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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DEVELOPMENT AT  
THE GARTREE SCHOOL,  
TATTERSHALL,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(TGS 99)**



**A P S**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PROJECT  
SERVICES

Lincolnshire County Council  
Archaeology Section  
22 MAY 00  
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
OF DEVELOPMENT AT  
THE GARTREE SCHOOL,  
TATTERSHALL,  
LINCOLNSHIRE  
(TGS 99)**

Work Undertaken For  
Linpave Building Ltd

Report Compiled by  
James Snee

May 2000

Planning Application No: S175/0730/99  
National Grid Reference: TF 218 581  
City and County Museum Accession No: 263.99

A.P.S. Report No: 66/00



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## 1. SUMMARY

*A watching brief was undertaken during development at Gartree School, Tattershall because the site lay within an area of archaeological remains. In particular, medieval and later pottery has previously been recovered from the site.*

*A single linear cut was revealed. However, it was uncertain whether this was a man made archaeological feature, such as a ditch, or natural, perhaps a channel.*

*No artefacts were recovered during the investigations.*

## 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... where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed*' (IFA 1997).

### 2.2 Planning Background

A watching brief was undertaken between 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> October 1999 during the excavations of footings for an extension to the science block at Gartree School, Tattershall, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application number S175/0730/99 to East Lindsey District Council. Permission was granted subject to a condition for an archaeological watching brief.

The watching brief was commissioned by Linpave Building Ltd and carried out by

Archaeological Project Services in accordance with a brief accepted by the Archaeological Officer for Lincolnshire County Council (Appendix 1).

### 2.3 Topography and Geology

Tattershall lies at the southern tip of the Lincolnshire Wolds, approximately 28km southeast of Lincoln and 30km southwest of Louth in the administrative district of East Lindsey. The site is located on the east side of the town, off Butt's Lane, adjacent to the boundary with Coningsby parish at national grid reference TF 218 581 (Fig. 1).

The site lies on the north bank of the Old River Bain at approximately 5m OD on a gentle slope down southward to the watercourse. Local soils are the Fladbury 2 Association, pelo-alluvial gleys on river alluvium. Immediately to the north are soils of the Blackwood Association sandy gleys on glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 196; 127).

### 2.4 Archaeological Setting

Tattershall is located in an area of known archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric onwards. This early prehistoric activity takes the form of a number of artefacts including worked flints and polished stone axes. Remains of prehistoric (Ice Age) animals including reindeer and bison have been found at depth during gravel quarrying.

Evidence for Romano-British activity is limited to a Roman coin found to the south of the site, though this appears to be an isolated discovery.

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 *Tathere's* and



*Halh*, 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 Son of Spirewic (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. The first castle was built by Robert de Tateshale in 1231 AD and comprised a number of towers strengthening a curtain wall, of which some remnants are visible today (Pevsner and Harris 1989). 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. Tattershall Castle was garrisoned by parliament in mid 1643 and was captured and subsequently abandoned by Royalists later in the same year (Holmes 1980). The Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

In 1439 Ralph Cromwell established a college in Tattershall. The church of Holy Trinity was a part of this and excavations have located the gate complex close by. The 17<sup>th</sup> century almshouses by the church are built over the remains of medieval buildings, either earlier almshouses or part of the collegiate buildings (Cope-Faulkner 1997).

On the opposite side of the River Bain, 300m east of the school, is Coningsby parish church. Dedicated to St. Michael, this contains Early English (c. 1190-1250) and later architectural features (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 230).

Medieval and post-medieval ceramics of 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date have previously been found at Gartree School. These artefacts

included shelly and gritted wares, Cistercian ware pottery and green glazed tiles. An enamelled bronze escutcheon bearing the Blount arms and of possible medieval date has been found about 300m northeast of the school.

Coins and other artefacts of probable 17<sup>th</sup> century date have been found in the vicinity. About 300m southwest a half groat coin of James I, dating to 1603-4, was found. A farthing of Charles I dating after 1637, a half groat of Charles II from 1660-80 and a bronze hook with a decorative plate, possibly of the 17<sup>th</sup> century were found 300m south of the school.

### 3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation, as detailed in the specification (Appendix 1), was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the development should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

### 4. METHODS

Topsoil was stripped from the site, followed by excavation of foundation trenches for an extension. The foundation trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The sections were then hand cleaned to enable identification of remains. Deposits or features recorded during the investigation were allocated a unique reference number (Context Number) with an individual written description. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10, and a plan at 1:50. A photographic record was also compiled.

Records of deposits were also examined. A summary list of all contexts appears as Appendix 2. Phasing was assigned on the



nature of deposits and recognisable relationships between them. A stratigraphic matrix was produced.

## 5. RESULTS

Three phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Natural deposits
- Phase 2 Undated deposits
- Phase 3 Modern deposits

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

### Phase 1 Natural Deposits

The earliest deposit encountered during this investigation was loose, mottled sand (003) which was mid reddish yellowish brown, light grey and dark reddish brown. It was at least 0.62m deep and was evident across the development area.

### Phase 3 Undated deposits

Cutting the natural sand was a north-south aligned linear feature (004), approximately 2.50m wide and 0.70m deep. It had shallow convex sides and an uneven concave base, with gradual breaks of slope at the top and bottom. Filling the feature and elsewhere overlying the natural sand was a layer of loose, mid brown silty sand (002) with occasional small to medium sub-angular gravel. The deposit, interpreted as subsoil, was approximately 0.25m deep, though 0.75m deep where it filled cut (004), and was observed throughout the entire site. No artefacts were retrieved from this layer.

### Phase 4 Modern Deposits

The site was sealed by up to 0.42m of loose

dark brown sand (001) with occasional sub-angular gravel. This was the topsoil and supported the turf layer.

## 6. DISCUSSION

The earliest phase (Phase 1) was a naturally deposited sand (001), possibly a drift deposit associated with the adjacent river Bain.

The undated (Phase 2) linear feature was very irregular and was probably a natural hollow or channel, although the possibility remains that it was a very badly eroded ditch. Moreover, the undulating base and 'W' profile of the feature may suggest that it represents a pair of ditches, one recutting the other. This feature was filled by a subsoil deposit whose homogeneity suggests that it was transformed. The same subsoil occurred throughout the site and was sealed by the modern topsoil (Phase 3).

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological investigations were undertaken at Gartree School, Tattershall because medieval and later artefacts had previously been found on the site and in the vicinity. It was therefore possible that development could reveal archaeological remains.

However, only one feature was revealed and was undated and it is uncertain whether this was a natural channel or a man-made ditch.

No artefacts were recovered from the excavations. Ground conditions indicated limited potential for the survival of ancient environmental remains (seeds, plant macrofossils, etc.), other than through charring.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr M. Whiting of Tim Martindale Associates Ltd and Mr M. Smith and Mr A. Stevens of Linpave Building Ltd who commissioned the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. Mr B. Combes and Mr C. Rogers of Linpave Building Ltd also provided assistance. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor and this report was edited by Tom Lane. Access to the County Sites and Monuments Record was kindly provided by Mark Bennet and Sarah Grundy of Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section.

## 9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor  
Supervisors: James Albone, Denise Buckley, Tobin Rayner  
Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth  
Illustration: Rachel Hall  
Post-excavation Analyst: James Snee

## 10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## 11. ABBREVIATION

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists

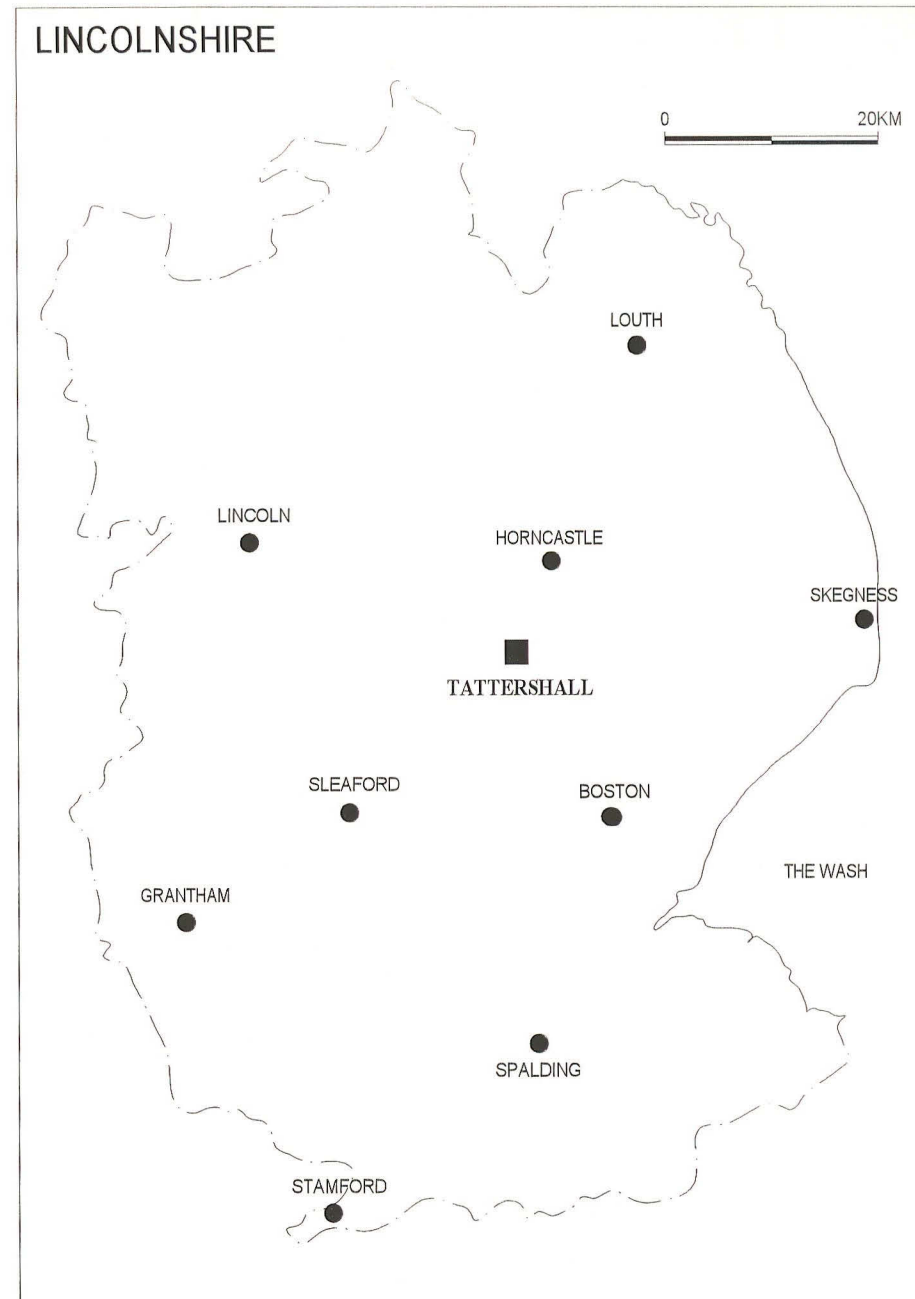


Figure 1 - General location map





Figure 2 - Site Location Plan

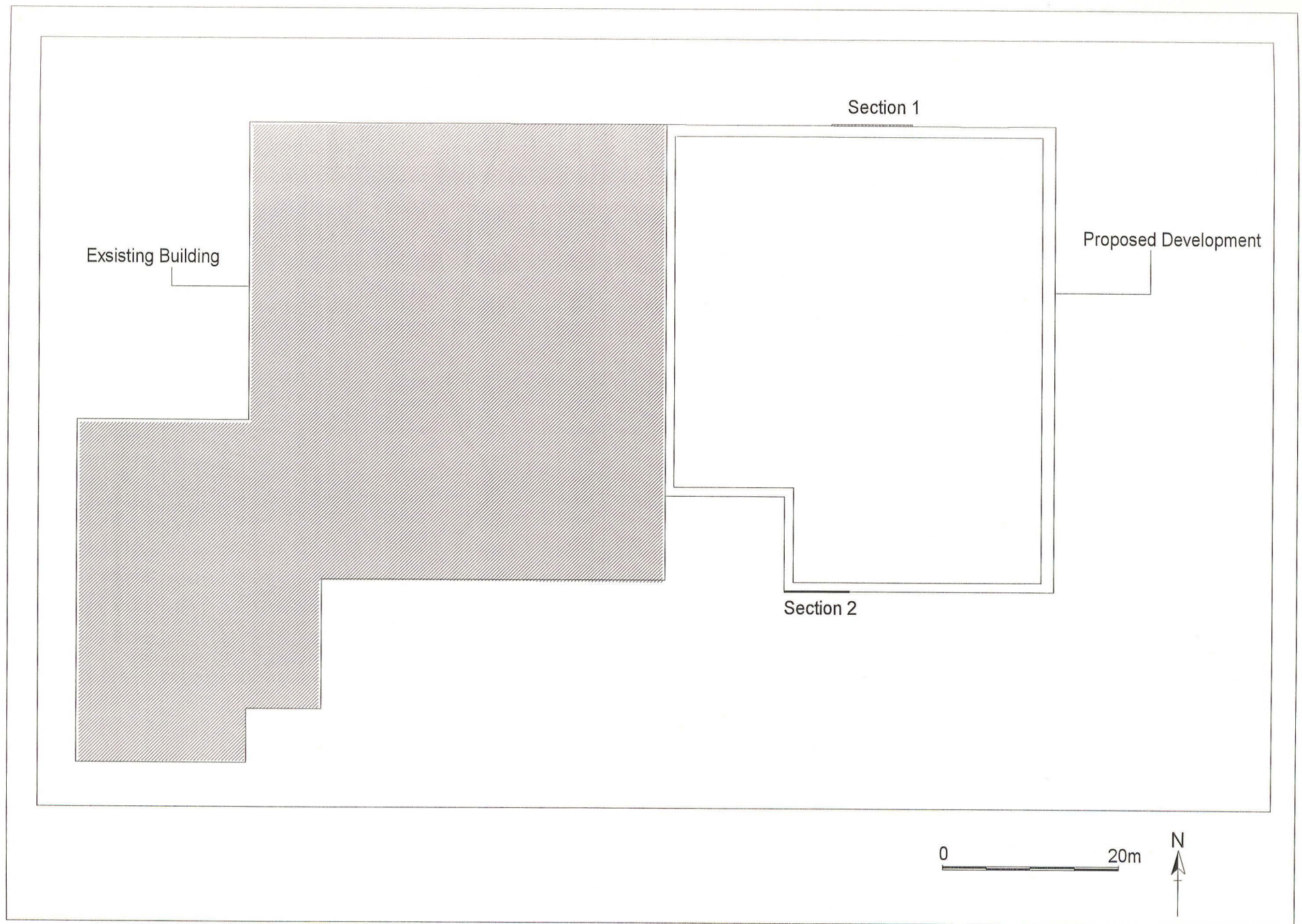
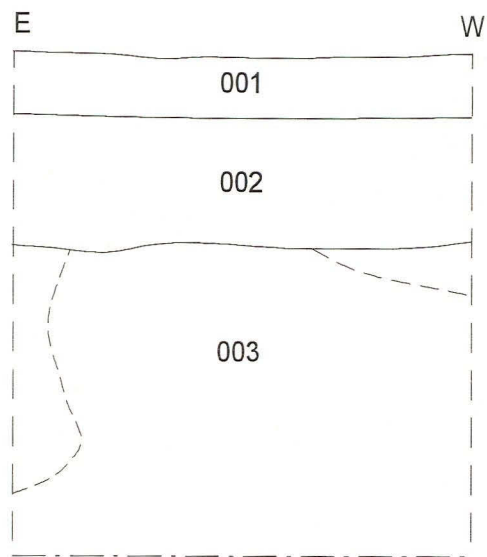
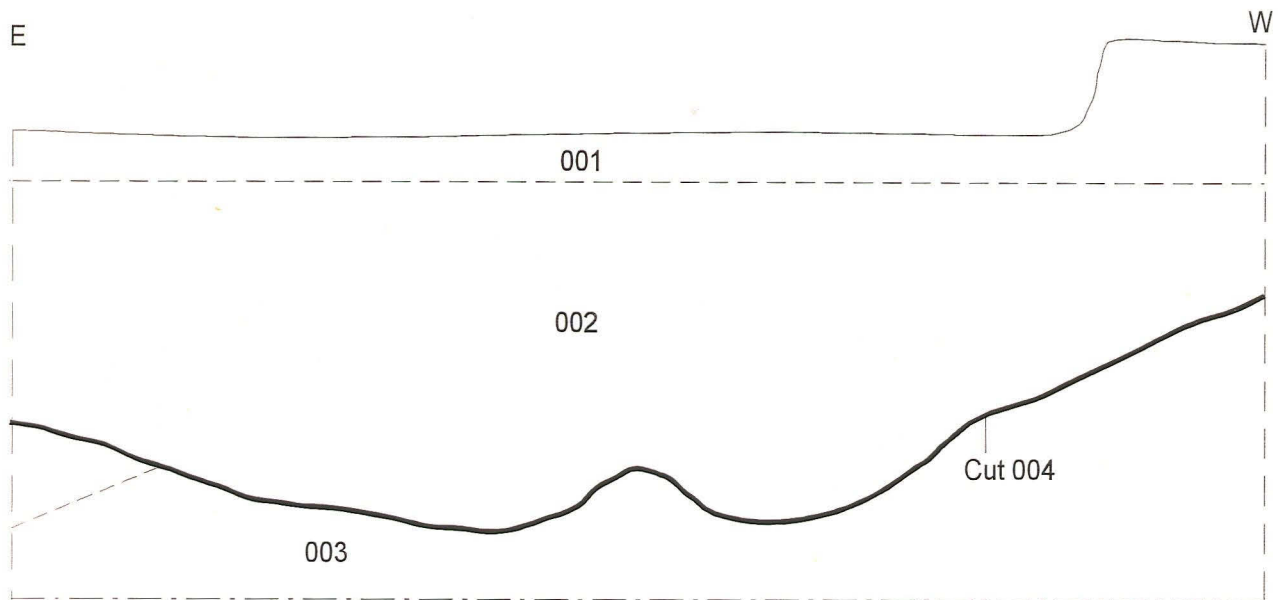


Figure 3 - Foundation Plan, showing section locations





Section 1  
North Facing



Section 2  
North Facing

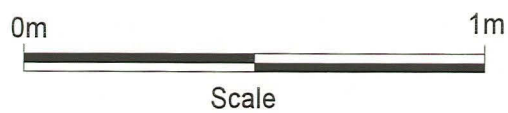


Figure 4 - Sections 1 and 2





Plate 1 General site  
shot from the southeast



Plate 2 Representative  
Section No 1, looking  
north



Plate 3 Section in the  
north footing, looking  
at a continuation of cut  
(004), from the  
southeast



## **Appendix 1**

### **LAND AT THE GARTREE SCHOOL, TATTERSHALL, LINCOLNSHIRE SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

#### **1. SUMMARY**

- a. *A watching brief is required during development at the Gartree School, Tattershall, Lincolnshire.*
- b. *Medieval and post-medieval pottery, tile and coins have been found in close proximity to the development site. In addition, a Roman coin and prehistoric artefacts have been found in the general area.*
- c. *The watching brief will be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The archaeological features exposed will be recorded in writing, graphically and photographically.*
- d. *On completion of the fieldwork a report will be prepared detailing the results of the investigation. The report will consist of a narrative supported by illustrations and photographs.*

#### **2. INTRODUCTION**

- a. This document comprises a specification for an archaeological watching brief during development on land at the Gartree School, Tattershall, national grid reference TF 218 581.
- b. This document contains the following parts:
  - i. Overview.
  - ii. Stages of work and methodologies.
  - iii. List of specialists.
  - iv. Programme of works and staffing structure of the project.

#### **3. SITE LOCATION**

- a. Tattershall lies at the southern tip of the Lincolnshire Wolds, approximately 28km southeast of Lincoln and 30km southwest of Louth in the administrative district of East Lindsey. The site is on east side of the town, off Butt's Lane, adjacent to the boundary with Coningsby at national grid reference TF 218 581.

#### **4. PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- a. Planning Permission for the development is subject to a condition requiring the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the development.

#### **5. SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- a. The site lies on the north bank of the Old River Bain at approximately 5m OD on a gentle slope down southward to the watercourse. Soils at the site are the Fladbury 2 Association, pelo-alluvial gleys on river alluvium. Immediately to the north are soils of the Blackwood Association sandy gleys on glaciofluvial drift (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 196; 127).

#### **6. THE ARCHAEOLOGY**

- a. Numerous prehistoric artefacts, including worked flints and polished stone axes have been found in the Tattershall area. Remains of prehistoric (Ice Age) animals, including reindeer and bison, have been

found at depth during gravel quarrying.

- b. A Roman coin has been found to the south of the site, though this appears to be an isolated discovery.
- c. Mediaeval and post-medieval pottery has been found at various locations in the proximity. Much of the material of these periods from the vicinity has been found in the town core, between the 15<sup>th</sup> century castle and the market place.

## 7. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The aims of the watching brief will be:
  - i. To record and interpret the archaeological features exposed during the excavation of the foundation trenches and other areas of ground disturbance.
- b. The objectives of the watching brief will be to:
  - i. Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
  - ii. Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
  - iii. As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
  - iv. Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

## 8. SITE OPERATIONS

- a. General considerations
  - i. All work will be undertaken following statutory Health and Safety requirements in operation at the time of the watching brief.
  - ii. The work will be undertaken according to the relevant codes of practise issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), under the management of a Member of the institute (MIFA). *Archaeological Project Services* is IFA registered organisation no. 21.
  - iii. Any and all artefacts found during the investigation and thought to be 'treasure', as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be removed from site to a secure store and promptly reported to the appropriate coroner's office.
- b. Methodology
  - i. The watching brief will be undertaken during the ground works phase of development, and includes the archaeological monitoring of all phases of soil movement.
  - ii. Stripped areas and trench sections will be observed regularly to identify and record archaeological features that are exposed and to record changes in the geological conditions. The section drawings of the trenches will be recorded at a scale of 1:10. Should features be recorded in plan these will be drawn at a scale of 1:20. Written descriptions detailing the nature of the deposits, features and fills encountered will be compiled on Archaeological Project Services pro-forma record sheets.
  - iii. Any finds recovered will be bagged and labelled for later analysis.
  - iv. Throughout the watching brief a photographic record consisting of colour prints will be compiled. The photographic record will consist of:
    - (1) The site during work to show specific stages, and the layout of the archaeology within the



trench.

(2) groups of features where their relationship is important

- v. Should human remains be located the appropriate Home Office licence will be obtained before their removal. In addition, the Local Environmental Health Department and the police will be informed.

## 9. POST-EXCAVATION

### a. Stage 1

- i. On completion of site operations, the records and schedules produced during the watching brief will be checked and ordered to ensure that they form a uniform sequence forming a level II archive. A stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features present on the site will be prepared. All photographic material will be catalogued and labelled, the labelling referring to schedules identifying the subject/s photographed.
- ii. All finds recovered during the field work will be washed, marked and packaged according to the deposit from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to the Conservation Laboratory at the City and County Museum, Lincoln.

### b. Stage 2

- i. Detailed examination of the stratigraphic matrix to enable the determination of the various phases of activity on the site.
- ii. Finds will be sent to specialists for identification and dating.

### c. Stage 3

- i. On completion of stage 2, a report detailing the findings of the watching brief will be prepared.
- ii. This will consist of:
  - (1) A non-technical summary of the results of the investigation.
  - (2) A description of the archaeological setting of the watching brief.
  - (3) Description of the topography of the site.
  - (4) Description of the methodologies used during the watching brief.
  - (5) A text describing the findings of the watching brief.
  - (6) A consideration of the local, regional and national context of the watching brief findings.
  - (7) Plans of the archaeological features exposed. If a sequence of archaeological deposits is encountered, separate plans for each phase will be produced.
  - (8) Sections of the archaeological features.
  - (9) Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed, and their chronology and setting within the surrounding landscape.
  - (10) Specialist reports on the finds from the site.

(11) Appropriate photographs of the site and specific archaeological features.

10. **REPORT DEPOSITION**

- a. Copies of the report will be sent to the client; East Lindsey District Council Planning Department; and to the County Council Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record.

11. **ARCHIVE**

- a. The documentation and records generated during the watching brief will be sorted and ordered into the format acceptable to the City and County Museum, Lincoln. This will be undertaken following the requirements of the document titled *Conditions for the Acceptance of Project Archives* for long term storage and curation.

12. **PUBLICATION**

- a. A report of the findings of the watching brief will be published in Heritage Lincolnshire's Annual Report and a note presented to the editor of the journal *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. If appropriate, notes on the findings will be submitted to the appropriate national journals: *Britannia* for discoveries of Roman date, and *Medieval Archaeology* and the journal of the *Medieval Settlement Research Group* for findings of medieval or later date.

13. **CURATORIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

- a. Curatorial responsibility for the archaeological work undertaken on the site lies with the County Archaeological Officer. They will be given written notification regarding the project.

14. **VARIATIONS**

- a. Variations to the proposed scheme of works will only be made following written confirmation of acceptance from the archaeological curator.

15. **PROGRAMME OF WORKS AND STAFFING LEVELS**

- a. The watching brief will be integrated with the programme of construction and is dependent on the developers' work programme. It is therefore not possible to specify the person-hours for the archaeological site work.
- b. An archaeological supervisor with experience of watching briefs will undertake the work.
- c. Post-excavation analysis and report production will be undertaken by the archaeological supervisor, or a post-excavation analyst as appropriate, with assistance from a finds supervisor, illustrator and external specialists. It is expected that each fieldwork day (equal to one person-day) will require a post-excavation day (equal to one-and-a-half person-days) for completion of the analysis and report. If the fieldwork lasts longer than about four days then there will be an economy of scale with the post-excavation analysis.

16. **SPECIALISTS TO BE USED DURING THE PROJECT**

- a. The following organisations/persons will, in principal and if necessary, be used as subcontractors to provide the relevant specialist work and reports in respect of any objects or material recovered during the investigation that require their expert knowledge and input. Engagement of any particular specialist subcontractor is also dependent on their availability and ability to meet programming requirements.

Task

Body to be undertaking the work

Conservation

Conservation Laboratory, City and County Museum, Lincoln



Pottery Analysis	Prehistoric - Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust
	Roman - B Precious, Independent Specialist
	Anglo-Saxon - J Young, Independent Specialist
	Medieval and later - H Healey, Independent Archaeologist
Non-pottery Artefacts	J Cowgill, Independent Specialist
Animal Bones	Environmental Archaeology Consultancy
Environmental Analysis	J Rackham, Independent Specialist
Human Remains Analysis	R Gowland, Independent Specialist

#### 17. **INSURANCES**

- a. Archaeological Project Services, as part of the Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, maintains Employers Liability Insurance of £10,000,000, together with Public and Products Liability insurances, each with indemnity of £5,000,000. Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

#### 18. **COPYRIGHT**

- a. Archaeological Project Services shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification.
- b. Licence will also be given to the archaeological curators to use the documentary archive for educational, public and research purposes.
- c. In the case of non-satisfactory settlement of account then copyright will remain fully and exclusively with Archaeological Project Services. In these circumstances it will be an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* for the client to pass any report, partial report, or copy of same, to any third party. Reports submitted in good faith by Archaeological Project Services to any Planning Authority or archaeological curator will be removed from said planning Authority and/or archaeological curator. The Planning Authority and/or archaeological curator will be notified by Archaeological Project Services that the use of any such information previously supplied constitutes an infringement under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* and may result in legal action.
- d. The author of any report or specialist contribution to a report shall retain intellectual copyright of their work and may make use of their work for educational or research purposes or for further publication.

#### 19. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales 13

Specification: Version 1, 11<sup>th</sup> October 1999

## Appendix 2

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Loose dark brown sand with occasional sub-angular gravel, 0.42m thick	Topsoil
002	Loose mid brown silty sand with occasional small to medium sub angular gravel, 0.75m thick	Subsoil
003	Loose mottled yellowish brown, light grey and reddish brown sand, occasional to frequent small angular gravel, >0.62m thick	Natural deposit
004	Linear feature, 2.5m wide by 0.7m deep, aligned north-south, concave sides and base. Identified in section only	Indeterminate channel



## 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>Post-medieval</b>	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
<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.
<b>Romano-British</b>	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

## Appendix 4

### THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

4	Context records
2	Scale drawings
1	Photographic record sheet
1	Stratigraphic matrix

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: 263.99

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: TGS99

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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