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LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

## **Market Place Tattershall, Lincs**

NGR: TF 2123 5790

Site Code: TMP 01

LCNCC Accn No: 2001.104.

## **Archaeological Watching Brief**

For

**Lincolnshire County Council**

**Economic Development Services**

**May 2001  
LAS Report No.532**

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F.N.FIELD B.A.(Hons), MIFA

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Fig. 1 Location of Tattershall, Lincolnshire, inset C reproduced from O.S. 1:25,000 sheet TF 26 SE. Crown copyright 1956. Reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS  
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**Summary**

*Archaeological observation during groundworks at the above site did not reveal any archaeological features or artefacts. Ground clearance around the Butter Cross revealed evidence of an earlier (18<sup>th</sup> century) wall possibly relating to a previous surround for the monument in Tattershall Market Place.*

**Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services was commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council, Economic Development Services to carry out an archaeological watching brief at the above site. The work was carried out in accordance with the general requirements set out in the Lincolnshire Archaeological Handbook (Lincolnshire County Council Archaeology Section, 1998) and the brief issued by the built environment team, Lincolnshire County Council dated December 1999. The watching brief was carried out in the week beginning 13 December 1999.

**Site Location and Description**

Tattershall is situated close to point where the river Bain flows into the Witham. The Market Place is located at the western end of the modern village at the junction of Lodge Road, Sleaford Road and High Street.

**Planning Details**

The Market Place was refurbished as part of an environmental enhancement scheme funded by Lincolnshire County Council.

**Archaeological Background**

The light soils formed over the river gravels were exploited from the prehistoric period onwards and numerous Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints and axes have been recorded in the close vicinity. Aerial photographic evidence shows extensive cropmarks complexes of unknown date but they are assumed to be late Iron Age or Roman.

Tattershall is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and is clearly of Saxon origin. A castle was built south of the village in the 13<sup>th</sup> century which would have stimulated growth of the

settlement and the market. The Butter Cross which stands in the Market Place is apparently of 14<sup>th</sup> century date, standing on a 13<sup>th</sup> century plinth. It is protected as a scheduled ancient monument.

### **Groundworks**

Groundworks consisted of the removing of existing tarmac, turf and concrete and replacing with turf and gravel. These extended to 0.30m deep. In addition there were deeper excavations for the planting of three trees. A new drain was also excavated across the eastern part of the site.

### **Objectives**

The purpose of the Watching Brief was to observe excavations for the refurbishment work, record any features of archaeological interest. Specific attention was paid to the area around the Butter Cross.

### **Results**

Due to the timing only part of the ground works were watched. This comprised watching the holes for the trees, part of the drainage trenching, and work around the Butter Cross.

#### *Tree holes.*

Three tree holes were machine excavated on the eastern side of the site, on either side of the road. They were excavated to a depth of between 0.60 and 0.70m. Pit 1 (Pl. 1) showed 0.40 - 0.50m of overburden over a thin 0.10-0.20m deposit of dark silty clay in turn over a deposit of orange yellow silty sand which appeared to be natural.

Both Pit 2 (Pl. 2) and Pit 3 (Pl. 3) were excavated to a depth of 0.60m through 0.60m of silty sand overburden, which overlay a thick deposit of makeup material which contained modern brick (visible in Pl. 3) This deposit extended beyond to the base of the excavated pit.

Pits 2 and 3 cut through a levelling or make up deposit under the topsoil which appeared to be modern. No archaeological features or artefacts were recovered from the area. The depth of the natural indicated that it was unlikely any of the resurfacing work would impact on potential archaeological deposits.

#### *Drainage*

A length of trenching was excavated for a drain. The trench was approximately 0.40m wide and 0.80m deep. It was excavated through tarmac and build up material approximately 0.40m thick and onto natural clay and sand. No archaeological features were found (Pl. 4).



### *The Butter Cross*

This was located to the north of the site (Pl. 5). The topsoil was stripped to a depth of up to 0.30m and a width of approximately 1.50m (Pl. 6), which was still within the modern overburden. The depth was not sufficient to show any archaeological features but along the very edge of the excavation, and exposed only in the section, was a single course of bricks (Pl. 7). This appeared to be sitting on a thin skim of concrete which mainly lay below the limit of the construction and was only partially uncovered. It is possible that this was a previous surround for the cross in its current setting, the brickwork was probably 18<sup>th</sup> century date. The groundworks revealed that the present construction base of the cross only extended about 0.10m below the topsoil where it was situated upon a 0.02m thick mortar platform directly on the subsoil (Pl. 8).

### **Conclusion**

The groundwork for the refurbishment of Tattershall Market Place did not disturb any archaeological remains as most of the groundworks did not extend deep enough. No artefacts were recovered from the project.

Mark Williams  
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May 2001



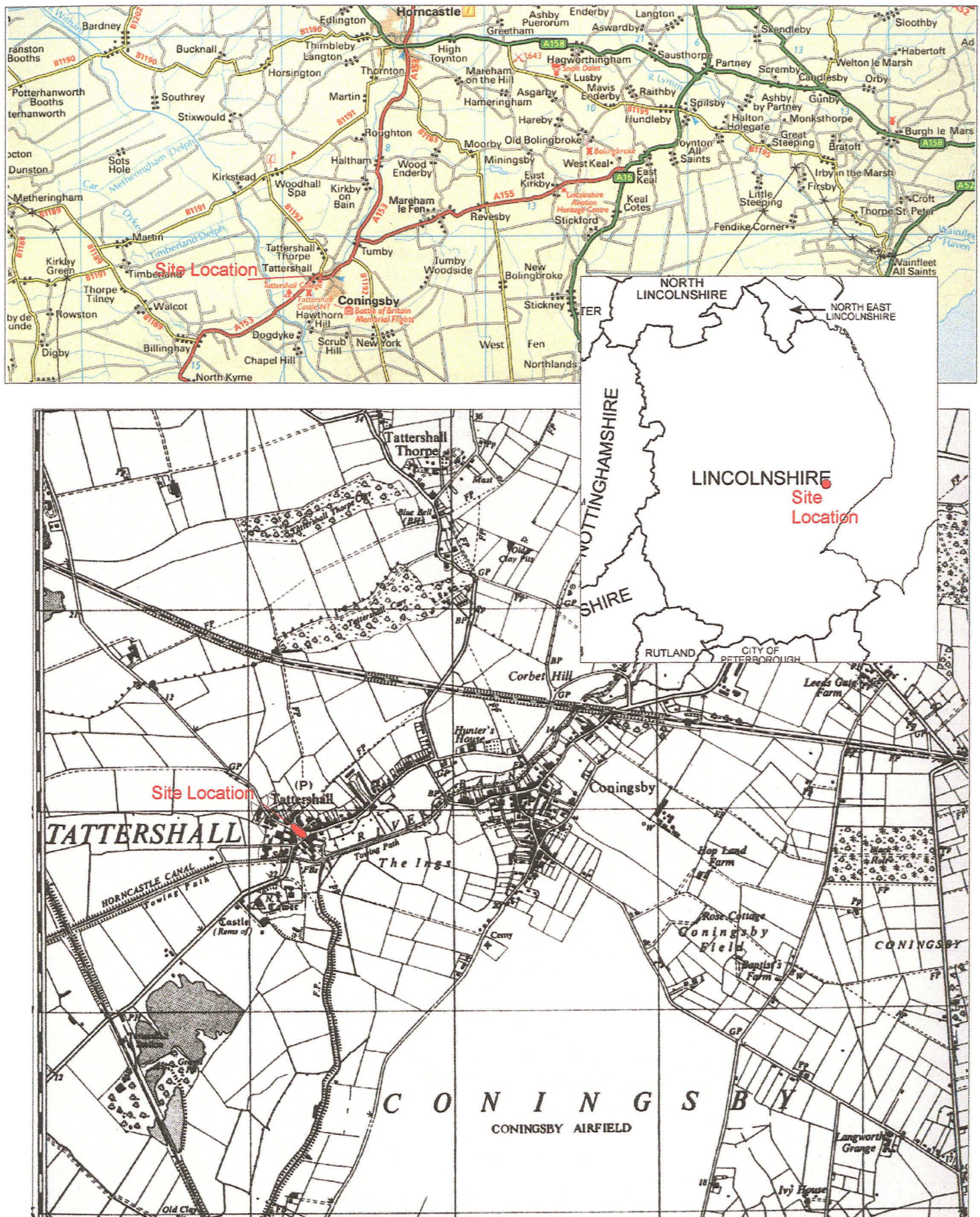


Figure 1: Location of Tattershall, Lincolnshire inset C reproduced from O.S. 1:25000 sheet TF 26 SE. Crown Copyright 1956. Reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO. LAS Licence number AL 50424A



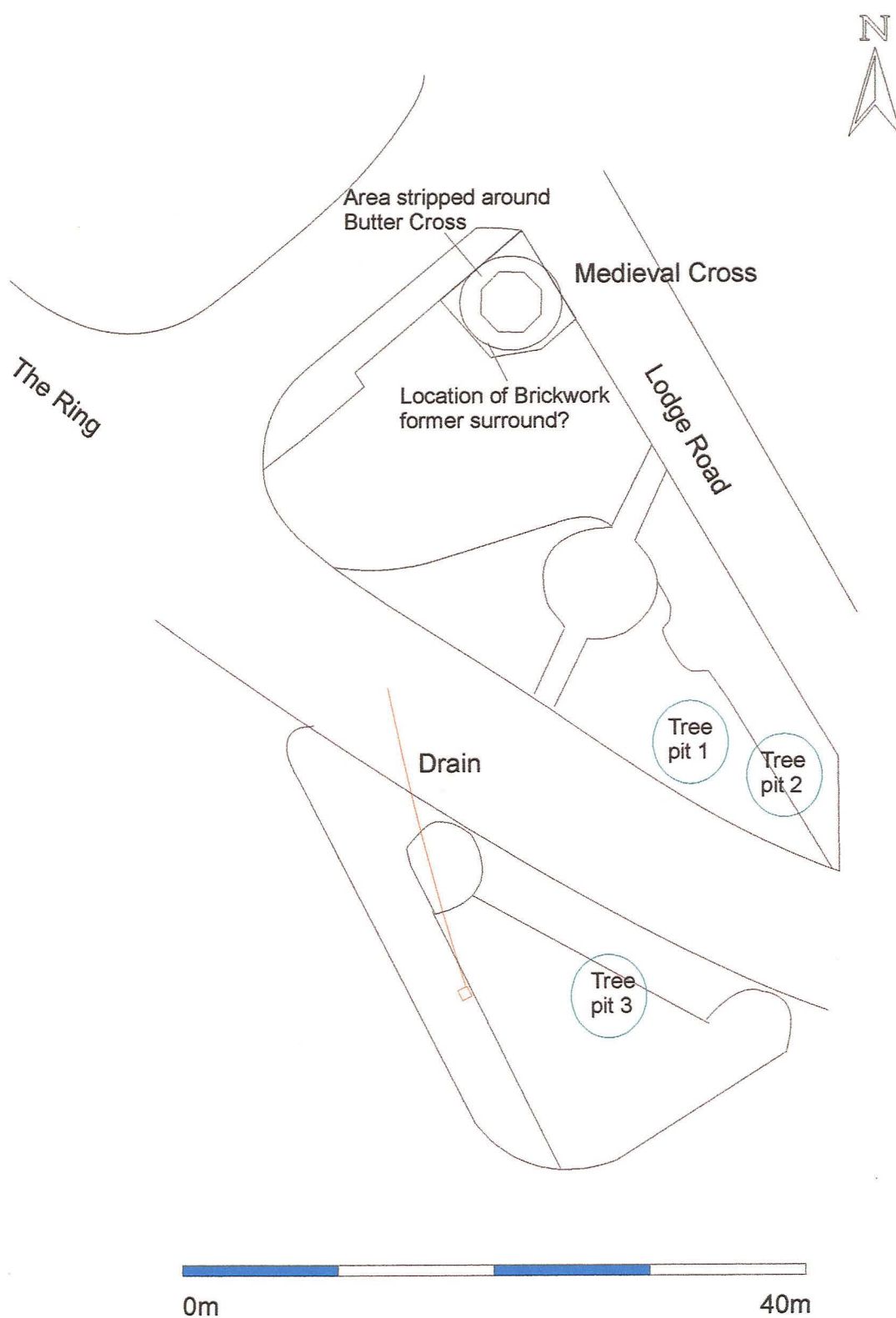


Figure 2 Area of Archaeological Watching Brief





Pl. 1 Tree Pit 1.

Pl. 2 Tree Pit 2.







Pl. 3 Tree Pit 3.

Pl. 4 Drainage trench.







Pl. 5 View of the Butter Cross looking north showing sequence of deposits.

Pl. 6 Area around the Butter Cross showing the concrete skim below the topsoil to the right of the 1m scale.







**Pl. 7 Brickwork uncovered at the edge of the stripped area. Scale 1m.**

**Pl. 8 Detail of lower step of the Butter Cross showing thin concrete base. Scale 0.50m.**

