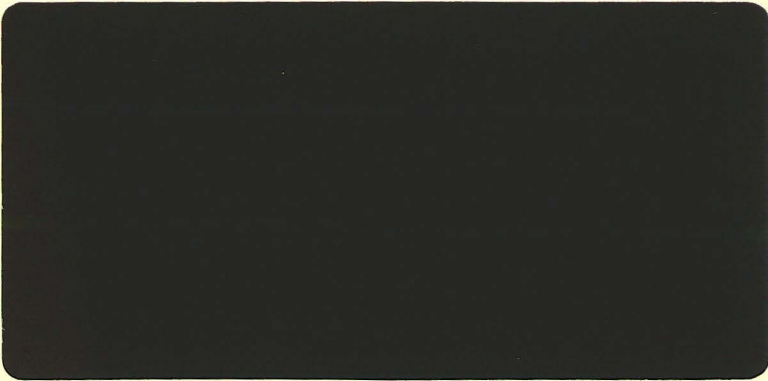


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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND  
ADJACENT TO,  
THE MARKET PLACE,  
TATTERSHALL,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(TMP 99)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES



Lancashire County Council  
Arundel City Centre

25 FEB 00  
ack 25/2/00

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OF DEVELOPMENT ON LAND  
ADJACENT TO,  
THE MARKET PLACE,  
TATTERSHALL,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(TMP 99)**

Work Undertaken For  
East Lindsey District Council

Report Compiled by  
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and  
Rachael Hall (BA (Hons))

February 2000

National Grid Reference: TF 2125 5797  
City and County Museum Accession No: 211.99

A.P.S. Report No: 22/00



## CONTENTS

### List of Figures

### List of Plates

1.	Summary .....	1
2.	Introduction .....	1
2.1	Definition of a Watching Brief .....	1
2.2	Planning Background .....	1
2.3	Topography and Geology .....	1
2.4	Archaeological Setting .....	1
3.	Aims .....	2
4.	Methods .....	2
5.	Results .....	3
6.	Discussion .....	3
7.	Conclusions .....	3
8.	Acknowledgements .....	3
9.	Personnel .....	4
10.	Bibliography .....	4
11.	Abbreviations .....	4

### Appendices

1	Context Descriptions
2	The Finds <i>by Paul Cope-Faulkner, Phil Mills and Gary Taylor</i>
3	Glossary
4	The Archive

### List of Figures

Figure 1 General Location Plan

Figure 2 Site Location Plan

Figure 3 The development area, showing service trenches and locations of drawn sections

Figure 4 Sections 1 and 2

### List of Plates

Plate 1 General view across the development area

Plate 2 Section 1 showing the general sequence of deposits

## 1. SUMMARY

*An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Project Services on land adjacent to the Market Place, Tattershall, Lincolnshire.*

*Prehistoric stone and flint tools, largely dating to the Neolithic (4,200-2,400 BC) have been found in the vicinity. During the medieval (AD 1066-1500) period, Tattershall was a small market town, complete with a castle built in AD 1231. The present parish church replaced an earlier church after the foundation of a college, adjacent to the castle in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.*

*The investigations revealed that the development area had been used for modern dumping and that no earlier archaeological features were apparent. Finds retrieved from the watching brief include pottery of 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> century date as well as 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery, tile and bricks.*

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Definition of a Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as 'a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons within a specified area or site on land or underwater' where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed.' (IFA, 1997).

### 2.2 Planning Background

Between the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September 1999 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the extension of a car park adjacent to the Market Place, Tattershall, East Lindsey

District. The work was commissioned by East Lindsey District Council and the work was carried out by Archaeological Project Services in accordance with guidelines set out by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council (LCCAS 1997).

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Tattershall is situated 27km southeast of Lincoln and 18km northwest of Boston (Fig 1). The town lies on the west bank of the River Bain in the administrative district of East Lindsey, Lincolnshire

The development area lies 100m northwest of the centre of the village, as defined by the Market Place (Fig. 2). The development encompasses some 0.16 hectares and is situated at a height of c. 6m OD at National Grid Reference TF 2125 5797. The land slopes down to the south, towards the River Bain.

Local soils are of the Blackwood Association, typically coarse loamy soils (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 127). The soils are developed on a drift geology of sand and gravel of the Upper River Terrace deposits, which in turn seal a solid geology of Jurassic Amphill Clays (BGS 1995).

### 2.3 Archaeological Setting

Tattershall is located in an area of known archaeological activity dating from the Neolithic period (4200-2200BC) onwards. This early prehistoric activity takes the form of a number of artefacts including stone and flint axes recovered from the area to the southwest of the site.

Tattershall is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086 AD. Referred to as *Tateshale*, the name is derived from the Old English personal name *Tāthere*'s and

*Hālh*, meaning valley or flat alluvial land next to a river (Ekwall 1974, 461). The Domesday Survey records very little about Tattershall apart from the fact it was owned by Eudo (Foster and Longley 1976). It is possible that land at Tattershall was listed with either Tattershall Thorpe or Coningsby. In the subsequent Lindsey Survey of *c.* 1115, the land is owned by Hugh, the son of Eudo (*ibid.*).

Extant remains of the medieval period include Tattershall Castle, 450m to the southwest. The first castle was built by Robert de Tateshall in 1231 AD and comprised a number of towers strengthening a curtain wall of which some remnants are visible today (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 745). The brick built keep, the two moats and various other buildings associated with the castle were constructed between 1434 and 1435 by Ralph Cromwell, Treasurer of England. The Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (County No.2).

A Charter was granted to Ralph Cromwell in 1439 to establish a college in Tattershall. All that survives of this is the Collegiate Church of Holy Trinity, that had replaced the Norman Church of SS. Peter and Paul (Parsons 1989, 2). The building known as 'Old College', south of the Market Place, was also part of the college but its location away from the main centre suggests that its role was as a grammar school. The college was dissolved in 1545, although the grammar school continued in use for some time.

Standing in the Market Place is the Butter Cross, a 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century market cross and now a scheduled ancient monument (DoE 1987, 30).

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the watching brief was to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development.

### 4. METHODS

The site was stripped by machine to form a level ground surface for the new car park extension. In addition, two narrow trenches for new services were excavated by machine to depths required by the development. Following excavation, portions of the trench sides were cleaned and rendered vertical. The depth and thickness of each deposit was measured from the ground surface. Each archaeological deposit or feature revealed was allocated a unique reference number (Context Number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and interpretations appears as Appendix 1. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and an annotated sketch plan was produced. A photographic record was compiled depicting the setting of the site and the nature of recorded deposits. Recording of deposits encountered during the watching brief was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practise.

Finds recovered from excavated deposits were examined and a period date assigned where possible (Appendix 2). Records of the deposits and features recognised during the watching brief were examined. Phasing was assigned based on artefact dating and the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

## 5. RESULTS

Following post-excavation analysis, two phases were identified;

Phase 1	Natural deposits
Phase 2	Modern deposits

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

### Phase 1 Natural Geology

The earliest deposit recorded at the development site was yellowish brown sand (008). This was recorded in Section 2 at 1.14m below the current ground surface (Fig. 4) and is probably of alluvial origin.

### Phase 2 Modern Deposits

Overlying the natural deposit of sand was a layer of greyish brown sandy silt with frequent gravel (006 and 007). This was 1.02m thick and probable extended eastwards where a similar deposit of clayey silt (005) was recorded at the base of Section 1. These two deposits may represent a former topsoil.

At the east end of the site, the former topsoil was sealed by the present topsoil of dark greyish brown sandy silt containing demolition material (001).

At the western end of the service trench, the former topsoil was sealed by a black sandy silt dumped layer (004) that was 0.21m thick. This was overlain by a hardcore layer (003) for the tarmac surface (002).

## 6 DISCUSSION

The earliest deposits encountered (Phase 1) relate to the drift geology and are alluvial

sands, possibly associated with the River Bain.

Topsoil developed on the alluvium until recently, whereupon the site was used for dumping by the village and during the building of the supermarket in the 1970s.

Finds from the site are derived from the modern topsoil layer and comprise brick, tile and animal bone as well as a range of pottery. The earliest pottery is of a Boston or Bolingbroke type, dating from 1500 - 1600. Most finds are of 19<sup>th</sup> century date. Such finds, derived from the topsoil, may indicate no more than discarded rubbish incorporated into midden heaps and later spread on the land to improve the fertility of the soil.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Archaeological investigations at land adjacent to the Market Place, Tattershall, were undertaken as the development area lies within the medieval core of the village.

Apart from a former buried soil, no archaeological features were exposed during the groundworks.

Finds include a range of pottery, dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> century to the modern day, brick, tile, glass and animal bone. No waterlogged features were found which indicates that few environmental indicators (snails, seeds, pollen *etc.*) will survive at this level, other than through charring.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services would like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. G.W. Johnson who commissioned the fieldwork and post excavation analysis on behalf of East Lindsey District Council. The work was



coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy kindly provided information from the County Sites and Monuments Record maintained by the Archaeology Section, Lincolnshire County Council. Dave Start allowed access to the parish files and library maintained by the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Site Supervisor: Denise Buckley  
Finds Processing: Denise Buckley  
Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner  
Photographic Reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
Post Excavation Analysts: Paul Cope-Faulkner, Rachael Hall

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## 11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS            Archaeological Project Services

BGS            British Geological Survey

DoE            Department of the Environment

LCCAS        Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section

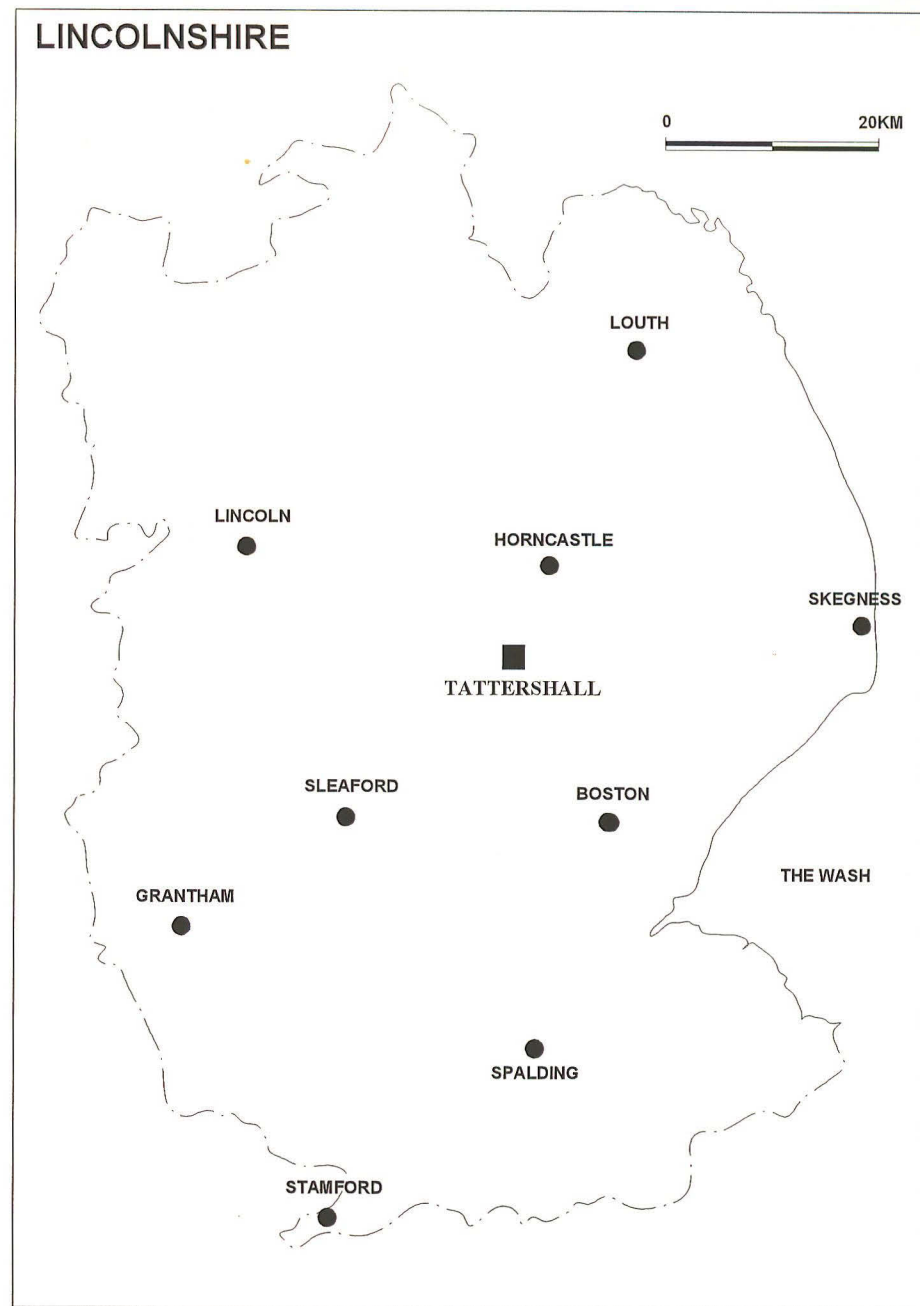


Figure 1 - General location map

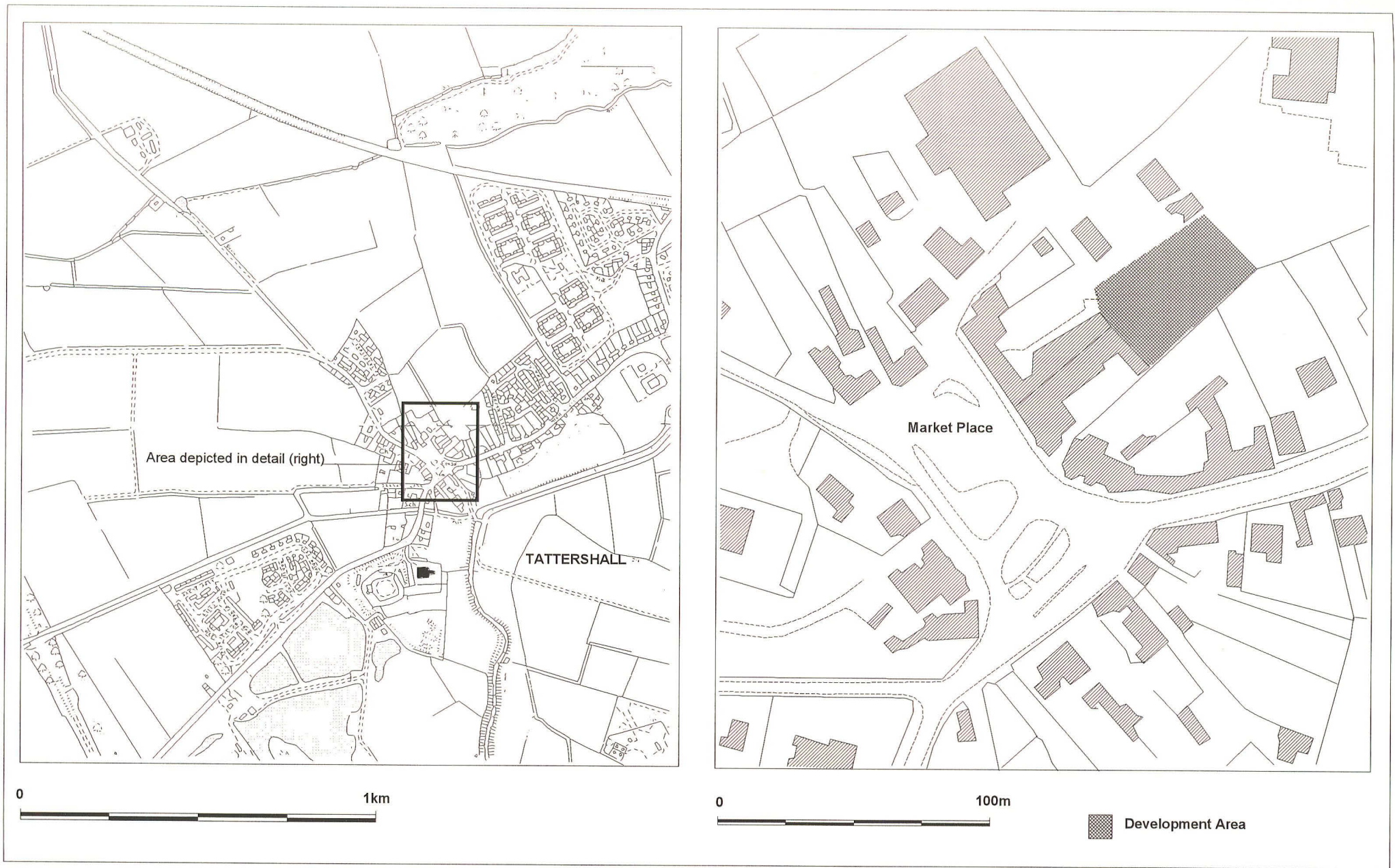
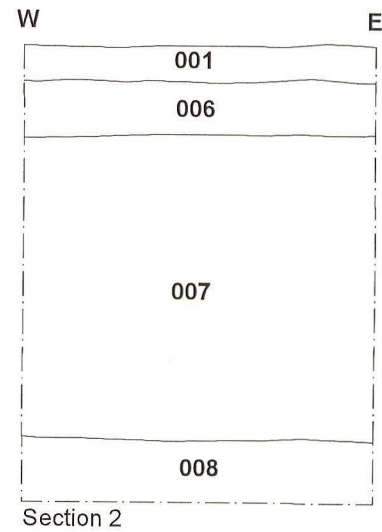
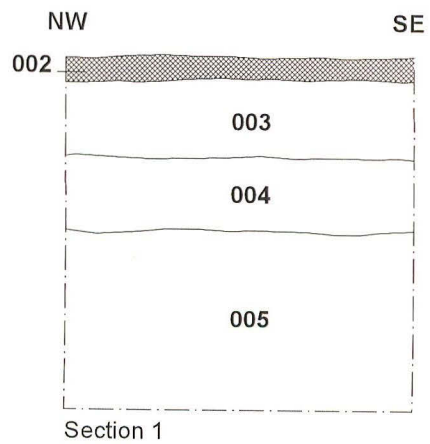


Figure 2 - Site Location Plan



Figure 3 - The development area, showing service trenches and locations of drawn sections



 Tarmac

Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2



Plate 1 - General view across the development area,  
looking northeast



Plate 2 - Section 1 showing the general sequence of deposits,  
looking northeast

## Appendix 1

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Section	Description	Interpretation
001	2	Loose, dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent brick, tile, rubble, bits of plastic and iron, 0.4m thick	Topsoil and demolition material.
002	1	Firm, grey tarmac 70mm thick.	Car park surface
003	1	Firm, light cream/beige limestone. Deposit 0.22m thick.	Hardcore
004	1	Loose, black sandy silt with moderate small stones. Deposit 0.21m thick.	Dumped deposit
005	1	Loose, dark grey brown clayey silt with frequent gravel and stone. Deposit <i>c.</i> 0.52m thick.	Former topsoil
006	2	Loose, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent gravel and stone. Deposit 0.16m thick.	Former topsoil
007	2	Loose, mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent gravel and stone. Deposit 0.86m thick.	Former topsoil
008	2	Loose, mid yellow brown sand with some silt and occ small stones. Deposit 0.18m thick.	Natural deposit

## Appendix 2

### THE FINDS

by Paul Cope-Faulkner, BA (Hons) AIFA, Phil Mills BSc and Gary Taylor MA

#### Provenance

The material was derived from a layer of modern dumping and topsoil (001) and was random in distribution. The earlier pottery fragment is a product of kilns at Boston or Bolingbroke, while the later sherd of pottery is likely to have been made in Staffordshire. The clay pipe is probably a relatively local product made in Tattershall or the vicinity. Bricks were often locally made, although the closest comparison to two of the bricks is Old Fletton, near Peterborough.

#### Range

The range of material is detailed in the table.

Context	Description	Latest Date
001	1x Boston or Bolingbroke-type ware, 16 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> century 1x white glazed tableware (near pearlware), 19 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup> century 1x clay pipe stem, bore $\frac{1}{64}$ " , late 17 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> century 1x white plastic, 20 <sup>th</sup> century 1x complete brick (228x105x78mm, dark red, 19 <sup>th</sup> century 1x complete brick 220x105x72mm, dark red, 19 <sup>th</sup> century 2x part bricks, mid brownish yellow, 1 stamped, late 19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> century 1x 9mm thick tile, 19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> century 1x glass mineral water bottle, late 19 <sup>th</sup> - mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century 1x cattle femur 1x juvenile cattle femur	20 <sup>th</sup> century

One of the part bricks had been stamped with a metal die with the inscription [...IN] and [...NGTON]. Both part bricks were machine moulded, whereas the whole bricks were hand made and probably from a local source.

The bottle is stamped; [LEE & GREEN SLEAFORD & SPALDING] on one side and [A16] on the reverse. Lee and Green established their aerated water works in Sleaford in about 1883 and continued until shortly after WWII (Pawley 1996, 71).

#### Condition

All the material is in good condition and presents no long term storage problems. The assemblage should be archived by material class. The earliest artefact, the Boston/Bolingbroke ware sherd, is large and unworn.

#### Documentation

Records of archaeological sites and finds in Tattershall are maintained in the Lincolnshire County Sites and Monuments Records. Previous investigations have been reported upon and their finds examined (eg. Cope-Faulkner 1997).

#### Potential

The assemblage has limited potential, though the large 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century pottery sherd, and the clay pipe fragment, may suggest some post-medieval activity in the vicinity of the site.

#### References

Cope-Faulkner, P., 1997, *Archaeological Watching Brief and Building Assessment of Bede Almshouses, Sleaford Road, Tattershall, Lincolnshire (TBA 97)*, Unpublished APS report No. 4/97

Pawley, S., 1996, *The Book of Sleaford*



## Appendix 3

### GLOSSARY

<b>Context</b>	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
<b>Layer</b>	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
<b>Medieval</b>	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
<b>Natural</b>	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
<b>Neolithic</b>	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500-2250 BC.
<b>Prehistoric</b>	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.

## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

8	Context records
1	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix
1	Box of finds

All primary records and finds are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services  
The Old School  
Cameron Street  
Heckington  
Sleaford  
Lincolnshire  
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Lincolnshire City and County Museum  
12 Friars Lane  
Lincoln  
LN2 1HQ

The archive will be deposited in accordance with the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives*, produced by the Lincolnshire City and County Museum.

Lincolnshire City and County Council Museum Accession Number: 211.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: TMP 99

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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