



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

SMR
M1/04

**Tattershall Thorpe Quarry Extension
Topsoil Removal, Phases 4, 5 and 7**

Archaeological Watching Brief

NGR: TF 212 613

Site Code TQD 00

LCNCC Museum Accn. No. 2001.46

Lincs. County Council Planning Application No. (E)S.176/2058/94

**Report prepared for
RMC Aggregates (Eastern) Ltd**

**February 2001
LAS Report No. 507**

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief during a further phase of topsoil removal on the expanding sand and gravel quarry site identified no features of archaeological interest.

Introduction

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by Oxford Archaeological Associates Ltd (OAA) on behalf of RMC Aggregates (Eastern) Ltd to conduct an archaeological watching brief during topsoil removal for an extension to the sand and gravel quarry at New Farm, Tattershall Thorpe (Fig. 1). The watching brief was required by Lincolnshire County Council to fulfil part of a Section 108 Agreement. The works represented completion of Phases 4 and 5, and much of Phase 7 of the scheme (Fig. 2).

Groundworks were intermittently monitored by Claire Angus, Wendy Booth, Jeremy Mordue and Geoff Tann on four visits to the site (April 12th, June 12th, June 27th and July 19th 2000).

Planning and Archaeological Background

The present Tattershall Thorpe Quarry is operated by RMC Aggregates (Eastern) Ltd (RMC). Sand and gravel has been extracted from a large area NE of the B1192 Tattershall - Woodhall Spa road. The quarry extension area lies within the site of the former RAF Woodhall wartime airfield (Griffiths and Collcutt 1994; Taylor 1996). An application (No. (E)S.176/2058/94) to extend extraction across land in the southern half of the airfield was approved by Lincolnshire County Council in August 1996.

In support of this application, RMC commissioned OAA (acting as archaeological consultants to RMC (UK) Ltd) to prepare a documentary assessment of the archaeological implications of the proposal (Griffiths and Collcutt 1994). Air photographs indicated a possible Iron Age enclosure within the Phase 1 area. The assessment report noted a possible Roman site within the areas of extraction phases 2-4 (Fig. 2). Numerous casual finds of prehistoric flint artefacts and Roman coins have been found at quarries elsewhere in Tattershall Thorpe and archaeological excavations of important Neolithic and Iron Age sites have been carried out nearby.

A fieldwalking survey was commissioned by OAA on behalf of RMC, and conducted by Lindsey Archaeological Services in early February 1996 (Taylor 1996). An area of 49ha was examined within the area of the planning application and archaeological finds from the exposed field surfaces were

plotted. Only Neolithic/Bronze Age flint artefacts were recovered, mostly in LAS Fieldwalking Areas 8, 5 and 1 (RMC Phases 6, 10 and 11) to the west and SW of the New Park Farm buildings (Fig. 2).

Lincolnshire County Council placed an archaeological condition (Condition 11) on the Planning Consent requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, in order to ensure adequate opportunities are afforded for the investigation and protection of the archaeological interests of the site. The condition resulted in provision for an intensive watching brief. Work in 1996 produced a single unstratified worked flint and a possible enclosure of either medieval or later date (Tann 1996). In 1996 and 1997, several drainage features were excavated which were related to the former airfield, and a series of earlier agricultural drainage ditches were found (Williams 1997). No monitoring was undertaken during 1998, and work in 1999 produced a very few worked flints and no other trace of archaeological activity (Tann 2000).

The Watching Brief

Method

Topsoil was stripped by a 360° excavator fitted with a 1m wide bucket with a plate covering the teeth. The dumper trucks travelled to and from the topsoil heap on unstripped ground, so as to avoid damage to the stripped surface.

The site code sequence used for earlier phases of the monitoring programme (TQA in 1996, TQB in 1997 and TQC 99 in 1999) was continued, with TQD 00 being used. Context numbers, in a block of consecutive numbers from **701-706** were assigned to each feature plotted or described in Phase 7 (Fig. 3). A summary list is appended (Appendix 1).

Results

East of farmhouse, New Farm (Phases 4 and 5)

A small area between the farmhouse and the farm outbuildings of New Farm was stripped of topsoil in April 2000 (Pls. 1 and 2). An inspection of this confirmed that there were no significant features close to the farm buildings, and the only visible features were wartime drains and cable ducts linking the airfield buildings and the farm outbuildings (Pl. 3). A limited series of photographs were taken of the buildings as it was unclear which, if any, were to remain (Pls. 4 and 5).

Extension Area Phase 7 (Pl. 6)

The topsoil stripping revealed part of two parallel ditches **701** and **702** at the northern end of the area. The ditches were aligned SW-NE and were about 1.5m wide and about 2m apart. These features appeared to be modern in date and are assumed to be drainage features associated with the airfield, either serving the existing airfield road or an earlier precursor.

The ditches cut across a 0.7m wide backfilled curvilinear ditch **703** which enclosed the NE part of the stripped area. This may be a field boundary, but an airfield drainage function is more probable.

A NW-SE aligned 1.4m wide ditch **705**, 60m south of the airfield road, represents a more likely post-medieval field boundary ditch, which contained two parallel land drain runs. An earlier more ephemeral feature **706** was aligned north-south and was cut by **705**. A series of soil colouration anomalies along the western side of **706** were interpreted as evidence of a hedgeline.

Several mid-twentieth century pits were seen to the west of **703** and close to the northern edge of the stripped area. These seemed to be associated with airfield fencing or apparatus (Pl. 7).

Conclusion

No archaeological finds or features of significance were found during this watching brief, despite the quality of the stripped surface being a marked improvement on that achieved in previous seasons.

Acknowledgements

LAS is particularly grateful to Andy Wright (Quarry Manager), and staff at the Tattershall Quarry for their full co-operation. Simon Collcutt (Oxford Archaeological Associates, archaeological consultants to RMC) helped with liaison and supplied advice and comment. Jim Bonner (County Archaeological Officer), and the staff of the County Archaeological Section provided information and advice.

Illustrations were prepared by Mick McDaid, and the report was produced and collated by Jane Frost.

Geoff Tann
Lindsey Archaeological Services
23rd February 2001

References

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- Taylor, C. 1996 *Proposal for Gravel Extraction, New Park Farm Tattershall Thorpe: Fieldwalking Survey* (LAS report for Butterley Aggregates, LAS report no. 183).
- Williams, M. 1997 *Land at New Park Farm, Tattershall Thorpe: Archaeological Monitoring of Topsoil Stripping Phases 2-3 of the Tattershall Quarry Extension*. LAS report for Butterley Aggregates, LAS report no. 258).

Archive Summary

Correspondence

Developer's plans and annotated copies

Field sketch plan

Photographs: LAS colour print film nos. 00/36/26-36; 00/57/16-23; 00/63/19-21 (including those used in this report).

APPENDIX 1

Context Summary: TQD 00 Phase 7

Context No.	Type	Relationships	Description	Date
701	Ditch		west-east ditch, unknown width, alongside southern side of quarry access road	1939-45 or later
702	Ditch	Cuts 703	west-east ditch, 1.6m wide, alongside southern edge of runway	1939-45 or later
703	Ditch	Cut by 702	0.7m wide field boundary ditch, aligned north-south	?post-medieval
704	Pit		11m diameter pit, west of ditch 703	1939-45 or later
705	Ditch	Cuts 706	1.4m wide NW-SE aligned ditch, coinciding with land drains. Parallel to southern side of ditch 703	?post-medieval
706	Ditch	Cut by 705	5m wide north-south ditch	?1939-45 or later

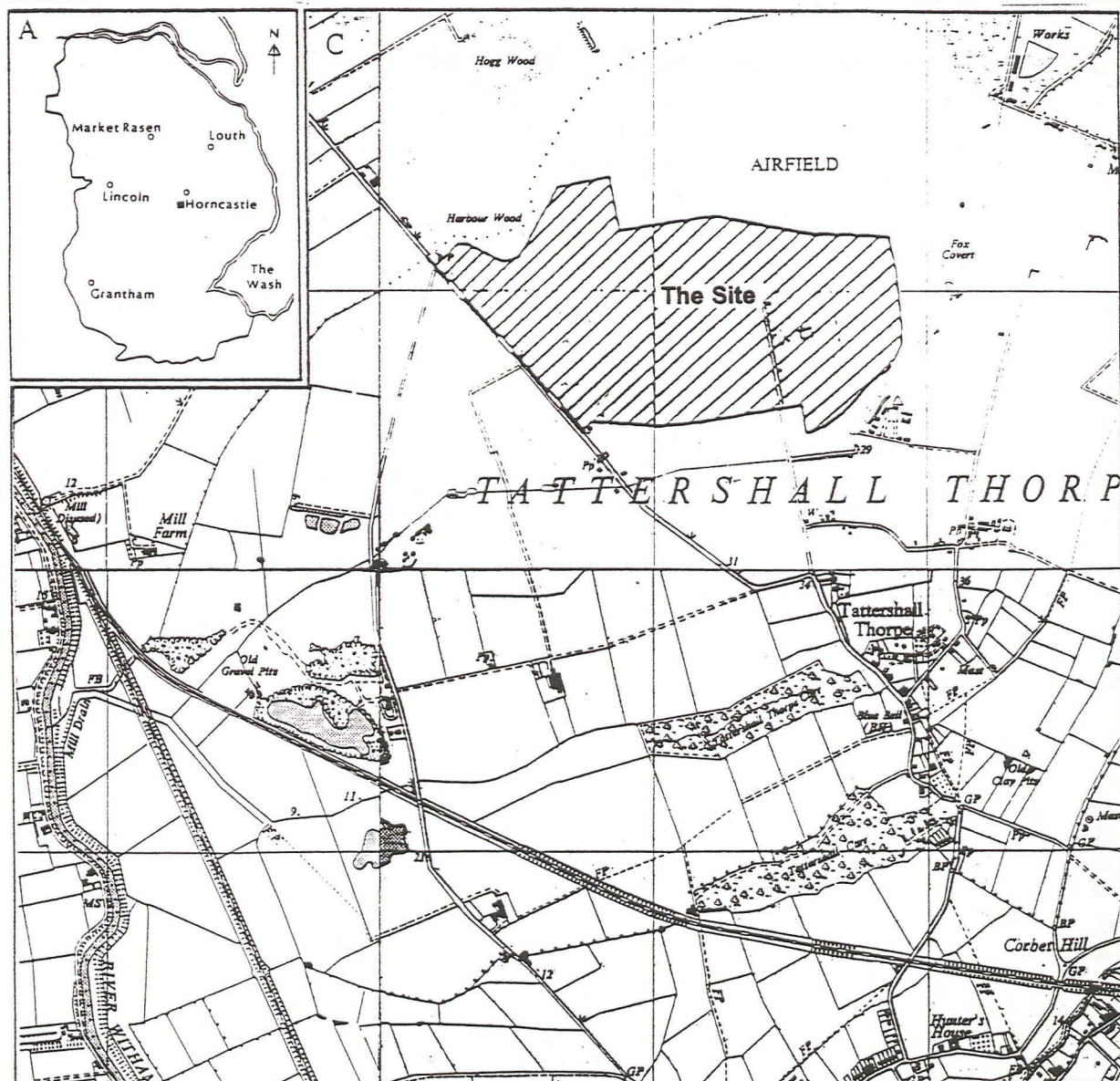
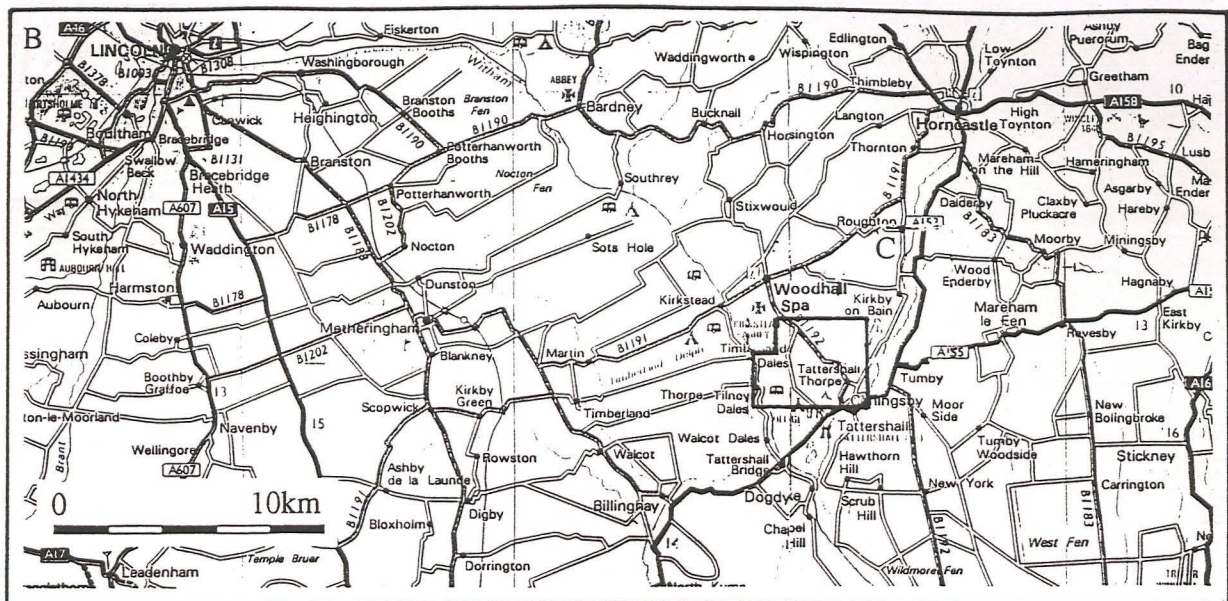


Fig. 1 Location of Tattershall Thorpe. Inset C based on the 1955 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map Sheets TF 15, TF 16, TF 25 and TF 26. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 50424A.

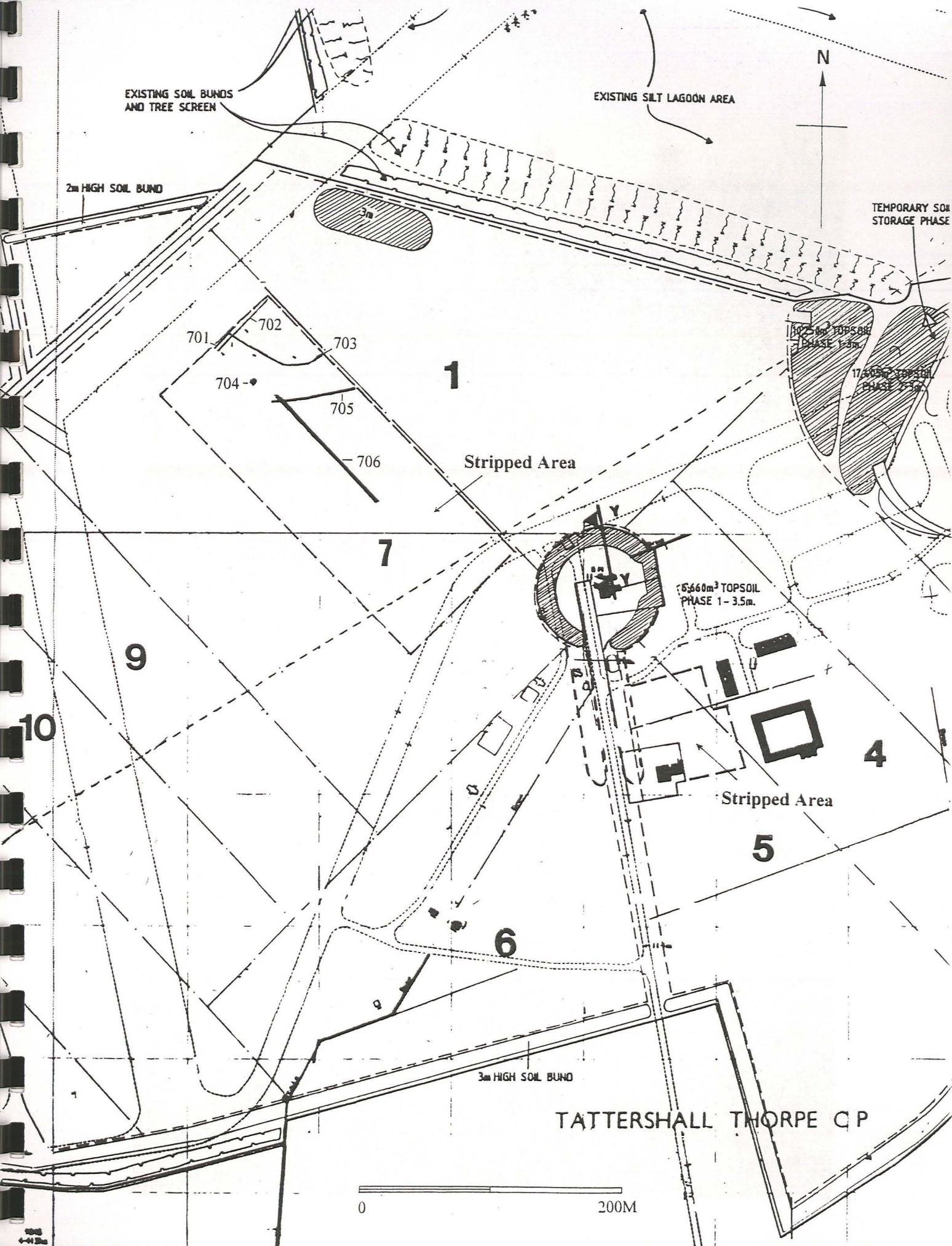


Fig. 3 Features recorded during monitoring of topsoil stripping, Phase 7 (based on a reduced scale copy of Dwg. no. P1/1236/19/3 supplied by RMC Aggregates).



Pl. 1 Area of stripped topsoil close to New Farm (looking west).

Pl. 2 Stripped area between the farm house and farm buildings (looking NE).





Pl. 3 Dark sand fill of twentieth century trench serving World War II airfield building behind New Farm (looking north).

Pl. 4 Post-medieval brick farm outbuildings at New Farm (looking east).





Pl. 5 Derelict farm buildings, New Farm.

Pl. 6 Topsoil stripping, Phase 7 (looking SW).





Pl. 7 Backfilled small pits or post-holes, associated with the airfield (scales 2m and 1m).