and possibly earlier, but had been infilled by the late 19th century and the site reclaimed (see below). It was associated with what appeared to be rectangular pits (HT6), possibly for oyster storage. A second inlet recorded to the south in the Phase 1 survey (HT15) had been incorrectly plotted from early 19th-century mapping, and has been transferred to Anderby (AN15).

Modern

The inlet on the seaward side of the seabank (HT8: Plate 120) had been infilled by the 1880s and reclaimed for agricultural use. The site is now covered by the southern section of Sandilands golf course. This feature was shown on the 1824 Ordnance Survey map of the area and was located next to a signal staff (HT7). It may well represent a former landing site for local fishing boats, since, as mentioned earlier, a row of three tanks for fish or shellfish was located on the west side of the inlet (HT6), with a building on the landward side of the seabank, possibly a processing house. The building appears on later mapping and therefore survived the demise of the landing site. It was still extant on the 1956 Ordnance Survey, but was demolished subsequently.

There were no signs of WW2 aircraft obstructions located in the north of the parish (HT5: Plate 119); such obstructions would probably have been removed before the end of the war or shortly thereafter.

Discussion

Many of the sites identified in Huttoft were located close to the seabank; those to the east, including a saltern site and clay extraction pits, were buried either by beach replenishment material or by the construction of a 20th-century golf course at Sandilands; there was no trace of post-medieval landing and fishery site HT8. Those sites on the landward side, including ridge-and-furrow and enclosures, had largely been destroyed by agricultural activity, leaving soilmarks.

4.8 Anderby (*Maps 11, 12*)

Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is composed of chalk from the Upper Cretaceous (British Geological Survey, 2001) which in turn is overlain by Quaternary clays (Boutwood 1998, 26). In the Anderby area these clays have been covered by a complex sequence of estuarine and riverine derived alluvium (*ibid*; British Geological Survey 1977; Drury & Lane 2004, 3–6). The soils in the parish are described as surface water gley soils.

The topography of the parish is one of low-lying land, much of it former marshland (mostly below 5m OD) which extends beyond the study area inland gradually rising to the Lincolnshire Wolds. The land use is entirely agricultural.

Historical and archaeological summary

Medieval/Post-medieval

At the north end of the parish, an inlet present on early 19th-century mapping (AN15, formerly HT15) was presumably in existence in the post-medieval period and possibly even earlier. It had been infilled and reclaimed by the 1880s, and the site of the inlet was crossed by a modern seabank. A second landing place may have existed around the original mouth of Anderby Creek (AN6) a little to the south of the modern canalised outfall (Plate 122). The location of the original mouth is still reflected in the layout of ditched fields, banks and ponds either side of the former creek (AN14). The position of the old mouth is marked by a disused sewage works built over the blocked channel.

To the south, inland of the Roman Bank, medieval or post-medieval enclosure AN9 (Plate 123) and ditches AN10 were no longer visible, either as earthworks or on satellite images; both lie in the Middle Marsh, and they may represent early attempts at reclamation and conversion to farmland or pasture. There was also no sign of undated ditches identified as cropmarks on the seaward side of Roman Bank (AN11); again, these may be related to drainage of the reclaimed saltmarsh.

Modern

At the north end of the parish, the inlet described above (AN15) appeared on early 19th-century mapping, but had been infilled by the 1880s and is no longer visible. The course of Anderby Creek was also canalised, possibly in the mid to late 19th century, with the mouth shifted to a location a little further north (Plate 122), although the original location is still visible (AN6, 14). Immediately to the north, and between Roman Bank and its successor, was a 19th-century brickworks (AN16), the clay pit of which remains as a lake surrounded by modern housing, and a coastguard station (AN17), now a holiday cottage.

Inland of the Roman Bank, just north of Anderby Creek at Bank Farm, a series of conjoined enclosures (AN5) appeared on current satellite images as cropmarks which are considerably more complex than the single earthwork bank indicated by previous aerial photographic analysis, and completely different to the surrounding enclosure-period fields. They do not appear on early 19th-century mapping but are, however, present on late 19th- and 20th-century OS editions, and appear to have remained extant into the mid 20th century. Their absence from early 19th-century maps suggests that they are likely to represent an eccentric sub-division of the otherwise rectilinear field system rather than the survival of a small block of medieval/early post-medieval enclosures retained within later external boundaries.

Among the few WW2 monuments in the parish, pillbox AN2 was still extant and in good condition located on the crest of the latest seabank (east of the Roman Bank) near the northern parish boundary. A set of aircraft obstructions (AN3) inland of the Roman Bank to the west had, however, been levelled and no trace was visible.

Discussion

The parish included two possible inlet or landing sites, of these, the site at the original mouth of Anderby Creek (AN6) and surrounding banks and ponds (new record AN14) may repay future investigation. Possible inlet AN15 is an additional monument, transferred from Huttoft (formerly HT15).

A study of 19th- and 20th-century mapping indicates that cropmark complex AN5 is relatively modern, and the previous interpretation (that the features were medieval or post-medieval) should be discounted.

4.9 Chapel St Leonards (Maps 12, 13)

Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is composed of chalk from the Upper Cretaceous (British Geological Survey 2001) which in turn is overlain by Quaternary clays (Boutwood 1998, 26). In this area these clays have been covered by a complex sequence of estuarine and riverine derived alluvium (ibid; British Geological Survey 1977; Drury & Lane 2004, 3–6). The soils in the parish are described as either surface water gley soils or unclassified where there is urban development.

The topography of the parish is one of low-lying land, much of it former marshland (mostly below 5m OD) which extends beyond the study area inland gradually rising to the Lincolnshire Wolds. The land use is split between the settlement of Chapel St Leonards and agricultural activity.

Historical and archaeological summary

Prehistoric/Romano-British

Although a few prehistoric flints and sherds of Iron Age/Romano-British pottery have been found previously, the only structure assigned to this period was a saltern site (CH47) on the foreshore at the southern parish boundary. No sign of this site was revealed: the area has been sealed by recent beach replenishment material.

Medieval/Post-medieval

Immediately to the rear of the Roman Bank is a well-preserved block of ridge-and-furrow, consisting of several conjoined fields and what may be one or two house platforms (CH3: Plate 124). The site of a possible oyster pit (CH8) identified on the foreshore from early mapping has been covered by modern beach replenishment, but may have been lost to erosion.

A small area of ridge-and-furrow (CH12: Plate 128) survives near Roman Bank to the south, and there were traces of another area immediately to the south-west (CH15), although much had been lost to ploughing and construction of a new caravan park. There was no trace of a possible enclosure located near the study area boundary to the west (CH13); this may in any case have been related to ploughed-out WW2 structures formerly located within (CH11).

South of these monuments near Chapel Point was a possible medieval saltern (CH22) located on the foreshore, with a small enclosure south of the Point (CH29), possibly associated with fishing, and a second saltern near the southern parish boundary (CH44). The foreshore has been subject to erosion and beach replenishment, and no traces of any of these features were visible. The site of a large undated pit near the seafront (CH33), visible on mid 20th-century APs, was covered by modern housing. The feature did not appear on 19th- and early 20th-century OS maps, and it may have been a short-lived later quarry or borrow pit. To the south-west, the areas of medieval and post-medieval earthworks (CH37, 38, 39) have been largely covered by modern buildings and the remaining areas landscaped, although ditches and paleochannels have been investigated in the area, suggesting that cut features will survive below ground. An area of ridge-and-furrow straddling the study area boundary (CH42) to the west is largely agricultural fields, and the features are only visible as faint soil- or cropmarks, but one small area appears to remain as low earthworks east of Willoughby High Drain.

Near the southern parish boundary, the earthworks of a possible managed water meadow (CH46) now lie beneath a caravan park.

Modern

Few buildings in Chapel St Leonards were included in the Phase 1 survey. Of these, the early 19th-century Primitive Methodist Chapel on Elizabeth Drive (CH32: Plate 133) survives in good condition; St Leonard's Church lies just outside the study area boundary, and is a late 18th- and 19th-century Gothic Revival structure, replacing a medieval building lost to the sea in 1570 (Plate 134). The coastguard station (CH48) also remains in use.

Chapel St Leonard clearly formed an important WW2 defensive site, with battalion and company HQs based in existing houses and several clusters of monuments, including Chapel Point. In common with most other urban parishes on this coastal section, however, the majority of WW2 monuments have been removed, although traces of several demolished structures survive.

Most of monuments in the immediate coastal area have been demolished, including pillbox CH1 and probably also roadblock CH2 in the north at Chapel Six Marshes. A cluster of features further south has also been removed, including former aircraft obstructions CH4, anti-tank block CH5, rifle section post CH7, and pillbox CH10, a little inland. The local company HQ building, White Horses (CH9) still survives, however (Plate 125).

Further inland to the west near the study area boundary, a cluster of defensive features, including two pillboxes (CH11), trenches and aircraft obstructions within a possibly earlier enclosure (CH13) had all been considered destroyed, but one pillbox still remains near a field boundary in apparent fair condition (Plates 126, 127).

In front of Roman Bank to the east, an isolated pillbox located next to a beach access point (CH14) had been demolished and any remains either removed or buried by beach replenishment.

A little further south, pillbox (CH17) and post-war Orlit post (CH16) were recorded at the same location, and an underground ROC post (CH19) with a nearby grid reference may all have formed part of one complex centred around the WW2 pillbox, since it was common practice to construct the prefabricated Orlit posts on existing pillboxes, with an underground monitoring post nearby. There were concrete remains on the pillbox site (Plate 129), but the site may repay further investigation, as a concrete slab near the given location may cover the shaft to the underground post (Plate 130). A WW2 gun battery (CH20) was sited nearby, although no trace now survives.

A little further south at Chapel Point were the surviving base of a section post or gun emplacement (CH24: Plates 131, 132) and traces of a pillbox (CH25). The location of the WW2 defending battalion HQ at a house in Landseer Avenue, Chapel St Leonards (CH27) could not be located, and it is presumed to have been demolished and replaced by post-war dwellings.

As part of the defences, the important strategic bridge carrying Ancaster Avenue over the substantial channel of Willoughby High Drain was mined (CH30). This has been replaced by a modern structure.

In the south of the town, the site of searchlight battery CH43 is now located in a caravan park, and no traces have survived.

Discussion

The area has been affected by beach replenishment, and this has led to the burial of any monuments located on the foreshore, including Iron Age/Romano-British saltern CH47 and medieval salterns CH22, 44.

Chapel St Leonard was an important strategic location in WW2 and clearly, some further investigation could be undertaken into the military landscape surrounding underground ROC post CH19 and around Chapel Point.

The only new record in this parish is coastguard station CH48, identified from historic mapping and still in use.

4.10 Addlethorpe (Map 13)

Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is composed of chalk from the Upper Cretaceous (British Geological Survey 2001) which in turn is overlain by Quaternary clays (Boutwood 1998, 26). In the Addlethorpe area these clays have been covered by a complex sequence of estuarine and riverine derived alluvium (ibid; British

Geological Survey 1977; Drury & Lane 2004 3–6). The soils in the parish are described as surface water gley soils.

The topography of the parish is one of low-lying land, much of it former marshland (mostly below 5m OD) which extends beyond the study area inland gradually rising to the Lincolnshire Wolds. The land use is entirely agricultural.

Historical and archaeological summary

Medieval/Post-medieval

Little of this parish extends into the study area and the recorded features are principally the earthworks of two substantial blocks of ridge-and-furrow (AD2, 4) and two enclosures (AD3), all adjoining, and still largely in good condition. AD2 is separated from AD3 and AD4 by the extant central section of the 'Dudic Bank' (AD5), a long east–west bank and ditch which formerly extended from the seafront to somewhere near the present A62. The western section of bank has largely been levelled, although a drain still follows the line of the ditch, and a substantial section to the east has been ploughed out since the 1970s; a short stretch may survive as a hedgerow in a caravan park next to the seafront, although this is uncertain. As the bank was respected by the surviving ridge-and-furrow, and the parish boundary followed short sections at the west end, this may have been more than simply a seabank, but some kind of early land division. The name only appears on early 19th-century mapping.

Modern

The only modern feature is the remains of an anti-glider trench (AD1) identified as crossing ridge-and-furrow AD2. The north and south ends of a ditch feature are still clearly visible at a slight angle to the line of extant cultivation ridges.

Discussion

Together, the earthworks of AD2–4 comprise a considerable area of retained pre-enclosure landscape which has survived solely because it has been used for pasture. The effect of modern hedge removal and ploughing can clearly be seen in the surrounding fields, with the visibility of the earthworks rapidly diminishing where they have not been protected.

The Dudic Bank (AD5) is the only additional monument to the parish and is clearly a significant feature which is either contemporary with or earlier than the adjacent ridge-and-furrow and enclosures. It may form an early estate boundary and/or early version of the parish boundary. As sections have been removed relatively recently, further investigation of the bank and its relationship with the surrounding earthworks is recommended while they survive.

4.11 Ingoldmells (*Maps 13, 14*)

Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is composed of chalk from the Upper Cretaceous (British Geological Survey 2001) which in turn is overlain by Quaternary clays (Boutwood 1998, 26). In this area these clays have been covered by a complex sequence of estuarine and riverine derived alluvium (ibid; British Geological Survey

1977; Drury & Lane 2004 3–6). The soils in the parish are described as surface water gley soils.

The topography of the parish is one of low-lying land, much of it former marshland (mostly below 5m OD) which extends beyond the study area inland gradually rising to the Lincolnshire Wolds. The land use is almost entirely residential in the form of caravan parks and holiday accommodation.

Historical and archaeological summary

Prehistoric/Romano-British

Located on or close to the foreshore at the north end of the parish and extending southward to the beach in front of the modern Butlin's Camp were the sites of several Iron Age salterns (IN2, 7, 19, 24, 26, 29, 50, 56, 57, 59). Like most of the later sites located in the intertidal zone, the salterns were identified after being exposed by erosion and would therefore have suffered a degree of damage before the area was protected by beach replenishment. Traces may remain, but are unlikely to be exposed again in the near future as long as the beach level is maintained.

A Romano-British occupation site exposed during sea defence work in the inter-war period (IN12) has left no trace, but the given grid reference places it beyond the current low tide mark. Assuming the location to be inaccurate, the site may survive beneath the beach replenishment. A group of possible Iron Age/early Romano-British hut circles at Ingoldmells Point (IN30) was also no longer visible; its early discovery date (1907) and the fact that the hut 'floors' were raised platforms suggests that the site may have been lost to erosion subsequently, although another site was identified a little further to the south in 1953 (IN33), with a further ditch nearby (IN34). All of these sites are now covered by beach replenishment shingle.

Two Iron Age or Romano-British saltern sites identified c 1km inland (IN18, 21) during ditch work were located in the area of a modern caravan site and were no longer visible, although elements are likely to survive. These two sites were presumably located alongside a tidal creek; there are several small canalised watercourses in the area which may represent later managed elements replacing natural drainage, although there was sign of an inlet on early 19th-century mapping. A ditched rectangular enclosure in the area between the saltern sites (IN20) may have been of similar date, and was also no longer extant. A third inland saltern site was located further south (IN40) near the line of a substantial modern canalised drain which enters the sea to the east at Ingoldmells Point, and replaces a natural watercourse which passed south of Addlethorpe village. This site was also located c 1km inland, indicating a former active tidal creek system.

Between the present seafront and the Roman Bank to the west was a further Iron Age or Romano-British saltern (IN43) and a possibly contemporary occupation site (IN44@ Plate 137), both now covered by a caravan site and associated landscaping and no longer extant.

Medieval/Post-medieval

With a few exceptions, the majority of sites from these periods noted in Phase 1 were located on the seaward side of the probable medieval seabank known as 'Roman Bank' (IN39), here as elsewhere on the Lincolnshire coast. In Ingoldmells, this barely survives as a visible earthwork, but its course is still followed by a coastal road (A52).

A large number of cut features identified on the foreshore at the north end of the parish as potential post-medieval or later oyster beds (IN1) were not visible. As already noted, the area has been subject to past erosion countered by a recent and ongoing beach replenishment scheme and it is unlikely that any features will become visible again, at least until the replenished shingle is eroded.

Extending to the south, two medieval saltern sites, IN3 (superimposed on the Iron Age site IN2) and IN4, and possible post-medieval clay pits (IN6, 14, 67) were also not visible for the same reasons. Immediately inland on IN6, the site of a bank and ditch (IN5) is now a caravan park. A small area of ridge-and-furrow is still extant on the north-west fringes of Ingoldmells (IN9), although most has been ploughed out.

A further possible saltern site located in the intertidal zone further south (IN22) was probably wrongly identified, but in any case, any traces have been buried by beach replenishment. The site of an undated linear earthwork immediately inland (IN23) had been covered by a caravan park, while another on the foreshore (IN28) was also no longer extant. Further to the west was an area of cropmark and earthwork enclosures (IN27) within a later post-medieval or modern field; two ditches which were examined appeared to be modern, presumably belonging to a later set of features in the same location (IN25). None of these were obvious at ground level, although they are clearly visible from the air.

Immediately south of Ingoldmells Point was a further saltern site, no longer visible (IN37) although originally exposed on the foreshore; this may be the same as an undated saltern located nearby (IN38), but also not visible at the given location. Further south, undated enclosures on the foreshore (IN45, 53) and a linear earthwork (IN54) could have been of medieval or post-medieval date, possibly related to fishing, although no trace could be found in 2009; a fish weir present on a map of 1803 (IN69) was not visible, and any remains are probably now located below the present low tide mark.

Inland of the Roman Bank to the west, two areas of ridge-and-furrow (IN48, 61) and enclosures relating to IN48 (IN51) and further south near the parish boundary (IN64) had been covered by modern holiday camp developments.

Modern

There are few modern features of interest; most of the study area in Ingoldmells has been covered by modern caravan sites and holiday camps, with only limited areas of unaltered open space remaining.

An area of cropmarks c 1km inland surrounded by modern housing and caravan sites appears to be a mixture of modern (IN25) and medieval/post-medieval date (IN27), reflecting drainage and ploughed-out field boundaries. These are only visible from aerial or satellite images.

The base of a demolished pillbox remains in situ immediately south of Ingoldmells Point (IN35: Plate 136); two more near Roman Bank to the rear of Butlin's Holiday Camp (IN52) and on the foreshore in front (IN62) have been demolished. The sites of an AA battery (IN65) and coastal battery (IN66) at the south end of the camp had also been built over.

Butlin's Camp itself (IN58) remains an important feature of the local economy, although only a single preserved chalet (IN60) remains of the 1935 camp.

Discussion

The environment of the study area has been transformed in the 20th and early 21st century with the largely post-war expansion of the holiday industry, leading to the creation of caravan parks and other facilities on an industrial scale. Butlin's camp was, and continues to be, an important driver in the development of the local tourist economy.

Damage to the seafront as a result of erosion and the catastrophic 1953 floods also led to the creation of stronger sea defences and more recently to the deposition of dredged sand as part of the extensive 'Lincshore' scheme of beach replenishment between Mablethorpe and Skegness.

The archaeological heritage of the parish is dominated by saltern sites of both Iron Age/Romano-British and medieval/post-medieval date, often revealed initially by erosion of the foreshore, although possible early occupation sites (IN33, 34, 44) were also recorded in the intertidal zone. There were other features in this area, including undated enclosures, post-medieval clay extraction pits and oyster pits. These have been covered by replenishment materials or sea defence works and are no longer visible, although their future survival depends on whether further cycles of the Lincshore scheme are commissioned. If not, they will eventually be exposed to more rapid erosion than in the past as the shoreline realigns itself. Three early saltern sites located 1km inland (IN18, 21, 43) apparently indicate the former existence of tidal creeks in at least two locations, and this would clearly be an area worth further investigation to map the contemporary coastline.

4.12 Skegness (Maps 14–16)

Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is composed of chalk from the Upper Cretaceous (British Geological Survey 2001). In turn this is overlain by a drift geology of Skipsea Till (Catt 1990, 21–3) from the Tertiary period which in turn has been covered by a complex sequence of estuarine and riverine derived alluviums (Boutwood 1998, 26; British Geological Survey 1977; Drury & Lane 2004, 3–6). At the southern end of the parish the underlying geology changes subtly to a series of Lower Cretaceous beds (British Geological Survey 2001). Most of the soils in the study area of the parish are unclassified due to the urban nature of the area.

The topography of the parish is one of low-lying land, much of it former marshland (mostly below 5m OD) which extends beyond the study area inland gradually rising to the Lincolnshire Wolds. The land use is almost entirely residential or recreational.

Historical and archaeological summary

Prehistoric/Romano-British

No structures assignable to the earlier periods were recorded in Phase 1, although the number of prehistoric and Romano-British artefacts recovered in the past, particularly from the beach, suggests that there are early occupation sites in the area, as in neighbouring Ingoldmells. Three possible saltern sites have been located in the past through artefacts alone, the first from the recovery of probable briquetage beneath a holiday park at SG1, 1km inland near the Ingoldmells boundary, and the second a little to the east on a moated site (SG2), suggesting a substantial former tidal creek. The third was located in an area of reclaimed foreshore near Lagoon

Walk (SG46). These suggest an industry which was potentially as widespread as in Ingoldmells, but no traces were identified in 2009.

Medieval/Post-medieval

No access was available to a possible moated site near Bleak House Farm (SG2) and there is no clear sign of any related features on satellite images. The general area of a possible medieval grange (SG3) and ridge-and-furrow (SG4, 5) have been redeveloped, with several lakes and areas of caravans forming a large holiday park. There was, however, a better preserved area of earthworks, including a moat and ridge-and-furrow (SG7: Plate 138) to the south, extending well outside the 1km study area. The area is still mainly used for grazing. Another area of ridge-and-furrow and enclosures further south (SG13) also appears to be intact. An area of ridge-and-furrow on the northern fringes of Skegness (SG17) has been replaced by a caravan park, with an area of new housing to the north, while an area south of the town (SG50) has also been covered by housing.

On the foreshore to the east, there was also no sign of two areas of possible oyster pits (SG6, 10) or possible clay pits further south in front of the town (SG26: Plate 147).

Near the western edge of the study area, the 18th-century Ivy Farm (SG19: Plate 142) remained in good condition.

Modern

A number of buildings noted in the Phase 1 report remain in good condition, including the former Derbyshire Miners' Convalescent Home (SG9: Plate 139), the Ship Hotel (SG20: Plate 143), Skegness Town Hall (SG24: Plate 144), St Matthew's Church (SG27), Methodist Chapel (SG31: Plate 150), Baptist Chapel (SG38: Plate 154) and the railway station (SG36: Plate 153), and Clock Tower of 1898 (SG41: Plate 155). Parts of the late 18th-century Old Hotel (SG49) may still survive in the present Vine Hotel. The 1897 Hildreds Hotel (SG35) appears to have been demolished to make way for the Hildred's Shopping Centre; its 18th-century predecessor, apparently located on or near the same site, was probably originally the New Hotel, shown on early 19th-century mapping. A 19th-century Primitive Methodist Chapel gazetted on the east side of Roman Bank (SG11) had been demolished in the later 20th century together with the adjacent Ivy Farm, to make way for the Allenby Way housing development. The former lifeboat station (SG47) had also been demolished. The town includes a number of attraction reflecting its role as a holiday destination, including the truncated pier (SG30: Plate 149) which is in apparent good condition, and a number of amusement parks (Plates 151, 152).

WW2 monuments in the study area in Skegness appear to have been demolished, including pillboxes SG8, 12 and 16, the latter located on the edge of the North Shore golf course (SG15: Plate 140). It is unclear whether pillbox SG18 survives; the grid reference places it in a private garden, although aerial photography reveals a small square structure at the eastern end of the property on the edge of the seabank. Only the base and part of a rusticated wall remain of a further pillbox to the south (SG25: Plates 145, 146). A final pillbox on the sand dunes near the southern parish boundary (SG54) has been demolished.

Discussion

A probable early saltern site located on reclaimed foreshore (SG46) suggests that there are others in the intertidal zone; two others may be located up to 1km inland near the northern site boundary at SG1 and SG2, suggesting a tidal creek.

In general, redevelopment of large areas of Skegness in the 19th and 20th centuries has meant that few earlier monuments have survived in the study area, with the losses of cropmark sites to domestic and leisure developments, except on the western fringes, extending beyond the study area boundary. Archaeological monitoring of redevelopment does at least, however, reveal evidence for early sites, which is important in this area as the Mablethorpe–Skegness beach replenishment scheme has meant that post-medieval beach-based monuments such as oyster pits and clay extraction pits have been buried, together with any evidence for prehistoric or Romano-British activity in the intertidal zone.

As elsewhere, evidence for the importance of Skegness as a defended locality in WW2 has been lost, with few exceptions.

4.13 Croft (*Maps 16, 17*)

Geology and topography

The underlying solid geology of the area is composed of various beds of Lower Cretaceous beds (British Geological Survey 2001), overlain by a drift geology of Skipsea Till (Catt 1990, 21–3) from the Tertiary period which in turn has been covered by estuarine and riverine derived alluviums (British Geological Survey 1977). The soils in the parish are described as surface water gley soils.

The topography of the parish is one of low-lying land, much of it former marshland (mostly below 5m OD) which extends beyond the study area inland gradually rising to the Lincolnshire Wolds. The land use is entirely agricultural.

Historical and archaeological summary

Modern

Befitting its location at the entrance to the Wash, the parish would have formed a crucial part of the area's defences in WW2 and most of the monuments in the parish were related to this period, with the exception of Seacroft Golf Course (CR2). Of the WW2 defences, pillbox CR8 at Gibraltar Point remains in good condition (Plate 158), although the whereabouts of the nearby pillbox CR7 remains uncertain; CR7 and CR8 do appear from the 1990s survey records to be two distinct features rather than a duplicate entry, and a mound shown on satellite photographs may mark the position of CR7, which was not visible from the ground in 2009.

A group of three possible pillboxes (CR3), building (CR1), and two searchlight batteries (CR4, CR5: Plate 157) associated with 6-inch coastal battery CR6 have all apparently been cleared, together with the battery itself.

Discussion

The position of Croft made it an important defensive location, but most of the WW2 monuments reflecting this have unfortunately been demolished, including the coastal

battery which would have helped to defend the approaches to The Wash. The location or identification of pillbox CR7 remains to be resolved.

5 DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Discussion

Thirty-five new monuments were added as a result of the Phase 2 survey, although a large number of existing entries have been amended; the correction of grid references has also led to several monuments being moved into adjacent parishes. The Phase 1 survey has already discussed the collated data by period in some detail and this report does not attempt to repeat that; the discussion below constitutes a relatively brief updated summary of the parish information by period.

The Gazetteer provides details of the present condition of monuments, in many cases adding additional details to the Phase 1 descriptions; it also presents updated risk/threat assessments. The individual significance of monuments is discussed in the parish summaries in Section 4 and the period discussions in this section where these are considered to add information to the conclusions of Phase 1.

The table below summarises the number of monuments in each risk category by parish and also provides total numbers of monuments by immediacy of risk and their individual significance; the last two categories do not include the largest individual group 'N'. This risk category consists chiefly either of 'find spots', where artefacts have been located and removed, or of destroyed/demolished monuments. Where the gazetteer has split a category (e.g. 'C1/C2' or 'N/C1'), the site is classified in the table with the more severe of the two. The first column also includes the number of new monuments recorded in each parish in brackets.

Threat											
Parish	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3	N	Total
North Somercotes (14)	0	0	0	4	1	5	4	3	31	26	74
Skidbrooke with Saltfleet (2)	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	5	8	6	29
Saltfleetby (1)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	14	18	35
Theddlethorpe All Saints (10)	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	13	7	27
Theddlethorpe St Helens (2)	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	7	7	17
Mablethorpe with Sutton-on-Sea (1)	0	0	0	1	1	7	4	12	17	59	101
Huttoft (0)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	3	8	16
Anderby (3)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	7	17
Chapel St Leonards (1)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	14	31	48
Addlethorpe (1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Ingoldmells (0)	0	0	0	11	0	13	8	4	11	22	69
Skegness (0)	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	4	13	32	56
Croft (0)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	8
Totals	0	0	1	14	2	44	24	40	148	227	502
Risk											
Short-term risk											40
Medium-term risk											42
Long-term/no risk											193
Significance											
National											1
Regional											62
Local											212

Period overview

Prehistoric/Romano-British

Very little additional information regarding the earliest periods was recorded, principally because many of the associated Phase 1 entries were either cropmark sites or find spots, with a significant number of monuments also located on the foreshore in the southern part of the area (largely in Mablethorpe and Ingoldmells). The latter were principally salterns exposed by erosion, but included settlement sites, presumably associated with saltmaking in many cases, and peat or forest beds. Beach replenishment between Mablethorpe and Skegness has covered all of the sites in the intertidal zone between these settlements, together with monuments of later periods. It is doubtful if these sites will be exposed again unless the cycle of beach maintenance is abandoned as a sea defence strategy.

Inland, several saltern sites have been encountered during ditch construction and maintenance (e.g. IN18, 22, 33, SG1, 2), or as a result of development work. Further discoveries, or a programme of active investigation, may enable reconstruction of the coastline during the Iron Age and Roman periods; it is clear from the saltern locations that it would have included a series of tidal inlets stretching at least 1km inland in some instances; a similar coastline has been revealed in North Lincolnshire in the Immingham area (Buglass & Bradley 2006).

One possible late Iron Age or Romano-British enclosure assigned to Mablethorpe (MS2) was relocated to Theddlethorpe St Helen as TH16.

Medieval/Post-medieval

The presence of an Anglo-Saxon wattle feature on the foreshore at Sutton on Sea (MS64) is very significant, although it is likely to represent either a land-based structure or the use of a former channel rather than a foreshore feature, as this part of the area has suffered erosion since the medieval period. The site of MS64 is now in an area which is part of the beach replenishment scheme and this, and structure like it, are unlikely to be revealed again in the foreseeable future.

The medieval period as a whole was dominated by the remains of ridge-and-furrow and other earthwork/cropmark features, including enclosures, possible farmsteads, deserted villages and moated sites. The majority of these have been ploughed out, although often stand out clearly as soilmarks, but there are notable pockets of survival, including SH3, SA34, TS8, 12, 16, TH15, MS40, 42, 44, 45, 52, 53, 59, 80, 82, 85, 93, CH3, 42, AD 2–4, SG7, 13; these are mostly the remains of ridge-and-furrow, but other categories are also represented.

The line of the late medieval or early post-medieval seabank (variously the 'Roman', 'Crook' or 'Crooked' Bank) remains in many places behind later reclamation, although some areas have been removed and replaced by a road. In Addlethorpe, a new entry, the 'Dudic' Bank (AD5) is an interesting feature, running westwards inland from the main seabank and possibly an early boundary. At present, nothing is known of this feature, which is named on the 1824 Ordnance Survey of the area, but not subsequently. Still partly extant between surviving blocks of ridge-and-furrow and enclosures (AD2–4), the feature may repay field investigation, or at least, further research.

On the foreshore, a large number of clay pits have been covered by beach replenishment; these were particularly common in Mablethorpe, but examples occurred in Ingoldmells, Huttoft and Skegness. Perhaps for repairing the seabanks, or possibly for brick- or tilemaking, these features are unlikely to be revealed again in the near future. A number of saltern sites (SH19, CH22, 44, IN3, 4, 37), small enclosures, oyster beds or shellfish/fish storage pits have similarly all been covered, although in some instances they were formerly visible as dark outlines, while others were present on Ordnance Survey maps (e.g. HT3, 6). Only a small number of potential or actual landing places have been identified which would have been suitable for deeper-draughted or round-hulled boats between the medieval and early modern periods, such as Mar Haven (NS60), Saltfleet Haven (SH21, SA3), Old Gout (TH13), Huttoft (HT8), and Anderby (AN6, 15); another may have been present in Anderby near the point where the 'Dudic Bank' (AD5) met Roman Bank, while the name of the lost DMV at Marehaven in Saltfleetby (SA14) is suggestive of an inlet which did not survive to be mapped, and may either have been lost to later medieval/early post-medieval erosion or be silted up behind the Roman Bank. These inlets may all originally have been located at the mouths of former tidal creeks which in some cases were cut off by the construction of seabanks, and a few were canalised at different exit points. The small inlets at Huttoft (HT8) and Anderby (AN15) may be examples of truncated creeks, while a second at Anderby (AN15) silted up or was infilled when the final section of Anderby Creek was canalised and moved northwards in the late 19th century. The area around Saltfleet Haven also appears to have been heavily modified. Many appear to have been in the last stages of use at the time the 1824 Ordnance Survey was undertaken and did not appear on later 19th-century editions. The majority are presumed to have silted up and been infilled as land behind and between the various seabanks was reclaimed for agriculture or grazing.

A larger number of landing sites were reached by access points crossing the Roman Bank ('pullover') and extended with the sea defences. These were presumably used almost exclusively by small beach-landing fishing boats, as fish or shellfish pits were sometimes located nearby (e.g. HT3) although trading vessels may have transferred cargoes to smaller boats for distribution (legally or otherwise). There is no beach-based fishing industry today, although where roads survive, small pleasure craft still use these access points.

Modern

Reference to the beach-launched fishing industry and possible haven sites has already been made above; in summary, it is likely that local small-scale fishing and trading declined during the course of the 19th century, with some at least transferred to urban centres with better facilities, such as Grimsby and Skegness. All of the small creeks and havens which had operated during earlier periods appear to have been abandoned by the end of the 19th century as the area in front of the existing seabank (Roman Bank, Crooked Bank) was reclaimed and turned over to agriculture in many areas. The landing sites located at the ends of the network of local lanes ('pullover') may have remained in use for longer and were reputedly much used for smuggling until almost the middle of the 19th century.

The majority of the smaller drains which formerly fed the creeks were connected to larger watercourses which were collected into a much smaller number of canalised drains passing through the bank and controlled by sluices, such as Anderby Creek and Saltfleet Haven. This permanently altered the existing landscape to create a more modern 'tamed' appearance; the character of the former marsh can, however, still be seen in areas north of Mablethorpe and south of Skegness where saltmarsh

dissected by tidal creeks and dune systems have continued to form and evolve in front of the latest sea defences.

The nature of the foreshore in some areas made access to monuments extremely difficult, particularly in the north of the area, where a number of sites have been identified through aerial photography rather than ground surveys. These included three shipwreck sites and a timber structure in North Somercotes (NS1–3, 19 and NS7). Parts of a wooden steamship were still visible next to Saltfleet Haven (SH24).

Other than fishing, there is little evidence for 19th-century industry in the area, with the main exception of two brickworks (e.g. TH4, AN16).

The coast was strategically important in WW2, and with the lack of cliffs was vulnerable to enemy landings. This is reflected in the number of defended locations, which often concentrated several pillboxes, gun emplacements and batteries to create local strongpoints. Strung between these were further pillboxes which would have been protected by barbed wire, minefields, trenches and other defensive structures. As no aerial photographic analysis was undertaken for this area as part of the project, the full extent of these features (compared with East and North Yorkshire) is unknown.

In 2009, preservation of WW2 sites was variable, with many hard structures such as pillboxes and gun batteries demolished. This was to be expected in the urban areas of Mablethorpe, Skegness and Ingoldmells, but a number of more rural parishes have also suffered losses due to a mixture of deliberate post-war clearance and collapse due to structural decay. The areas in and around RAF Donna Nook and centred at the site of the Rimac Defended Locality in Saltfleetby are good examples of this. There are earthwork remains dating to the period, notably an AA battery in Saltfleet (SA10); this may be an 'Operation Diver' anti-V1 battery, although if so, it is likely to have been converted from an existing heavy AA site as the three best preserved gunpit locations are laid out in a triangular formation, whereas 'Diver' sites were normally linear. The site may repay further investigation to determine the extent of related structures and identify the number and disposition of gun positions. No sites in the study area have been lost to erosion, as the coastline has not altered significantly since 1945. A few structures are sinking into soft reclaimed ground (e.g. pillbox NS59).

There are interesting remains of the beach bombing and gunnery range at RAF Theddlethorpe (TS27) which should be considered for protection. Construction work started on this site in the interwar period, with activity continuing into the Cold War period; the barracks area and turret firing range are of particular interest, but there are what have been interpreted as the remains of target structures on the beach, including portions of wrecked boats and a post-war Comet tank.

Post-war defensive installations are represented, including structures relating to the continuation of use of the bombing ranges at RAF Donna Nook and RAF Theddlethorpe. An ROC post in Mablethorpe (MS4) remains in place, but in poor condition, while an example in Skidbrooke (SH7) could not be located. The sealed shaft of a third underground post in Chapel St Leonard (CH19) was potentially located but with no sign of an Orlit post nearby (CH16).

A notable feature of the area is the number of sites relating to the holiday and tourist industry, including many caravan parks, beach huts and holiday centres, of which Butlins Camp (IN58) arguably has the best pedigree. Little remains of the original 1935 camp apart from a preserved chalet (IN60). Although the seaside industry mainly began to expand from the middle of the 19th century, there are a few traces of

earlier phases of tourism, particularly in Skegness, where the Vine Hotel preserves the legacy of the late 18th-century Old Hotel (SG49) although the building itself and its near contemporary New Hotel (later Hildreds Hotel: SG35) have been demolished.

5.2 Recommendations

It has become clear during the course of the project that various themes present themselves. These are:

Military

WW2 military zones (particularly beach defences) which run through large areas and several parishes (Sea View and Rimac Defended Localities) but also the target ranges at RAF Theddlethorpe and the zone around RAF Donna Nook.

Industrial

The extensive salt industry is represented by Iron Age/Romano-British salterns and a smaller number of medieval or early post-medieval sites. Known sites are mainly concentrated in the intertidal zone in the south of the area, but others are likely to be present in the north where historic accretion of sediments has advanced the shoreline leaving former coastal salterns behind the present sea defences. Inland salterns, located on former tidal creeks, are likely to survive throughout the area.

Fishing/trading

Probably related to fishing activities but in some instance equally likely to have had a role in coastal trade are the several known or identified small landing points or harbours. These include known havens, small inlets and sites located at 'pulovers'. Significant areas where remains are still extant include the area around Saltfleet Haven.

Pleasure

This includes the principal settlements between Mablethorpe and Skegness as well as holiday camps such as Butlins Camp at Ingoldmells, and includes Skegness Pier, amusements, chalets and other leisure facilities.

Although the nature of development within the study area means that archaeological work undertaken through the normal planning process will necessarily be piecemeal, the local HER provides a continually-updated area-wide record based on the results of archaeological interventions as they are completed and as additional information is added from historical research, information received from members of the public, new artefacts records from the Portable Antiquities Scheme and other sources. This potentially allows the identification of key sites as part of the impact assessment process by providing a predictive tool using MapInfo GIS-based system.

In addition to the additional information gained through these channels, however, the rate of erosion and coastal change means that initial investigative or emergency recording work may be required outside the planning process. This work may include:

Level 2 Investigations

- Topographic survey of earthworks;
- Basic survey of shipwreck remains;
- Trial trenching or test pit excavation, for example of sea banks and salterns;
- Documentary research.

Level 2 Investigations can only be undertaken when significant funding becomes available, whether through the Historic Environment Commissions programme or from other sources. Properly targeted, they could, however, be used to answer specific research questions.

Once these had been completed and the results considered in relation to any threats posed then a full investigation could be considered.

Level 3 Investigations

- Full or partial excavation of selected sites considered to be at risk;
- Publication of results of excavation and documentary research.

The following sections provide suggestions for targeted fieldwork; this is not exhaustive at this stage, and more detail will be provided in an updated project design, which will follow on from this assessment.

Summary of general issues

The North Sea coast of Lincolnshire includes a number of relatively stable areas, particularly in the area north of Mablethorpe and south of Skegness where accretion can take place in favourable conditions. In most places there is a buffer of reclaimed land in front of the presumed late medieval/early post-medieval sea defences with later seabanks and extensive areas of saltmarsh, stabilised dunes and intertidal mudflats, all of which absorb wave action. Rising sea level is likely to put pressure on these areas, however, and managed realignment will almost certainly be seen as a suitable solution where defences seem likely to be breached or regularly overtopped.

Between Mablethorpe and Skegness, the area is largely protected by hard defences of various types, but this has led to steepening of the intertidal profile, with a resulting loss of beach and erosion of archaeological deposits and features. Beach replenishment has mitigated this, but must be maintained to be effective. It may be the case, however, that erosion continues at and below low water, and that this boundary will move westwards even with replenishment, so that the process becomes unsustainable.

Level 2 Investigations

North and South Somercotes Parish

- Lidar survey of surviving sea banks (NS34–36);
- Lidar survey of the area of the potential medieval haven (NS60);
- More detailed survey of military building complexes in the area of RAF Donna Nook and further south along the parish coastal frontage.

Saltfleet with Skidbrooke Parish

- Possible sampling of the various stake structures (SH23, 28, 29) in an attempt to determine age and function;
- Lidar survey of the medieval settlement at Saltfleet Haven (SH15).

Saltfleetby Parish

- Further investigate Sea View and Rimac Defended Localities, including AA battery SA10;
- Lidar survey of the medieval settlement SA34;

- Possible sampling and investigation of the stake structures (SA4, 5) in an attempt to determine age and function;

Theddlethorpe All Saints Parish

- Lidar survey of medieval settlement features TS8, 12, 16;
- Further recording and investigation of RAF Theddlethorpe (TS27) and the related turret firing range (TS9).

Theddlethorpe St Helen's Parish

- Lidar survey of medieval settlement remains around Theddlethorpe St Helen's (TH15);

Mablethorpe with Sutton Parish

- Monitoring of the foreshore, particularly at extreme low tides;
- Lidar survey of medieval settlements/possible settlements MS40, 53, 93;

Huttoft Parish

- No further work recommended.

Anderby Parish

- Lidar survey of earthworks around the original mouth of Anderby Creek (AN6).

Chapel St Leonards Parish

- Monitoring of the foreshore particularly at extreme low tides ;
- Lidar survey of possible medieval settlement CH3;
- Possible further investigation around Orlit post CH16 and related structures CH17, 19, to determine identification of features.

Addlethorpe Parish

- Lidar survey of enclosures and earthworks AD2, 3, 4 and Dudic Bank (AD5);

Ingoldmells Parish

- Monitoring of the foreshore, particularly at extreme low tides;

Skegness Parish

- Monitoring of the foreshore, particularly at extreme low tides;
- Lidar survey of medieval moated site SG27;
- Possible investigation of presumed Iron Age/Romano-British saltern site at Lagoon Walk (SG46).

Croft Parish

- Possible further investigation to determine survival of WW2 structures at CR3, 7.

Level 3 Investigations

- Excavation or trial trenching where Level 1 and 2 investigations have identified significant sites at risk;
- Publication of results of fieldwork and documentary research;
- Regular monitoring of the foreshore in the area north of Mablethorpe and south of Skegness for exposures of buried features (e.g. military sites and artefacts, shipwrecks, fishing-related structures, salterns, occupation sites and former land surfaces);

- Monitoring of the area between Mablethorpe and Skegness for the exposure of known and new sites, particularly in areas where beach replenishment has not been maintained and at periods of extreme low tide;
- Research project to determine the line of the Iron Age/Romano-British coastline, particularly in the Skegness/Ingoldmells area where inland saltern sites suggest extensive creek systems.

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| c.1793 | Plan of Sandhills at Skegness by T Campbell. Archive reference 1-MM/16/3/4 |
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- 2001 Geological Survey 1:625,000 Map South Sheet Solid Geology. British Geological Survey



Plate 1 View south along sea bank towards Donna Nook, North Somercotes



Plate 2 Concrete floor of military building (NS61), North Somercotes



Plate 3 Infilled AA gun pit in roof of WW2 pillbox NS12, North Somercotes



Plate 4 WW2 brick blockhouse NS17, North Somercotes



Plate 5 Entrance tunnel to WW2 observation post NS15, North Somercotes



Plate 6 Side chamber, WW2 observation post NS15, North Somercotes



Plate 7 Access to upper room, observation post NS15, North Somercotes



Plate 8 Base for upper floor of WW2 observation post NS15, North Somercotes



Plate 9 Collapsed WW2 pillbox or observation post NS62, North Somercotes



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Plate 11 General view north, overlooking pillbox NS24, North Somercotes



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Plate 13 North Somercotes Drain, looking south-west



Plate 14 General view of seabank and saltmarsh, North Somercotes



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Plate 16 WW2 buildings, RAF Donna Nook (NS46/51), North Somercotes



Plate 17 Nissen huts west side of RAF Donna Nook (NS51), North Somercotes



Plate 18 Cement block military building NS63, North Somercotes



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Plate 22 Building NS69 and segmented platform NS70, North Somercotes



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Plate 24 AA pillbox NS72, North Somercotes



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Plate 29 Pillbox NS66, North Somercotes



Plate 30 Military bridge NS67, North Somercotes



Plate 31 Displaced WW2 anti-tank cubes NS56, North Somercotes



Plate 32 Pillbox NS59, North Somercotes



Plate 33 Pillbox pair SH1, Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 34 Rusticated square pillbox, SH1 pair, Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 35 Interior of rusticated pillbox, SH1 pair, Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 36 AA pillbox, SH1 pair, Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 37 Anti-tank cubes SH2, Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 38 Gun emplacement SH4, Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 39 Roof mountings, gun emplacement SH4, Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 40 Single anti-tank cube SH6, Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 41 Pillbox SH8, looking south-west, Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 42 View over saltmarsh from pillbox SH8, Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 43 Seabank House (SH10), Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 44 Saltfleet pump (SH14), Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 45 Mason's details, Saltfleet pump (SH14), Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 46 Methodist Chapel (SH16), Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 47 New Inn (SH17), Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 48 Manor House (SH18), Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 49 Saltfleet Mill (SH20), Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 50 Looking east along Saltfleet Haven (SH21), Skidbrooke with Saltfleet Haven



Plate 51 Exposed causeway SH22, Saltfleet Haven



Plate 52 Exposed causeway SH22, Saltfleet Haven



Plate 53 Timber stakes SH23, Saltfleet Haven



Plate 54 Timber stakes SH28, Saltfleet Haven



Plate 55 Timber stakes SH29, Saltfleet Haven



Plate 56 Timber stakes SH29, Saltfleet Haven



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Plate 63 Pillbox SA11 with concrete camouflaging, Saltfleetby



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Plate 71 1940s Comet tank (TS18), Theddlethorpe All Saints



Plate 72 Remains of anti-landing obstructions (TS6), Theddlethorpe All Saints



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Plate 74 Timber pile TS21, Theddlethorpe All Saints



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Plate 152 Replica medieval fortifications and 'Astroglide' slide, Skegness



Plate 153 Skegness Station (SG36)



Plate 154 Baptist Chapel (SG38), Skegness



Plate 155 Skegness Clock Tower (SG41)



Plate 156 General view along Skegness seafront



Plate 157 Area of possible searchlight battery CR5, Croft



Plate 158 WW2 pillbox CR8, Croft

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